



# BISHOP WATTERSON HIGH SCHOOL

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Exemplary Catholic Education, Rooted in Faith, Committed to Excellence

U.S. Department of Education Exemplary School

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Dear Parents,

As the school year winds down, we would like to take this opportunity to commend you and your students on successfully navigating through this challenging year. It is amazing to see everything that was accomplished both in the classroom and out. However, there has been some concern regarding lost instructional time, both this school year and especially during the spring of 2020, and its effect on students' mathematical knowledge. As a result, the mathematics department has created an OPTIONAL summer course utilizing the ALEKS program that each student used during the current school year. The goal of this OPTIONAL summer course is to give students an opportunity to review many of the more challenging topics presented in their math courses during this school year and, in some instances, dive a little deeper into the content to ensure mastery for future math courses. We do understand and respect that for some students after such a trying school year that the summer is necessary to relax and recharge. Therefore, this course is optional and will not have any impact on course grades at Bishop Watterson. We simply wanted to present this opportunity for students and parents who want to do something extra over the summer to fill in any gaps in the mathematics education students receive at Bishop Watterson.

If you are not familiar with ALEKS, it is an individualized program meaning each student will move at his/her own pace and will have to demonstrate mastery of the individual topics to progress forward. Each summer course has approximately 250-300 topics for the students to master. It is not our expectation that each student attempt to master 100% of the topics over the summer. Rather, our hope is that students dedicate time each week to working in the ALEKS program over the summer and complete as much as they are able. There is no cost associated with the course and students will use the same login information they used for ALEKS during the school year. We once again need to emphasize that participation in the ALEKS summer course is optional and no grade or course credit will be associated with this online summer course.

Regardless whether students plan to participate or not, there is nothing students need to do to register or decline. At the conclusion of the school year, each student will automatically be enrolled in the ALEKS summer course aligned to the math course he/she just completed. Students may begin working in the summer course on Monday, June 7. Students do not have to begin right way. They can log into ALEKS at any time after June 7 to begin working in the course. They may work as much or as little as they want each week and take vacations/extended breaks as necessary.

The ALEKS program does offer tutorials on the topics so students can work on them on their own or with a tutor. It will also randomly assess students on previously learned and mastered topics to check that they still have a mastery of those topics as they progress forward. As a result, we feel that the ALEKS program will offer great practice and enrichment over the summer so that students who choose to complete the course will be prepared to start the year off strong in whatever math course they are enrolled. If you have any questions, please email Dominic Marchi, the mathematics department chair, at [mr.marchi@bwhs.org](mailto:mr.marchi@bwhs.org).

Thank you,  
The Bishop Watterson High School Mathematics Department