

Implementation Strategies

St. Clare School, Portland Archdiocese
Portland, OR

Grade(s): K – 8

Scenario: Computers in Classroom

Purpose: Enrichment/Gifted and Talented

ALEKS Portion of Curriculum: 4%

Time Spent in ALEKS: 3.5 hours per week, 35 hours per term

ALEKS Course: Algebra 1, High School Geometry

Gwen Vroman, Teacher

I use ALEKS for an advanced student who can work independently and needed a faster pace than his peers could handle. This student has completed an entire year of Algebra and an entire year of Geometry. He will be ready to take on the challenge test to be able to advance into Algebra II as a freshman in high school.

Scenario

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

We have two teachers so the class is split into regular and advanced, but we still had a student who needed to move at a more advanced pace. ALEKS allowed us to offer something that fit his needs without adding an overwhelming amount to the teacher workload.

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

5 days per week.

What is the average length of a class period when ALEKS is used?

40 minutes.

Implementation

How do you implement ALEKS?

I use it with one student to help him move at a faster pace.

Do you cover ALEKS concepts in a particular order?

No, the student has a choice on that.

How do you structure your class period with ALEKS?

The student works independently on a classroom computer and writes down any questions he has so I can help him the next day. He is graded on the quizzes he takes so I can monitor his progress.

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

I adjust the time I spend with the whole class and the student using ALEKS.

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

Once a week.

How do you cultivate parental involvement and support for ALEKS?

I discuss and demonstrate ALEKS to the parents.

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?

No.

How do you incorporate ALEKS into your grading system?

It is a completion grade based on the hours spent on the program and scores on quizzes assigned over the material.

Do you require students to make regular amounts of progress in ALEKS?

Yes, it depends on the topic the student is learning.

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

My student enjoys the independence and the ability to work at his own pace, and not be held back by other students. This student has completed an entire year of Algebra and an entire year of Geometry. He will be ready to take on the challenge test to be able to advance into Algebra II as a freshman in high school.

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

Spend some time with a demo of the program yourself so you can see how it works. Have students sign a behavior contract and make sure they understand how they will be graded and your expectations when working on ALEKS.