

# HAWTHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH

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**Robert Natale**

*Principal*

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

## ***Encourage Your Student's Math Learning at Home***

Your student has been enrolled in *ALEKS*®, an online learning program for mathematics. With easy online access on tablets and computers, your student can use the program while at school and at home. I invite you to be a part of your student's learning experience by encouraging the use of *ALEKS* at home.

**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.

Soon, your student will take an Initial Knowledge Check that will determine what s/he already knows and doesn't know in the course I have enrolled them in, and what s/he is ready to start learning. You can have your student log in to *ALEKS* at home by visiting [www.aleks.com](http://www.aleks.com).

Here's what you'll see when your student logs into the program:

***ALEKS* Pie:** The Pie provides a snapshot of your student's current knowledge in the class. The color portion is what your student has already learned, while the grey portion is what s/he has left to learn in the class. Your student can select a Pie slice to see progress made for that slice and what is still remaining.

**Timeline:** Your student can see his/her progress and growth over time in the Timeline. Your student can also use the Timeline to see how to achieve learning goals and reach milestones in the class, as well as see what s/he worked on previously and plan for what's ahead.

**Learning Path:** The Learning Path is your student's personalized pathway to success where s/he will be working on the topics s/he is most ready to learn right now. These topics will be accessible via the Learning Mode where your student has access to detailed explanations, immediate feedback, and other learning resources.

**Language Toggle:** Your student can toggle between English and Spanish translations of the content and interface with a click of a button.

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

- **Make sure your student has paper and pencil available to work out a problem.** Do not allow him/her to use a calculator, unless it is provided within the program for a specific problem or I have given permission. Please feel free to check with me!

***Inspire all students to embrace learning in an ever-changing world***

- **Please discourage your student from using external help**, such as the Internet or a family member providing them with answers. S/he will get the most benefit from working through the problems on his/her own!
- **Don't forget that tools are available in the program to help your student!** Tools include:
  - A Dictionary of math terms and concepts
  - An "Explanation" button providing step-by-step instructions for solving a problem.
  - Some topics even include a video explanation.
- **Set a regular work schedule. Suggestion**
  - Minutes Per Day: 10 - 15
  - Number of Days Per Week: 2 - 3
    - \*This may need to increase to reach their weekly goal.*
- **Motivate your student to work even harder by offering simple rewards**, such as a piece of pie for completing a slice of their *ALEKS* Pie!

Thank you for being a part of your student's learning in *ALEKS*. I appreciate your support to ensure your student uses some time at home to further his/her progress, and is prepared for the next classroom lesson. Together, we can help your student achieve dramatic learning outcomes in math!

Sincerely,

*The 7th Grade Math Department*