



*St. Francis of Assisi
Catholic School*

May 12, 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

Realizing the importance of creating a strong math curriculum we will be implementing the use of ALEKS (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces) to enhance our summer study requirements. ALEKS is an internet based math program for students and an assessment management program for teachers. It can accurately assess the exact knowledge state of students in any mathematic subject area, guide them in the selection of new materials, and record their progress toward mastery of the content. By completing the various pieces of this program, your student can remain mathematically fit throughout the summer.

Currently, our 6th grade students are using this tool in conjunction with their studies. We have heard great positive feedback from both the students and parents. It is with great excitement that we are offering this program to our rising 5th through 8th grade students during the summer. We are requesting that 20 hours, or 2 hours per week, be completed throughout the break. The 20 hours will be recorded as a test grade when the students return in the fall.

As an orientation to ALEKS, your student(s) will visit the computer lab so that the program can be introduced to them. I am also enclosing a list of most frequently asked questions to help address some of your student's questions. Our hope is to have received logins, passwords and other necessary information from the ALEKS Company in time to be sent home with report cards. **CURRENT 6th GRADE STUDENTS WILL USE THE SAME PASSWORD FOR SUMMER REQUIREMENTS.** If you need any further assistance or do not have access to the internet, please contact administration.

If you would like to take a tour of this program, please visit the website at www.aleks.com and click on Student tour for a free trial.

Sincerely,

Beth York
Principal

Vick Boyd
Assistant Principal

Mary Annette Keating
Assistant Principal

Frequently asked questions by the students:

1. What if I finish my pie early?
You probably won't during the summer but if you do, and you haven't completed 20 hours, you should let the school know and we'll adjust your program to continue on to the next level.
2. Does the games and tables count towards the 20 hours?
EVERYTIME the student logs on and is interactive with the program (doesn't just let it sit and walk away from it-) time is being logged - even assessments count as time logged toward your goal
3. Can I do more than 20 hours? Can I stop at 20 hours?
YES, you can and encouraged to do more than 20 hours.
4. How do I know if I have done 20 hours?
A report of the time spent on the program will be on the top left hand side of the student's individual pie chart report page. They may check this record every time they get on the program.
5. What happens if I don't get my 20 hours?
Your first test grade will be lower.
6. Is this a graded assignment?
Yes. It will count as a test grade.
7. What if I don't understand what to do because it has not been taught in class?
A multicolored tutorial will explain how to answer the questions. In addition, ALEKS will provide math questions that you have the skills to complete successfully because you have mastered skills that will allow you to be successful with the new math concepts.
8. What if I have a big family and one computer at home?
Contact Mrs. York