MATH HOUR @ UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

A MATH LECTURE FOR GRADES 6-10

www.math.washington.edu/~mathcircle/mathhour

UW Seattle campus

Savery Hall 260

Professor Edwin O'Shea
James Madison University

Euclid's *Elements*:
An old and beautiful math book
and its influence on Lincoln

Abstract: Euclid's *Elements* from Ancient Greece is to mathematics what Shakespeare is to literature, being initially difficult to read but providing the first substantial example of the tremendous possibilities in mathematics. Among the many great results in *Elements* are Pythagoras's Theorem and the fact that a mysterious constant called π actually exists. We will spend much of this talk showing how these famous results from geometry came to be, emphasizing both intuition and proof. We will close with why this old math book was so deeply influential on Jefferson's Declaration of Independence and on Lincoln's understanding of the wrongs of slavery.

May 17, 2015
Sunday, 1-2pm