

KHAN ACADEMY IN MY CLASSROOM



About me

I have been teaching math and science in a project based school in Chula Vista, CA for the past 5 years. In a previous life I was a computer programmer and a gardener. I have never done anything nearly as challenging or as rewarding as teaching.

"I use Khan Academy to free me up to do the things that I do best."

How I use Khan Academy

I use it to do all the things it can do better than I can. I use it to help kids develop procedural fluency. Khan Academy provides infinite exercises, actionable data and intelligent assessment of student mastery. I use it to free me up to do the things that I do best. I spend my time in conversations with small groups of students about in depth problems.

How my classroom changed

My student to teacher ratio has been effectively halved. Half of my students work independently at Khan Academy work stations and half engage in collaborative problems solving facilitated by me. I have more time to focus my students learning not only on the content of mathematics but also on the habits and practices of problem solvers and mathematicians.

Biggest challenges

- Taking the leap, accepting that I needed to make a change in my classroom and then making it.
- Early on there were problems with some of the data I was getting from reports. This has been resolved.
- Still looking for rudimentary skills practice and mental math practice, still wish there was more of this on Khan. Looking for solutions, any ideas?
- Still looking for perfection, still have kids who work below their potential, still have kids that I do not reach.



Words of wisdom

- Before you use any software tool in your classroom be very clear about what you want from it.
- Borrow others approaches but tailor it to your vision.
- Khan Academy is a tool and it is only one tool in the box. Use it, beat it up and make it work for you.
- Don't let mastery be a hurdle to implementation. You can use Khan Academy effectively in small ways and add more if you need or want to.
- Understand why practice is essential to your classroom. Be able to articulate that importance to your students.
- Distinguish, for students, the difference between practicing particular procedures and solving problems.

