

September 14, 2021

Dear Parents,

Your child has been identified as a candidate for enrollment in an advanced math program called ALEKS. ALEKS replaces our former math enrichment program, Accelerated Math, which is no longer used by the district.

ALEKS is an online adaptive learning platform intended for students who are performing above grade level in math. The course covers objectives based on Oklahoma's sixth and seventh grade math standards. ALEKS is not a replacement for regular fifth grade math; students are still expected to complete fifth grade math assignments unless exempted by their teacher. Instead, ALEKS provides an enrichment opportunity for students who enjoy math and are ready to learn advanced math skills.

Students who are interested in enrolling in pre-algebra next year are encouraged to participate in the ALEKS program. The course will prepare students for the end-of-year pre-algebra placement exam and will be considered as part of the district's qualifying criteria for potential enrollment in sixth grade pre-algebra.

Students who choose to enroll in the ALEKS program will be expected to complete ALEKS assignments consistently while also keeping up with all other classwork required by their teacher. I will have dedicated ALEKS work times embedded within the fifth grade math block on Tuesday and Thursday. Students will come to my room during these times to work on their online assignments and receive help. In order to make adequate progress in the program, students will be expected to actively work in ALEKS for a minimum of 100 minutes per week.

Participation in ALEKS is not mandatory; it is a program provided to meet the educational needs of highly advanced students. Please note that in order to succeed at the pace required in future advanced courses, students will need to possess two key characteristics: a high aptitude for mathematics and a strong work ethic. Many students have the math ability to succeed, but are not willing to do the extra math work that the course will require of them. This level of coursework may require extra time for math daily until your child graduates from high school. Please consider carefully whether your child will have a rewarding experience in such an environment. It is preferable to have a confident, happy student who is one year ahead in math (the advanced math track) rather than a frustrated student who struggles to work two years ahead (the pre-algebra track).

Attached are two documents:

- 1) A student agreement detailing expectations for students who enroll in ALEKS – please sign and return
- 2) Union's math course progression flowchart for sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades

Please contact me if you have any questions about this program.

Sincerely,

Emmet Bowen  
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