



English teacher Casie Ayala checks out Cordova High's online calendar with sophomore Katie Sharpe.

Cordova High goes online

By Dr. Ben T. Phillips
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The beginning of every school year always means new things: new clothes, new shoes, new backpacks.

At Cordova High School, this school year brings with it advancements in technology aimed at improving communications among teachers and parents.

A technological advancement is TeacherEase, a Web-based grade book to be used by Cordova High teachers.

TeacherEase allows a parent to access a student's grades via the Web, using a secure log-in identification and password.

While browsing assignments, scores, and averages, parents can e-mail teachers, guidance counselors and administrators.

Also, Cordova's faculty and staff members can send informative e-mails to individual parents or send announcements to all of the parents at once.

Dr. Larry McGhee, Cordova High's principal, points out how appropriate this system is for 21st Century parents.

Cordova High goes online with calendar "So many of our parents have Internet access that this program makes perfect sense," said McGhee. "Teachers are basically sending their grade books straight to a parent's desktop."

Parents simply need to fill out the signup form available in the main office. When a parent's information is entered into the system, TeacherEase generates an e-mail that explains how to log in and the temporary password to be used. Students can sign up for access and track their grades day to day.

Common Goal Systems, the parent company behind TeacherEase, reports that the number of missing assignments is dramatically reduced when students have instant access to their averages.

The ultimate goal of TeacherEase is to improve student performance. Keeping parents informed and allowing students to track their class averages are keys to reaching that goal.

More information program is available at TeacherEase.com.

The newness of the school year will soon wear off as students and teachers settle into their daily routine.

But these two new additions at Cordova High School are sure to assist parents and students throughout the entire school year.

Cordova High launched an on-line school calendar, available for parents, students, and community members to view via the Internet. The calendar includes all athletic, academic and fine arts events.

Parents and students can also check when college representatives will be at the school and when report cards are issued to students. School personnel update the calendar almost daily.

Vince Thompson, Cordova High's athletic director, maintains the athletic section of the calendar.

"The flexibility of a Web-based calendar is a perfect fit for a school's athletic program," said Thompson. "Changes can be made and then communicated to everyone who needs to know in an instant."

The calendar is linked from the school's main Web page at mcsk12.net/schools/cordova.hs or can be directly accessed at calendarwiz.com/chs.

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