

Implementation Strategies

Del Mar Hills Academy of Arts and Sciences, Del Mar Union School District
Del Mar, CA

Grade(s): K – 6

Scenario: Computer Lab, One-to-One Laptop Program, Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

Time Spent in ALEKS: 2 hours per week, 36 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1

Nancy Swanberg, Teacher

ALEKS gives clear instruction and allows me to monitor my students' progress. It allows students to make choices about their learning. It makes a terrific supplement for the high achieving students in my Pre-Algebra class. It was easy to implement and easy for my students to use. The price to implement this program was quite reasonable.

Scenario

What challenges did the class or school face in math prior to using ALEKS?

I had a few gifted students who had mastered many but not all of the Pre-Algebra standards. We needed to provide a challenge for them without taking too much instructional time from the Pre-Algebra class. ALEKS provided the solution we needed.

How many days per week is class time dedicated to ALEKS?

5 days per week.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

We use ALEKS to supplement our Pre-Algebra class for gifted sixth grade math students.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

Students in our gifted math class who have tested out of a given standard use ALEKS to extend their learning while that standard is being covered in the class.

How did you modify your regular teaching approach as a result of ALEKS?

I am able to use ALEKS to provide a challenge for my most advanced students while monitoring their progress.

How often are students required or encouraged to work on ALEKS at home?

Students can work in ALEKS at home as often as they like. Most of my students are self-motivated.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I introduce parents to ALEKS and then let them watch their children using it.

Grading

Is ALEKS assigned to your students as all or part of their homework responsibilities? If so, what part of the total homework load is it?

Yes, if they have tested out of the standard we are covering in the class.

Learning Outcomes

Since using ALEKS, please describe the learning outcomes or progress you have seen.

The highest of my gifted students have been able to use this program to advance beyond the topics I generally teach in my Pre-Algebra course. They have been able to complete much of Algebra 1. Students love to use the ALEKS program. They like to watch their progress as they fill up the pie chart for a given level. My gifted students are pleased to be able to progress at their own fast pace without too much repetition. Students who find graphing challenging particularly liked the computer-aided graphing feature.

Best Practices

Are there any best practices you would like to share with other teachers implementing ALEKS?

If you make using ALEKS a privilege, all your students will want to do it.