W i n t h r o p   U n i v e r s i t y

A WHITE PAPER

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What is Edline?

Edline is an online software service that many schools use for class organization. Edline aims to help improve communication between parents, teachers, and students. Edline offers an array of technology solutions that support their mission: That technology can improve student performance by harnessing parental involvement, supporting teachers, and engaging the learning community. This service is hosted online and provides database support for students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Edline can be accessed at https://www.edline.net. For this software, a username and password is required to access your school's online database. Edline.net is to be used by teachers, parents, and students that already have a pre-existing Edline account.

edline.net

Heart of the learning community.

Have an Account?

Sign in to your account below.

Screen Name

Forgot screen name?

Password

Forgot password?

SIGN IN

Activate an Account

Click here if you have a new activation code.

Help | **Company Information** | **Privacy Policy and Terms of Use**

The website www.edline.com provides information about the programs that are available for consumers who do not yet have Edline. This website would be most helpful for educators who want to learn more about what services Edline offers. Listed on this website are also training session dates for educators who would like to attend a live small-group training session or view a pre-recorded training session. For an educator, Edline makes it easy to post content to their class pages and calendars. Edline sets-up a class page for each teacher. Students can then visit the teacher's page and choose their class section. Class pages keep students and parents updated on classroom activities, test dates, grades, progress reports, projects, and other resources. Teachers can also include discussion boards, blogs, online assessments, a homework drop box, and homework help. For parents and students, this program increases communication between the home and the school. Edline sets up a personal account for each student so he/she can check grades, turn in homework, view activity calendars, and much more. Parents can also log in with their password to check their student's grades, assignment due dates, and progress reports. Edline recognizes that what has changed significantly in the k-12 world of

education, is that the increased amount of web-based technologies have made it possible for schools to increase parental involvement in ways that were limited before.

Cost and Licensing:

The cost of the Edline program varies due to the fact that the solutions offered are tailored to meet the needs of individual schools. There is an array of programs available through Edline and administrators are allowed to choose the solutions that best-fit the needs of their educators, parents, and students. Access to the Edline program averages about $3 per student. Additional solutions such as the File Locker and Online Forms and Surveys, costs an additional dollar per student per application. The school is held accountable for paying these fees, not the students. Administrators may also choose to pilot certain facets of the Edline program for one year in their elementary, middle, or high schools. To get started tailoring an individual program for your school, call Edline at 800-491-0010, or email them at info@edline.com

Licensing includes a 24 hour support system for users. Edline uses security technologies similar to banks and brokerage firms, including 128-bit encryption and a Secure Socket Layer. The software is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There is no hardware for IT to maintain or network security to manage. Importing content from third-party systems like Easy Grade Pro is also available for educators. Schools can also individually maintain their website content without the use of web consultants or graphic designers.

Edline Overview:

From the classroom to the field, Edline creates a one-stop online access point to all of the key information that students and parents need: homework, grades, due dates, activity and sports schedules, lunch menus, and school news. Edline offers a wide variety of applications, referred to by Edline as "solutions," for educators, students, and parents. Edline promotes student responsibility and aims to keep parents involved in their child's education. Students can turn in their homework, check assignments and due dates, and review their personal calendars to check for meeting and practice times, all on one website. Parents can also log in to check student's grades and progress in each class. Teacher's can quickly add and edit information on their page for students and parents from anywhere that has internet access. The key facet of Edline being successful in increasing parental involvement and raising student achievement is that it can offer different solutions based on the needs of individual schools. Listed below are just a few of the solutions that are available to Edline users.

Grade Quick

Grade Quick is a teacher friendly grade book that helps schools with assessments, attendance, lesson plans, reporting, and online parent communication. Grade Quick can be deployed at the school or district level. Teachers have the power to customize weighting, grading symbols, and grade scales to meet school requirements. Students can also take online tests that are automatically scored and entered into the online grade book. With the Grade Quick lesson planner, teachers can easily plan, view, and print lesson plans while integrating content curriculum and resources.

Easy Grade Pro

Easy Grade Pro allows teachers to work at multiple sites within a district, or at home, and have instant access to current grade book data from any computer with an internet connection. There is no need for teachers to have to connect to their district network to update their class pages or grades. By using Easy Grade Pro, teachers have the freedom to enter grades at their convenience and not forced to stay logged on to the school's network and pull late ours. This solution also allows teachers to take student work home to grade and post online the very same night.

Student Web Lockers

Student Web Lockers provide online storage for student users. The Web Locker provides students with access to their homework and school files from any computer with internet access. Unlike books or media devices, the Web Locker cannot be forgotten at home or left at school. This program reduces the risk of having students bring removable media into school or trying to download e-mail attachments. Each file in the web locker is automatically scanned for viruses or other negligent material before it is downloaded to the network.

Interactive Classroom

The Interactive classroom allows students to participate in online discussion, turn in homework electronically, and complete interactive assignments and assessments. Teachers may create a homework drop-box where students can submit documents or other files to hand in their homework electronically. Teachers may also customize online tests and quizzes to fit the needs of the students in that particular class. Automatic grading is also available to provide instant feedback to the students about their progress with no intervention by the teacher. These grades can also then be transferred to the online grade book and available for viewing by the parent.

Forms and Surveys

The forms and surveys solution allows educators to place registrations, demographic forms, permission slips, applications, physicals, and district-wide surveys online for parents and students. Edline allows educators to track which users have and have not submitted a form or a survey response. Teachers can send out email reminders to students who have not submitted a form or survey by the required date. The Forms and Surveys solution also analyzes statistical results and data for the teacher in a variety of formats.

How Edline Works:

Training is advised for new Edline users. Optional virtual seminars are free and open to all Edline customers who wish to explore the possibilities and functionality of the Edline Solutions. The 2 ½ hour training session covers start-up, new features, grades, calendars, assignments, and an in-depth functionality for users. There are also live demonstrations sessions as well as pre-recorded sessions available for viewing. To sign up for a training or web session, visit the Edline website at http://www.edline.com/training/index.html.

Grade Quick training workshops are available separately and are available on-site or online. Teachers can learn along with other Grade Quick users in their area in a private workshop. In this hands-on session educators can practice new features, learn troubleshooting techniques, and explore ways to use Grade Quick that ease the workload and improve the quality of instruction. The cost for the two day on-site training session is $450. To register for on-site training at your school, visit the Edline website at http://www.edline.com/training/grade_quick_pro.html

An educator would use Edline just as he/she would update a personal web page. The teacher would log in to their personal class page and add assignments, update due dates, send messages, post discussion board topics, etc. All in all, an educator is in charge of keeping his/her class pages updated just as a webmaster would. This may be time consuming at the beginning of the school year, but after the initial set-up changes are easily made due to the user friendly formatting of the system.

Figure 1 (below) is an example of the homepage that a teacher would see once he/she logs in to Edline. This homepage will automatically be set to the teacher's first block or homeroom class. From here, the teacher can choose the "My Classes" option to add or edit information for students. This homepage also provides access to the teachers File Locker, Old Class Materials, and personal calendar.

Figure 1:
Welcome to Edline – User Homepage

Northwestern High School

2503 West Main Street   Rock Hill, SC 29732   Phone: 803-981-1200   Fax: 803-981-1250   Principal: James A. Blake II

My Contents   1st Block Government (333000CW-07)

My
File
Locker

Old Class
Materials

Private
Reports

Combined
Calendar

My Classes

1st Block
Government
(333000CW-
07)

2nd Block
American
Government
& Economics
(333000CW-
08)

My Other
Groups

Cheerleading

Contents

Assignments

Current Grades

First 9 weeks

Links

US Government
Website

Welcome to AMER GVT/ECON.

News

Calendar

Questions or Comments

Send email to **A. Pantsari** at apantsar@rock-hill.k12.sc.us
or questions about this class.

Communication & Management Related Problems:

As an elementary school teacher, I often have problems staying in touch with or contacting of busy parents when I need to. Even through e-mail, I have problems informing parents of important information about a student's grades or sudden changes that have been made at school. There is no doubt that there is a communication gap between teachers, parents, and students. I often find that a student never gave a note to their parent or that a less than desirable grade was tossed in the trashcan before a parent had access to it. Parents are also busy and do not have the time to come in to the school to

sit and discuss progress and setbacks. Edline would aid in bridging the gap between busy parents and teachers.

It is also difficult for educators to find time to manage the phone calls from parents who call daily about their child's progress and homework. I appreciate these parents for being so involved, but as we all know, teachers do not have the time to talk on the phone daily with twenty sets of parents about assignments, due dates, grades, and behavior. A program like Edline where parents could check their child's grades, assignments, and due-dates online would greatly benefit the elementary school teacher from having to deal with before and after school phone calls and save everyone involved time.

Parental involvement has been said to be one of the most powerful drivers of student achievement and school performance. When parents and schools collaborate to help children adjust to the world of school, bridging the gap between the culture at home and the mainstream school, children of all backgrounds tend to do well (Henderson & Berla, 2002). Research shows that the more intensively parents are involved in their children's learning, the more benefits and achievement are seen. Educators often point out that the earlier parental involvement takes place, the more powerful the effects will be for the child with he/she reaches upper level schooling.

Parental involvement in school, as measured by attendance at a general meeting, teacher conferences, or a school event, and by volunteering or serving on a committee, rose significantly between 1999 and 2003. Most educators attribute this to the rise in internet access and e-mailing as becoming a main form of communication between the home and school. However, the problem still exists today of parents being "hands-off" when it comes to their child's class homework, grades, test scores, and teacher communication, due to the busy lives that Americans lead today. Nowadays, the mentality of most seems to be that if something cannot be done by the click of a button, then there is no time to wait.

The creators of Edline solutions realized that the importance of parental involvement and collaboration between teacher, parent, and student were key aspects when measuring the success of the student. Schools face the obstacle in harnessing the power of parental involvement around the issues of information and communication. Students are starting to filter information from parents and even younger ages than as seen in the past. In addition, the amount of information that changes from day to day in a school system presents a major communication gap between a parent and his/her child's schooling and education. Although there are many different types of parents, all parents have the right to access information that is relevant to their child's learning. This unlimited access to information then allows and enables the parent to make a positive impact on the success of their student. Parents can then provide assistance with schoolwork, intervene when a child is struggling, help students learn life management skills, foster an open relationship in the home about what goes on a school, volunteer to participate in field trips or other class activities, and build a stronger partnership with their child's teachers and administration. Edline also promotes student responsibility and management skills through the use of technology integration in the classroom and at home.

National Educational Technology Standards:

NETS Standards – Students	Edline
Standard 2. **Communication and Collaboration** Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Students:	**The student will collaborate with educators, peers, and parents by use of the Edline program throughout the school year.**
a. interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media.	**The student will able to interact with peers online by contributing to the class discussion board and/or blog once a week.**
b. communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.	**The student will be able to communicate thoughts and ideas to their teachers and parents by allowing access to online submissions and/or posts on class discussion boards.**
Standard 5. **Digital Citizenship** Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:	
a. advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.	**The student will be able to access and utilize Edline responsibly and follow all terms and conditions set forth.**
b. exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.	**The student will be able to openly discuss benefits and setbacks to Edline with educators, peers, and parents.**

Implementation in the Classroom:

　　Educators should be aware that by implementing Edline in the classroom, that the students must take full responsibility for continuously accessing their personal account to check grades, post homework, check due dates, take online quizzes, post discussions, etc. The educator also cannot guarantee that parents will use their account to check student's grades and monitor their student's progress throughout the year. The educator can only simply make the program available to students and parents, not manage it for them. There

is no guarantee that Edline will be accessed once the student is at home. Students and parents would need to be informed of how to use Edline and be made aware of all that the program can do to benefit communication, academics, and improving management skills.

Benefits and Drawbacks

Benefits of Edline-

Edline has been proven to strengthen communication gaps between parents, teachers, and students. Edline also provides students with a quick and easy way to submit homework, post a discussion, or take an online quiz. Edline is a time saver for students because the digital natives work more efficiently online. The program also offers immediate feedback, so students (and parents), don't have to wait for papers to be graded. Edline saves time for teachers with automatic grading systems and the interactive classroom. Teachers can create a test or quiz and post it on the class page and then all students can have access to it, without the teacher having to run copies and spend time grading and recording individual grades. Edline was created to empower teachers to work smarter, not harder! Parents benefit from Edline because they have 24/7 access to their child's grades, due dates, tests, assignments, meetings, and sporting event calendars. Parents can also quickly email teachers when they have questions about a particular assignment or grade. Overall, Edline was created to show how technology can improve student performance by tying together the power of parental involvement, supporting teachers, and engaging students digitally.

Drawbacks of Edline-

The major setback of Edline is that it is an online program that requires educators to be trained on how to use all of the different aspects it offers. In order to become proficient, it takes one signing on to Edline, browsing, and using the trial-and-error method to find out how to complete certain tasks. For the digital immigrant educators, Edline can be very frustrating and overwhelming at first. Edline's popularity seems to have grown with the teachers who are used to adapting to new technology being thrown their way. Another setback of Edline is that it requires internet access for teachers, students, and parents. Students and parents who do not have a computer or internet access from their home will have a more difficult time obtaining all of the benefits of Edline. It may also cause extra stress for students who need to turn in assignments online and do not have immediate access to a computer. As an educator, I would certainly accommodate these students and use traditional methods of turning-in assignments and communication. When used properly by all in the learning community, Edline has proven to have more benefits than set-backs.

References

A. T. Henderson & N. Berla, eds., "A New Wave of Evidence: The Family Is Critical to Student Achievement." National Committee for Citizens in Education, 2002.