



Aric (AJ) Barnes (Algebra 2 and AP Statistics) is a native Houstonian who has spent his entire life in the Bayou City. He received his bachelor's degree in cognitive science and linguistics from Rice University. After graduating, he began his teaching career on the Northside at Sam Houston High School where he taught Algebra 1 and 2 for five years. At the end of the 2020-21 school year, he was honored and grateful to be selected as the Secondary Teacher of the Year in HISD. While he has no professional training in the arts besides piano lessons and high school band, Mr. Barnes enjoys partner

dancing and painting. He is excited for the opportunity to not only teach at HSPVA but also to learn from his students and provide opportunities for them to make connections between mathematics and art. When he is not teaching students or collaborating with other teachers, you can most likely find Mr. Barnes making coffee, reading a book, or riding his bike.