

THE COMMON GOAL

Spring 2013

A Message from Common Goal Systems President

Dear Subscriber,

Thank you for being our customer. Every day we strive to deliver value and earn your business. Over the past year we've made many product changes and improvements to better serve you. This newsletter is intended to highlight recent happenings.

Probably our largest effort has been to launch the TeacherEase Learning Management System (LMS). For customers implementing 1-to-1 computing initiatives, this software helps teachers manage their digital classrooms. There's a tremendous opportunity to re-examine and improve the instructional model. While only 10% of school districts are running 1-to-1 initiatives today, we wanted to be at the forefront of this emerging trend.

We've also made major enhancements to TeacherEase Curriculum and Lesson Planning. Many of our customers have been seeking to implement the Common Core Standards in a meaningful way. TeacherEase facilitates teacher collaboration as they work through this process. It also helps teachers use digital content in the classroom.

The company continues to grow and has achieved a few notable milestones. We now serve more small- to medium-sized school districts in Illinois than any other vendor. Our recent entry into Oklahoma has been a success. 100% of beta customers renewed their subscriptions, and we hired a local team to live and work in the state.

As always, we strive to offer the best solutions for schools! We continue to fill in gaps, improve usability, and offer new functionality.

We hope that our products have benefitted your organization. Once again, thank you for subscribing. We look forward to serving you again in the 2013-14 school year.



Mike Xakellis
President

Learning Management System (LMS)



As education changes, we build new products for emerging instructional practices. Schools with 1-to-1 computing initiatives need learning management systems to manage their digital classrooms. The TeacherEase LMS is a complete software platform that helps teachers make the transition.

- Use rich digital activities in the classroom
- Increase student engagement and learning
- Replace paper textbooks with digital curriculum
- Individualize instruction for each student

- Align content to the Common Core
- Enable project-based learning and collaboration
- Monitor students' work in real-time via the Teacher Status Console.
- Reimagine activities and transform instruction

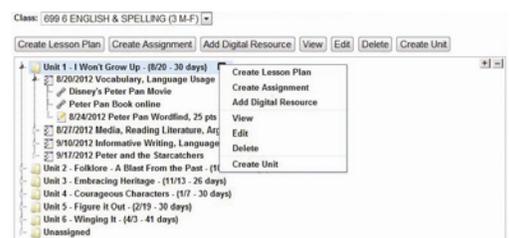
See our Learning Management System video:

<http://www.teacherease.com/lmsoverview.aspx>.

We currently have a strong beta program; let us know if you're interested in joining. Customers have been using the LMS since the beginning of the school year.

Curriculum and Lesson Planning

TeacherEase Curriculum and Lesson Planning has a new look. The big change is unified curricula that shows units, lessons, and assignments together -- previously all were separate. Now users can create a "tree" of curricula. Units can contain lessons which in turn contain assignments. This structure allows teachers better organize their instruction and do their planning holistically. Teachers can also collaborate and share, spreading the effort and creating opportunities to learn from each other. *(Continued)*



It's also easier to use standards and manage digital resources. Common Core and other state standards are pre-loaded. Teachers can use standards throughout instruction and run powerful reports to understand standards-based coverage. Also, digital resources can be added at every level.

To learn more, view our video: <http://www.teacherease.com/curriculumlessonplanningoverview.aspx>

Common Core Standards

Are you facing challenges implementing the Common Core State Standards? By 2014, curricula should be aligned to the Common Core. State benchmark assessments will measure how well this task was accomplished.

TeacherEase makes it easy for teachers to use the Common Core and build standards-aligned curricula.

- Standards are contained within TeacherEase—no need to search or input them manually
- Associate standards with nearly everything: units, lessons, assignments, etc.
- Analyze data—run coverage reports to look for gaps and overlaps
- Helps teachers transition to standards-based education
- Teachers can share lessons and learn from each other
- Eliminate the paper hassle of copying, printing, and distributing plans



Differentiated Instruction

Teachers have asked for improved functionality to support differentiated instruction. We added a new feature that allows assignments to be assigned to a subset of students in a class, and not just everyone.

Improved High School Attendance

In an effort to save admins time, there's now a new option for "aggressive" handling of missing period attendance. We basically copy period attendance that has been entered to adjacent missing periods, to "fill in the blanks." This significantly reduces the time required for office staff to "fix" attendance teachers neglected to enter. This improves ease of use when calculating daily attendance at the end of the day.

Beta - Asynchronous Lunch Processing



For some customers entering lunch orders can be slow, especially during periods of Internet congestion. To speed up lunch processing, we separated the saving of lunch data from the user interface. Users no longer have to wait until each order is saved before scanning the next student. This feature should keep the lunch line moving! Users can easily see how the saving process is progressing.

Online Training Materials

Don't forget to check out our self-service online SchoolInsight training. Admins can access the courseware by clicking the "Help & Video" link from the Admin Main Menu.

We recorded our best instructors delivering interactive sessions. The courseware includes:

- Introduction to SI Basic Setup
- Introduction to SI Basic Scheduling
- Self Contained Attendance

We also have an extensive library of TeacherEase videos including creating an academic year, grading scales, email announcements, and more.

Email Alerts for Parents

Parents and students can now opt to receive automatic email notifications when grades are updated or when lunch account balances fall below a threshold. Parents set notifications frequency and quiet times when they do not want to receive notifications.

Get the latest TeacherEase and SchoolInsight news on Twitter and Facebook

www.twitter.com/TeacherEase
www.facebook.com/TeacherEase



Trade Shows

Stop by the Common Goal Systems booth at the following upcoming conferences:

ASCD, March 16-18, Chicago
NCEA, April 2-4, Houston
ISTE, June 24-26, San Antonio