



## Implementation

Kalynn Viramontes is the math teacher at RCMA Leadership Academy. Her classrooms are 1:1, and every student has a Chromebook™. In spring of 2015, a McGraw Hill representative gave Kalynn a few licenses to *ALEKS*® so that she could try it out. *ALEKS* is an adaptive, online learning program that delivers a personalized learning path for math students. *ALEKS* provides teachers with comprehensive data on each student's mathematical knowledge, so they can meet students at their skill levels and provide instruction tailored to their scope of understanding.

"I first tried out *ALEKS* in the spring of 2015, and I absolutely loved it," says Viramontes. "I purchased the program that fall, and now I use it to differentiate instruction for my students."

Viramontes noticed that she had overestimated the number of licenses she would need, and because she was seeing amazing results, she gave her extras to Mandy Johnson, a third-grade math teacher at RCMA Wimauma Academy. Johnson used those licenses to differentiate instruction for her upper-level students so they could work above grade level.

says Johnson. "*ALEKS* is very hands-off for the teacher and very hands-on for the student."

In 2016/17, *ALEKS* was purchased for the whole elementary school, and Mandy now acts as a

"I fell in love with the ease of use and the ability to check my students' level of knowledge,"

"I post *ALEKS* scores so my students can see the percentage of mastery they have reached in relation to other students," says Johnson. "If you're in third grade and you are beating six people in the fourth grade, that's a huge motivator!"

Johnson adds that *ALEKS* empowers students to take charge of their own learning.

"They get on *ALEKS* and, if they don't understand it, they can look at an explanation or ask a peer before they ask me," says Johnson. "I had six third-grade students working on sixth-grade *ALEKS*, and they never asked me a single question. All of the answers are there for them."

## Results

Heather Hanson, Director of Professional Development and Data Analysis for both schools, is thrilled with the results she has seen from *ALEKS*.

"We use *ALEKS* as a supplement in our classrooms, and the kids love the challenge," says Hanson. "More importantly, we have had really great results on our state assessments."

During the 2016/17 school year, we were one of only 12 Florida schools that had third graders score 100% proficient in math on their

"The kids jumped in and worked it like crazy, and it is paying off," says Viramontes. "I've compared their *ALEKS* scores versus Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) and Florida State Assessment scores, and there is a definite correlation between how hard they work in *ALEKS* and how well they perform."

Johnson sees similar results in her own classroom. "It's a fantastic program, and I'm sold on it," she says. "I had a student who was excelling in first grade, so he moved on to second-grade math and then third with *ALEKS*. He completed third-grade math before some of the third graders. That's an unbelievable accomplishment."

## The Future

"We will definitely continue to use *ALEKS*," says Hanson, "And our sister charter school, Immokalee Community School in eastern Collier

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