Khan Academy Presentation FAQ's

1. **What are the objectives of LASD's Khan Academy implementation?** *The objective is to expand the use of the Khan Academy as an electronic tool to help teachers differentiate math instruction in order to meet the individual needs of students.*

2. **Why did you select grades 5-6 & 7-8 to start the pilot?** *We intentionally selected Grades 5-6 & 7-8 for the Khan Academy pilot because we felt that Khan Academy was a developmentally appropriate tool for students in these grades. At this age, students have the skills necessary to navigate a website and are able to begin taking more ownership of their learning when facilitated by a teacher.*

3. **How will the Khan Academy be integrated with the current math program?** *Khan Academy will be integrated in the current math program as one of many tools our teachers use in providing math instruction. This electronic tool will be used as a piece of the math program and will assist teachers in being able to provide differentiated math instruction to students. Teachers will use the information they have on students mathematical abilities as a basis for lesson planning.*

4. **How does the Khan Academy benefit students?** *Utilizing the Khan Academy in math classrooms provides students with a unique opportunity to participate in an innovative 21st Century learning environment by providing students with individualized learning opportunities at the appropriate instructional level. Using this program, students have the ability to spend the amount of time needed to become proficient on a particular type of problem before moving on. This instructional tool not only helps meet individual needs, but it frees up class time to allow for more collaboration and problem solving.*

5. **What does it mean when my child achieves proficiency on a Khan Academy module?** *When a student gets a streak of 10 in a row correct on any Khan Academy module, the software determines that the student is proficient on that topic and will have the student complete periodic reviews in order to maintain his/her proficiency. Please note that there is a difference between proficiency on a module and mastery of a concept. Proficiency indicates that a student possesses a good understanding of the mechanics of a particular type of problem. Mastery occurs when a student understands a topic conceptually and is able to apply the concept to a variety of problem situations in addition to understanding how to work through the computational mechanics. While earning proficiency on a Khan Academy module is a step in the right direction, students and teachers have more work to do before mastery is attained.*

6. **How frequently can I expect my student to be logging on to Khan Academy in the classroom?** *In an ideal situation, every teacher would have one to one access for every student in their classroom on a daily basis to allow for complete flexibility in*

implementation. Due to limited hardware, this is not the current reality at any of our schools. Teachers will be sharing class sets of hardware which may limit the use of Khan Academy to two or three days per week. Students will have access and be able to log into Khan Academy at home.

7. **How will students log on to Khan Academy? Do they need to use a gmail or Facebook account?** *We have created an LASD educational domain within Google to ensure student safety. All students will have a lasdk8.org account which will allow them to access the Khan Academy website. They will be able to use their lasdk8.org account both at school and at home.*

8. **My student has already been working on Khan Academy at home, can they transfer this work to their school account?** *No, currently their is not a method to transfer work within Khan Academy between accounts. This is not an LASD problem, but a Khan Academy problem that they are aware of. We will support all students in creating a new account and working through the materials they have already completed, If in fact they have achieved proficiency, it shouldn't take very long to replicate their progress.*

9. **As a parent, how can I access my child's data?** While at home, have your student log on to Khan Academy with their lasdk8.org account. At the bottom of the screen, there is a place to "add a coach." By clicking on this tab, you will be able to add your email address and have access to all of your child's data.

10. **Does Khan Academy provide the ability to give students examinations?** *No, currently there are not examinations built into the Khan Academy software. With that said, the development team is constantly working on new features.*

11. **Will Khan Academy be used as homework? as a replacement for current homework? in addition to current homework?** *During the pilot, we did not find utilizing Khan Academy for homework as a necessary component. Teachers may choose to use Khan Academy as homework, if their entire class has access at home. If the decision is made to occasionally utilize Khan Academy as homework, this should not be in addition to more traditional math homework. All homework should still meet the requirements as set forth in the LASD homework policy.*

12. **How does the Khan Academy benefit teachers?** *One of the biggest benefits of using the Khan Academy in the classroom for teachers is the access to student data in real time. This data gives teachers the ability to more efficiently identify previous gaps in knowledge and current struggles so they can plan targeted interventions and/or enrichment opportunities with individual or small groups of students. This access to data also helps teachers modify pacing as curriculum needs are assessed.*

13. **What will the teacher training look like? How will you support teachers in utilizing a new educational tool?** *We have four days of teacher professional development planned with the first training day on September 8. These trainings will be led by our pilot team of teachers from last year. The trainings will focus on best practices of implementing Khan Academy as an instructional tool in the classroom. Each*

training day will also allow for grade level colllaboration and planning time. We have a foundation of knowledge on how to utilize Khan Academy in the classroom, but know we will continue to learn and add to our best practices. Classroom teachers will have access to our Math Coach between trainings for additional support and assistance with implementation. We have been able to provide the teacher training and Math Coach thanks to funding by the Los Altos Educational Foundation.

14. **Is the District setting parameters for Khan Academy use in the classroom?** *The District will be providing teachers with guidelines for how to use Khan Academy, but will also be empowering teachers to apply their professional knowledge and expertise in the implementation. Implementation practices should always center around what is best for students and learning.*

15. **How much the use of Khan Academy costing LASD?** *There are no fees associated with the use of Khan Academy. LAEF has generously provided the funding for the teacher professional development and math coach. We have identified a need for additional hardware and tech support at each school and are seeking private funding to support this need.*

16. **How will the District monitor the use of Khan Academy?** *The District will continue to assess the effectiveness of utilizing Khan Academy by monitoring student achievement on internal math benchmark assessments, CST data, and attitudinal surveys. Principals will be involved in monitoring the implementation of Khan Academy at their school site. Should you have any questions regarding the implementation please ask your child's classroom teacher or school principal.*

17. **How can parents support the implementation of Khan Academy?** *Parents can support the implementation of Khan Academy by talking to their students about the use of a new electronic tool in the classroom and keeping it's use in perspective. Khan Academy is a great addition to our math program, but it is only one of the many great aspects of math class.*