



VERACROSS
SCHOOL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Teacher Portal Redesign and New Features



Publishing to Productivity

INTRODUCTION

Since its relaunch in 2009, we have been proud and excited to see the ways in which the Veracross Teacher Portal has become a central tool for many teachers. We thank you for your incredible help in facilitating that growth and are excited to share a glimpse of what is in store for the near future.

BACKGROUND

In 2009 Veracross launched the first major redesign of the Teacher Portal. The initial design focused on the core features of a teacher portal including attendance, gradebook, class file storage, and report card grades and comments. Since then, we have continued to build and refine the portals by focusing on tools for learning management and other ways of helping teachers publish class content to parents and students. In the past few years we have added the page builder for class website pages, class photo galleries, an iPhone camera app, class discussion forums, and individual student behavior and comment notifications. The primary objective of these features was to help teachers manage the content for their classes and to easily publish information to students and parents.

THE FUTURE

In recent years, many teachers have become more comfortable with managing all of their classes on the web. For the majority of teachers, their entire teaching portfolio is now managed using online tools. Teachers are responsible for maintaining a vast amount of class content and resources; they are also responsible for sustaining a large number of on-going conversations with students and parents about assignments and classroom activities. Furthermore, teachers are spending a significant portion of their day using

learning management tools like the Veracross Teacher Portal. These recent trends represent a significant shift in the role and expectations of learning management tools for teachers. We have found that it is not enough to simply provide teachers with tools that help them quickly publish content to their classes. We believe that learning management tools should also have robust productivity features to help teachers stay organized.

THE VISION: PRODUCTIVITY

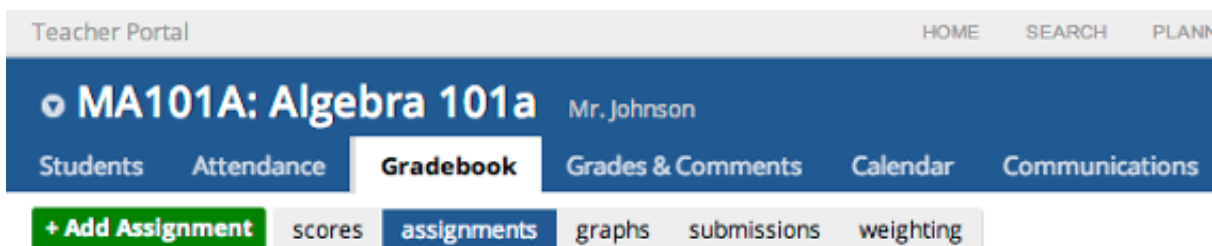
Our vision is to create the best professional productivity tools for teachers. We believe these productivity tools should help teachers to better manage learning, not simply publish more content to parents and students. Toward that end, this summer we aim to develop and enhance our productivity tools to help teachers in the following areas:

- Assignment management
- Time management
- Class Resource management
- Mobile access

This initial announcement describes an overview of the summer plans for the Teacher Portal. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Teacher Portal Design Refresh

Keeping in line with our recent design updates, the Teacher Portal will receive a fresh coat of paint this summer. The design and interface will be updated to match last year's update of the Parent and Student Portals. While the new interface will look much cleaner, it will retain much of the same navigation that teachers are familiar with. In addition, many of the core features of the Teacher Portal will continue to work as teachers expect. The main goal of the design refresh is to make the features which teachers use the most to be even more clear.



In addition to the overall design refresh, brand new productivity features will be added to the Teacher Portal. An overview of these new features is outlined below.

Assignments

Assignments are one of the key components of all classroom activity and are one of the most heavily used parts of the entire Veracross platform. This summer we are releasing two new productivity features to help teachers better manage assignments.

ASSIGNMENT DROPBOX SUBMISSIONS

- Students will be able to submit files for assignments from the student portal
- Teachers will receive assignment submissions from students online in the gradebook
- Assignment dropbox submissions can be integrated with Google Docs for schools using Google Apps
- Teachers will be able to send students feedback about their performance on an individual assignment



ASSIGNMENT PUBLISHING CONTROL

- Options for teachers to manually decide when assignments should be displayed for parents and students
- Options for teachers to manually decide when assignment scores should be published for parents and students
- High level assignment dashboard to help teachers keep track of their assignments from week to week



Time

Teachers feel the pressure of the clock and of the calendar every block, every day, and every week. This summer we are releasing a new productivity tool to help teachers manage their time.

THE TEACHER PLANNER

- Manage class assignments and daily lesson plans for all classes on one screen
- View a month timeline of class assignments and lesson plans
- Plan class activities and lesson plans for an entire week
- View all of the day's class activities and lesson plans



DAILY CLASS LESSON PLANS

- Class-specific notes about each day
- Private content just for the teacher
- Public content of the day's activities for parents and students



Resources

A major aspect of being a teacher is constructing a large collection of teaching materials. The Veracross Teacher Portal has always had the ability to store files, but this summer we are making it even easier for teachers to manage large numbers of files.

TEACHER RESOURCE LIBRARY

- Manage files for all classes in one centralized location
- Easily share files across all sections within the current school year
- Quickly upload files using the redesigned file management tool



BULK TRANSFER CLASS CONTENT

- Transfer class content across years and from one class to another in bulk
- Adjust all assignment dates from one screen during a bulk transfer
- Give teachers the ability to set up classes and migrate content on their own



Mobile

Mobile has changed everything. Last year Veracross released a mobile web app for parents and students. This summer we are releasing a mobile web app for teachers.



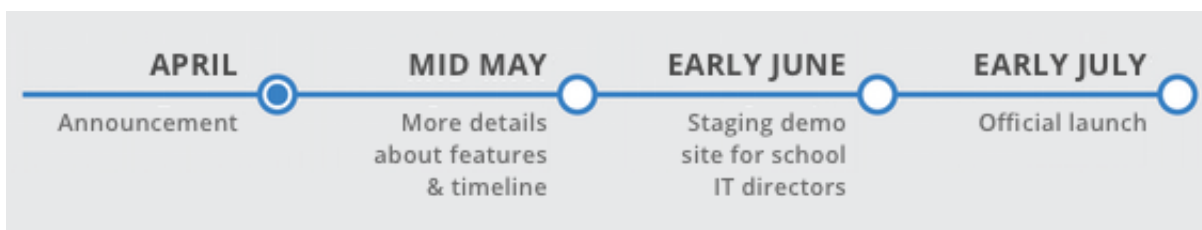
DIRECTORIES & CALENDARS

- Access to school and class directories
- Access to school and personal calendars

CLASS ATTENDANCE

- Take class attendance from a phone

Release Timeline



We thank you for your collaboration as we continue to imagine, design and build the best and most productive tools for teachers. We look forward to seeing the ways in which these enhancements have a positive effect on the entire school community.

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