

St. Bernard's Catholic School Summer Math Program Incoming Grade 8 Students: Overview

St. Bernard's Catholic School is once again implementing a summer math program to help students remember what they have learned during the past school year and to help them prepare for the 2011-2012 school year.

We realize that summer break brings a much-needed change from the rigors of daily school work and the school-year routine. With this in mind, we have designed the summer math program to run **4 days a week for 8 weeks** between June and July. This allows families to take vacations without their students having to work on math while they are away. **If your family will be away from Internet access for more than 2 weeks, we recommend having your child spend more time on his/her math either before you leave or after you come back. Please notify Mrs. Franklin via email (tfranklin@st-bernardschool.org) ahead of time when you expect to be away.**

We recommend that incoming eighth-grade students work for **at least 30 minutes on math each day** for a total of **2 hours each week**. However, keep in mind that your son or daughter may need to spend *more* than this recommended time on summer math lessons in order to complete the assignments. Please have your child spread the work out over the entire summer so that he/she completes a portion of the curriculum each week. Finishing the entire curriculum at the beginning of the summer or cramming it into the last few weeks of vacation will defeat the purpose of the program, which is to keep seventh-grade math concepts fresh in your child's mind throughout summer break so that he/she can get started with eighth-grade math immediately upon returning to school in August.

Incoming eighth-grade students will be using a program called ALEKS (by aleks.com) to complete their summer math program. ALEKS consists of two parts: QuickTables, which are timed tests of basic math facts, and arithmetic, which contains the basic math concepts that students should have learned in seventh grade. ALEKS is a web-based software application, which means that your child can access it from any computer that has an Internet connection. **We suggest that you have your child log into ALEKS as soon as possible so that any technical issues can be resolved right away. Having technical problems will not excuse your child from the Summer Math requirement.**

Your child will be graded on his/her summer math progress. Mrs. Franklin will assign a total of 4 homework grades—1 every two weeks—based on the amount of time each student spends on summer math. The overall progress that students make over the summer will be entered as their first math test for the first quarter of eighth grade. This grade will be based upon the percentage of progress that your child makes in the arithmetic portion of his/her ALEKS class over the summer *and* written, timed math facts assessments administered when school resumes August. Students were assessed in both of these areas in the spring. Those who scored 100% on all of the math facts assessments are excused from QuickTables for the summer. However, they will still be assessed on math facts in August. Each student was also assessed on the arithmetic portion of the summer math curriculum and will be assessed again in August to determine the amount of progress made over the summer. Your child's teacher will use the following grading scale to assign a grade to your child's summer math arithmetic:

A	25% +
B	16% - 24%
C	6% - 15%
D	0 - 5%

For example, if a student shows that he/she has mastered 60% of his/her ALEKS arithmetic class in May and 85% in August, he/she would earn an A for his/her summer math grade ($85 - 60 = 25$). If the same student showed only 78% mastery of the same class by August, he/she would earn a B ($78 - 60 = 18$), and so on. Incoming eighth-grade students who complete all of their ALEKS arithmetic class and complete all of the assigned QuickTables will receive special recognition at a Monday morning assembly when school at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

If your child loses his/her ALEKS Login Name or Password, please send an email to Mrs. Cathy Fisher (vcathyjo@hotmail.com) and Mrs. Perrino (tperrino2001@yahoo.com). If you experience technical difficulties with the program itself, please contact ALEKS Customer Support at <http://support.aleks.com>.

St. Bernard's Catholic School Summer Math Incoming Grade 8 Students: Directions

1. Using an Internet browser, go to www.aleks.com.
2. Type your ALEKS Login Name in the Login Name field on the left side of the screen (see figure 1).
3. Type your ALEKS Password in the Password field on the left side of the screen (see figure 1).
4. Click Login in the green rectangle below the Password field on the left side of the screen (see figure 1).
5. Have a grown up follow the directions on the screen to load the ALEKS plug-in and/or Java as needed (this step is only needed the first time your child accesses his/her ALEKS class). If the ALEKS plug-in has been installed but you still cannot access your child's ALEKS class, go to www.aleks.com/support/troubleshooting. Click on the link that matches your specific problem at the top of the page and follow the instructions, or scroll down to see diagnostic information that ALEKS has gathered from your computer. Anything marked "unsupported" could be the cause of your technical problems. If you are still having problems, contact ALEKS Customer Support at <http://support.aleks.com>. If you continue to have problems, email Mrs. Fisher (vrcathyjo@hotmail.com) & Mrs. Perrino (tperrino2001@yahoo.com). Please include the support ticket number assigned by ALEKS support.
6. Click on the *Arithmetic* tab or the *QuickTables* tab in the upper right corner of the window (see figure 2).
 - If you chose QuickTables, click on the link in the upper left corner of the window for the QuickTable you'd like to work on (see figure 3). You will be tested on each QuickTable the first time you work on it to determine what you already know.
 - If you chose arithmetic, now choose a topic to work on from your pie. Complete the largest segments of the pie first, and then work on the smaller ones.



Figure 1. www.aleks.com login screen

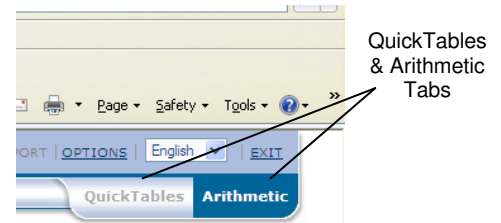


Figure 2. Choosing QuickTables or Arithmetic

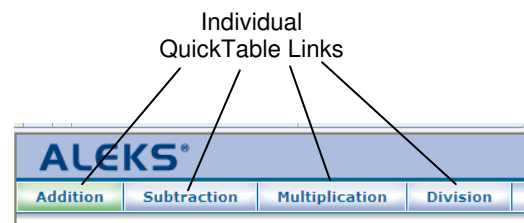


Figure 3. Choosing a QuickTable