

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

This year, we will be using Khan Academy as a supplement to our math program at CT in order to personalize learning for every student. Khan Academy is a free online resource that allows students to learn anytime, anywhere, with material that is uniquely appropriate for them. Students can explore new topics and strengthen their math skills by using interactive practice and tutorials. Students can also use it to fill gaps in prior learning. As students learn, their activity feeds into reports that show important information such as strengths and weaknesses in a particular concept. By using Khan Academy, I'll be able to provide a more personalized learning experience for your child. The Khan course that your child is enrolled in complements their grade level learning and is integrated with our curriculum.

Generally, expect your child to be enrolled in the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math course. Depending on specific student needs, I may discuss a different course placement for your child with you. Some students will quickly demonstrate a readiness to move on to more challenging content, and some students may need a refresher on prerequisite content from earlier grades.

Students are generally expected to spend 30 to 60 *productive* minutes with the software per week, working on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math mission. In general, they are free to work at their own pace and within their preferred topic while working on their mission. This represents a sizeable portion of their homework grade and 15% of their overall grade.

The following are rough benchmark goals that will be used to gauge student progress on their mission each quarter, though 30-60 productive minutes per week is the expectation:

Quarter 1 ends October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	At least 25% complete with 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mission
Quarter 2 ends January 14 <sup>th</sup>	At least 50% complete with 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mission
Quarter 3 ends March 25 <sup>th</sup>	At least 75% complete with 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mission
Quarter 4 ends June 7 <sup>th</sup>	At least 100% complete with 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Mission

Many students will complete their 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math mission in short order, and are then able to continue to excel in the next course.

I recommend creating a parent account linked to your child's account and signing up for weekly email progress reports. If your child is under 13, Khan Academy requires that a parent approve the account through email and be linked to the account. You must authorize your child to add coaches, or they will not be able to enroll in my Khan class. If 13 or over or if your child already has an account, visit [www.khanacademy.org/parent](http://www.khanacademy.org/parent) and click the "Add Your Child" button. Follow the prompts to set up the account. There are all kinds of cool things that you can learn about through your Khan Academy account as well – math, science, history, and more!

There is also a Khan Academy app for smartphones, enabling your student to work on their mission on the bus, while at their sibling's sporting event, etc.

In some circumstances, we may want to modify the course mission or the benchmark goals for your student. This resource works best when it can address student needs at – and just beyond – their

current knowledge base. If your child requires significant support from you in order to get through their benchmark goal, or takes significantly longer than one hour per week, please contact me to discuss modifying the goals or the course assigned.

During the school year, I will occasionally assign nightly homework directly through Khan. These assignments will either provide practice problems from that day's lesson or lay the groundwork for the following day's lesson. These assignments may or may not be part of their 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mission, and this time would not be part of the expected 30-60 minutes per week working on their individual mission.

Finally, please know that while I have used Khan Academy as a fantastic educational resource for myself and my students for years, this is my first year implementing it as a class-wide, year-long supplemental tool. As such, there will be some growing pains as we learn together how to make this the most effective, fun, and rewarding experience possible for your child. Please do not hesitate to contact me with concerns, observations, or suggestions based on what is working or is not working for your child and your family. I am excited about the opportunity for growth that this represents for our students!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kissner

[d.kissner@loma.k12.ca.us](mailto:d.kissner@loma.k12.ca.us)

#### Student Instructions for Signing Up:

1. Share this letter with your parents and obtain a signature at the bottom of this page.
2. Sign up at [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org). (Or log in if you already have an account). Use your actual name so that I recognize you on my roster.
3. If you are under 13, you will be prompted to have your parent authorize your account. Enter your parent's email and ask them to authorize your account.
4. WRITE DOWN YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD IN THE FRONT COVER OF YOUR AGENDA AND IN THE SPACES BELOW.  
Username: \_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Visit [www.khanacademy.org/coaches](http://www.khanacademy.org/coaches) (the coaches tab in your profile).
6. In the "Add a Coach" field, enter the class code: \_\_\_\_\_
7. You're set. Click "Home" to start learning. Select the "Mission" tab to get started on your mission and an initial assessment.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_