

August 1st, 2023

Dear Parents,

At our International Baccalaureate school, the Global Context that my Leadership in Training (LIT) class is focusing on right now (and for the next few weeks) is Identities and Relationships - and more specifically, Social Skills and Self-Management.

Please encourage your student(s) to be responsible and take ownership of their learning, asking questions and participating in all of their classes.

Your student is enrolled in one of the MYP mathematics classes that I teach: Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, or Financial Math.

Homework is an independent practice; therefore, if there is homework, your student should, ideally, be able to do it independently. There is homework only if your student does not finish their work in class. Should any of my students want tutoring for better understanding, I offer formal tutoring on Mondays from 2:45-3:30PM. No appointment is necessary – they can just show up to my classroom.

This year, all homework is done in an online environment called ALEKS. ALEKS is produced by McGraw Hill and is integrated with the textbooks used in my classes. I believe, ALEKS homework is better than paper and pencil homework assignments. There are two reasons why I believe this:

1. Online math homework assignments are being used more and more, now, by colleges and universities (CNM, UNM, NM Tech, are the colleges that I, personally, am aware of). I also teach part-time at CNM and ALEKS is what CNM instructors use as the homework environment for most of their math classes. By being exposed to ALEKS in high school, I believe that the students will be better prepared in their transition from high school to college.
2. ALEKS gives the user immediate feedback. If a student gets a problem wrong, ALEKS informs them immediately. The student can then choose to look at an example before making another attempt at a similar problem. With paper and pencil assignments, on the other hand, there could potentially be a delay of 1 to 3 days before I am able to grade papers, so the feedback is delayed.

You can email me any time at valdeza@corralesis.org if you have questions about my LIT class, any of my math classes or about ALEKS or about anything else.

I look forward to meeting each of one of you at some point during the semester. I am honored to have your student in one of my math classes.

Mr. Valdez