



Dear Parents of Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students,

This summer Overbrook will continue using ALEKS® math program for rising 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Your child will be enrolled in ALEKS®, an online learning program for mathematics which provides individual pathways for building mastery of skills. With easy online access on iPads, tablets and computers, your student will use the program at home for summer math. Having the students set up in the program before they leave school enables the teachers to know each student is ready for the summer. **The cost of this program is only \$25.00 per student due by Wednesday, May 15th.** Please send in the amount for your child(ren) in an envelope with each student's name listed and summer math written on it to the homeroom teacher or the front office. If you write a check, please make it to Overbrook School.

What is ALEKS®? ALEKS® is an adaptive math program that provides each student with a personalized learning path. Using engaging answer tools, immediate feedback, and automatic assessments, ALEKS® helps students review and master the skills needed to be successful in their math class. Hundreds of topics are provided in each course enabling individualization for each student.

Your student will be taking an initial assessment (called "Initial Knowledge Check") that will determine what he/she already knows well and either does not know or needs more practice in the math course your child just completed. Students will take the initial assessment at school. You can have them log in to ALEKS® at home by visiting www.aleks.com. **We will send home your child's Username and Password by May 28th.**

Summer Math Requirements:

1. *Your child is required to **complete 60 topics in their course** throughout the summer.*
2. *Keeping a notebook, or loose-leaf in a folder with brads or a binder to help the students show work for the problems is encouraged but will not be collected.*
3. **Enter the answer into the ALEKS® program.** *The program will give you feedback. Go on to the next problem OR use the math tools to learn how to successfully complete the problem.*
4. *When you complete all the problems in one topic, **choose another topic the ALEKS® program offers to you.** You may choose any topic from any pie piece that is available to you.*
5. **Continue choosing topics during the summer until you have completed at least 60 topics.** *This is the requirement for summer math. You will receive a **homework grade** for completing your 60 topics. There will be an individualized assessment during the 1st week of school over the completed topics generated by the ALEKS® program. This will count as a **quiz grade**.*

You may enjoy working on other topics after you finish the first 60. This is highly encouraged, but not essential. Continuing the course will definitely help prepare you for a great math class in August!

When your student logs into the program, here is what you will see:

ALEKS® Pie: The Pie provides a snapshot of your student’s current progress in the course. The dark portion is what your student has already learned, while the light grey portion is what he/she has left to learn. Your student will click on a Pie slice to see the number of topics mastered and the number he/she is ready to practice/learn next.

ALEKS® Timeline: The Timeline provides a snapshot of your student’s progress toward learning goals. To continue learning, your student will click on “Continue My Path”.

Worksheet: Clicking on “Worksheet” button will generate a personalized worksheet that your student can print out for offline practice. This is found under the Main Menu icon (☰).

Finally, here are some **tips** for making the most out of the at-home learning experience:

1. **Spreading out the topics throughout the summer** is helpful for the students to retain previously mastered math skills.
2. **Make sure your child has a notebook or paper and pencil available to work out a problem.** Do not allow them to use a calculator, unless it is provided within the program for a specific problem.
3. **Please encourage your student persevere in figuring out the problems on their own with the help ALEKS® program offers.** Answers given on the Internet or from a family member will not benefit your child. They will get the most benefit from working through the problems on their own and if needed a little guidance or encouragement from you.
4. **Don’t forget that tools are available in the program to help your student!** Tools include:
 - A Dictionary of math terms and concepts found under Main Menu icon.
 - An “Explanation” button providing step-by-step instructions for solving a problem.
5. **For technical help, please contact ALEKS® Customer Support:** <http://support.aleks.com>
 - Hours (Eastern Time):
 - Sunday, 4:00 PM – 1:00 AM
 - Monday - Thursday, 7:00 AM – 1:00 AM
 - Friday, 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Thank you for supporting your child’s summer skill practice in ALEKS®.

Sincerely,

Overbrook 6th – 8th Grade Math Teachers

Sister Immaculata, Academic Dean