THE COMMON GOAL

A Message from Common Goal Systems President

Dear Subscriber,

Thank you for being a customer. We appreciate your support. Our business would not be possible without customers like you. In an effort to provide better service, we continuously invest in our products. While this is good, often it's hard for users to keep up with the many changes. To help, this newsletter recaps recent new functionality.

One area of focus for us is the emerging trend of technology-rich classrooms (implemented as 1:1 computing, BYOD/BYOT programs, and laptop carts). While many adults use computing devices every day at work, most students do not yet use them at school. When students have devices, it can transform education and greatly improve student performance. You'll see many new features in this area.

The second trend we've seen is standards-based education. New paradigms measure student competencies by skill (or academic standard), rather than percent completion of work. We offer a standards-based lesson planner, gradebook, and report cards, and are working to make these better.

The company continues to grow and make great strides. SchoolInsight recently became the # 1 Student Information System in Illinois, with twenty-nine new districts adopting the program this school year. The Catholic Diocese of Tulsa Oklahoma is implementing TeacherEase diocese-wide in its elementary schools.

Thanks again for subscribing! We look forward to serving you again in 2014-15 school year.

Sincerely,

Mike Xakellis
President

TeacherEase Now Includes Everything

The Learning Management System (LMS) product category has been expanding recently. In the marketplace it's now common for a single product to include gradebook, lesson planning, and much more. To address this trend, starting 7/1/2014 we're combining all TeacherEase modules (curriculum/lesson planning, gradebook, and LMS) into a single product. We're giving a discount by providing the functionality of 3 modules for the price of 2. For customers who only need a single module, "classic" gradebook and curriculum/lesson planning will still be available. Most customers get more functionality for the same price, and single module subscribers can still purchase their current product.

News Feed and Comments

Based on customers' requests, we've added a News Feed to TeacherEase. It displays new activities to teachers and students. It helps users communicate and stay on top of classroom activities. It provides teachers and students with valuable real-time information and speeds navigation. Some popular links are:
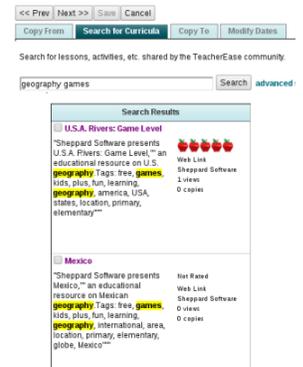- New assignment is posted
- Work has been graded
- Announcement is posted
- Assignment is handed-in
- Student posts a comment
- Email is received

For more information go to: http://www.teacherease.com/docs/AnnouncementNewsFeed.aspx.

Search/Copy Curricula

We've added a searchable curriculum library to TeacherEase! Easily find free engaging content: lessons, quizzes, videos, web pages, online games, etc. Resources are rated by the community so the best curricula top the search results. To get started, about 8500 professionally generated resources have been loaded from our partners: Sheppard Software, TeacherTube, Science4us, Vocabulary Spelling City, with more to come. To contribute to the community, teachers share resources they've built. Look for the "Search/Copy Curricula" link and new functionality inside the copy curricula wizard.

Collaborative Discussions

Students gain a deeper learning when collaborating with teachers and peers. TeacherEase now supports comments to promote student discussion. Students ask questions, write comments, reply to other's comments, and generally discuss topics while doing their work. Instructors can moderate the discussion, hiding inappropriate comments to maintain a positive classroom environment.

Online Quizzes

We've added an easy way for teachers to create, administer, and assess online quizzes. Questions can be essay, fill in the blank, matching, ordering, short answer, or true/false. Auto-grading is supported for many question types. Rich digital media can be added to questions to make them more engaging. Online quizzes can be used for graded assessments or practice exercises. After quizzes are completed, TeacherEase provides useful statistics on student performance. Quizzes are integrated with the gradebook, and scores are automatically entered there.

Rich-Text Lesson Plans

Teachers can now create more attractive lesson plans by using the rich-text (HTML) editor. Instead of entering plain-text lesson planning information into separate boxes (goals, objectives, etc), users can now work in a more attractive consolidated document. This also facilitates sharing among teachers with different lesson plan templates.

Student Peer Review

Expose students to more complex concepts by allowing them to review, analyze, and critique each other's work. Student work is easily published to the entire class. This can be done anonymously or with names attached. Students enjoy interacting with each other's work. Teachers assess the quality of reviewers analysis and persuasion.

Status Console

Maintain classroom management in technology-rich classrooms. Keep students on task and be alerted when they need help. The Status Console lets teachers view student effort in real-time. Instructors identify students who might need external motivation or assistance.

Fees in Online Registration

Online registration now handles fees. When parents register students for the upcoming academic year, fees can be automatically calculated and applied to student accounts. Parents can pay online with a credit card. To reduce questions and errors, parents register all of their children from a single page, and are offered a checklist of steps to complete.

Improved Student Search

Search across the district for students (not just in your current school). Automatically switch schools when selecting the student. This is useful for admins who manage multiple schools.

Semester Running Total

Track student progress across a semester by tallying a running total across multiple grading periods (instead of averaging quarterly averages). Semester report card grades are similarly calculated.

Subscription FAQs

I subscribe to both the Gradebook and Curriculum/Lesson Planning. Why don't I see both items on my order form? This year, we've combined the products and pricing and you'll see only 1 line item called "TeacherEase." There is no price increase, and you also get functionality that was included in the Learning Management System.

Why does my order form say "TeacherEase (Classic)"? This denotes that you subscribe to the legacy gradebook as a standalone product.

Why does my order form say "TeacherEase Curriculum and Lesson Planning (Classic)"? This denotes that you subscribe to legacy Curriculum and Lesson Planning as a standalone product.

What if I only want certain teachers at my school to use the LMS, is that possible? Absolutely. You can configure which teachers have access to which functionality. Edit the instructor and choose what functionality they have access to. Admin Main > Instructors > edit

The number of licenses I have seem off, how do I correct that? We charge for "active" users only. If former employees are still marked "active," you'll want to turn them off in order not to be charged for them. To view your usage, please go to: Admin Main > Subscriptions > Subscription Status
Admin Main > Instructors > edit
Admin Main > Admins > edit

I won't be able to pay yet, will my school get turned off? Our service runs with an expiration date mechanism. On your expiration date (typically June 30), your service will be automatically disabled. Please submit your renewal a week before your expiration date. Call tech support (ext. 2), if you need an extension until the paperwork is available.

How do I submit a purchase order so I can receive an invoice? Simply sign the attached order form and mail/fax it back to us along with your purchase order. The information is on the order form. We'll in turn generate an invoice and mail it to your attention. It can also be found online at: Admin Main > Subscription > Order Forms > view