Skyward system integrates not only grading but entire student database, so it is very helpful for the overall function of communication between parents and faculty.

I also keep a paper gradebook in case of computer problems or accidental change of a grade. It is easy to accidentally put a grade over an existing grade if your cursor is is the wrong place.

This quarter our district even switched to online report cards- no paper copies. I suspect some parents still aren't aware of this and this may have some angry parents until they all get online.

We are constantly being bombarded with requirements to contact parents even when we use an online grade book. We have to send letters to parents if their student has a D or F inviting them to PT conferences. There is no reason for this when grades are posted online. There needs to be more accountability on the PARENTS.

It would be nice to post your results to the modeling listserve. I would also be interested in hearing about how SBG works in online grade reporting and if teachers also have to post everything that is done/given out, etc. Thanks!

students even have access to the grades when their parents give them the code and can see what did I not turn in or when can I come in and redo this assignment.

Our system for posting grades is also the system by which grade are reported for gradecards, transcripts etc, so teachers have no choice but to use the system.

I left certain questions blank (#4 and #5) because there were no good options for my situation and also no space for comments to explain. For #4, since we post all objective scores but not those for individual assignments, and this is done only at progress report and end-of-term, I didn't think any of the answers corresponded with our practices. For #5, I would have answered that the online grading system has had no effect on the amount of parent contact, but since this is not an effect associated with posting individual assignments, I chose not to answer. The truth is, we are very proactive about making parent contact whenever a student is struggling so the only effect of such a system would be to decrease the number of inquiries about student grades from parents whose children were not struggling. This is already effectively communicated via updates given to students eery few weeks in class.

We decided as a faculty that parents would not have access to the grades unless the students shared their passwords.

Grades 5-10 use all aspects of Progress book. Grades 1-4 I think use something different because Progress book has to develop something to fit their style of report. Not 100% sure since I am at the high school

I am very interested in seeing the results of this survey across the teachers on this NSTA discussion board. db

As a parent I wish all the teachers used it consistently. Some teachers weight their assignments and that does not show up on Edline only the grades.

Our system allows us to post lesson lesson descriptions, learning objectives or standards, & special notes. We can attach a limited # of documents and supposedly students can submit work online to me. We can also auto-email either parents or students.

We used Easy Grade Pro and uploaded grades to School Fusion up until this year - I preferred that system over Synergy, which is slow and very clumsy

After about three years we worked out most of the bugs and we experience few problems now. There has to be a better system out there but I know our district is not looking for a better one.

Most of our students are very grade conscious and check averages on a daily basis. Posting online saves having them come to me to ask about grades. Our system allows us to send mass emails with attached progress reports. This is convenient when notifying parents whose kids have a C- or less. We are moving towards a standards-based report card. I am not sure how our system will work with it.

I also post my math lessons on my personal website using a Pulse SmartPen, and our textbooks are available online. No student has an excuse for not knowing what to do or how to do it, or what to do it with!! Makes interacting with parents regarding grades a breeze!!

I like the fact that I can tell students to check their grade on Edline. It cuts down a lot of class time commotion.

Have only taught at private schools and just returned to the public school system in Washington. Skyward was adopted by the state about 7-8 years ago and all schools in state on it. Thought most other states are/were doing to same.

I find PowerSchool to be helpful to me (easy to post grades), students (don't ask what is my grade so much), and parents (they can see how the student is doing).

I answered this according to last year, since I recently retired. The district used a program called Gradespeed for on-line reporting for several years and then switched to the Pentamation system because it would merge with our report card printing and data base easier. All systems have their little quirks but over-all both of these were fairly easy to use.

We find that very few of the parents actually both to go online. This probably has more to do with the demographics of our area. However, the ones that do, do so quite frequently.

With that zip you can pretty easily target our Catholic school. Good luck, Joe

Overall system is ok. Many teachers liked Edline better since it was more customizable per teacher. Current system has some quirks that can be annoying and time consuming at times.

This is not going away any time soon

The SKYWARD software is not as user friendly and flexible to teachers as are other digital gradebooks, (I used Excel before SKYWARD) but it works and has lots of additional information for parents, teachers, administrators and counselors. For example, you can easily see how a kid is doing in other classes, how he/she has done in the past, has an IEP, allergies, etc. For those who previously sent out frequent and detailed progress reports by mail, it is a real time saver, and of course we are in the 21st century. The parents who really care like it; it makes little difference for those parents who don't. There is a minor problem in staff cohesiveness when some get their assignment grades posted immediately, and some take too long. Strong principal leadership should take care of this. Does your school leadership lead or do they just follow what innovative and motivated teachers like you are doing? Lee, I appreciate you doing this, but you are probably not paid to do something our administrators should be doing. I am somewhat surprised that the late great state of California, where I grew up and went to school, does not have a statewide system for doing this. Keep up the good work.

I feel that the system does not allow teacher discretion in grading because parents/students will compare notes and talk. Before this, I sometimes boosted an individual grade a few points here and there if I perceived the student to be working diligently but occasionally falling a tad short. Now I don't dare.

School system provides a gradebook using the Aspen (nee' X2) online system, but very few teachers use it compared to MyGradeBook, Google docs, and other individual solutions.

We have had several online grading systems in 10 years. Our current one is new this year. Minimal training was provided; the system is very slow, worst example was quarter end grades taking over 2 minutes to save, once I hit the save command key.

I prefer an online grading program over the previous methods. It does not feel like extra work because I see it as my official grade book. Recent upgrades have provided more flexibility that I find helpful

It's all tied into the grading system that goes to our Chancery (registrar's system) so it's easier to use the system than not use it but some teachers still have their own system such as Engrade or even a spreadsheet that they developed themselves.

The school has plans to implement the parent portal, but there are some issues with eschool that need to be worked out, plus with the changes this year (SLO, APPR, etc) they did not want to start another new thing.

I think some of my students and parents are far too obsessed with constantly checking the students' grades online. This is especially a problem early in the semester when there aren't as many grades in the gradebook yet and how the student does on each individual assignment can cause a lot of fluctuation in their overall grade. The constant availability of their grades has turned a few of them into micromanagers obsessed with points instead of focusing on learning.

Our gradebook software is web based. Our grades link to a parent portal and are automatically updated each night. Before this, we emailed grade reports home once a month. The current portal allows parents to email teachers directly from the screen where they see the grades, so it makes it very easy for parents to email us.

We do block access from parents if their child/children owe fees. Counterproductive, in my opinion...

I am also a parent in the district in which I work. I like it from this perspective because my children have access to the portal and it provides us all data about their progress at school and then I don't have to use my time to contact the teacher unless the portal information necessitates a call or e-mail. My peers in the neighborhood also use the portal in the same manner and it is private to our students. Our children know that we check the portal and know when we ask about homework and late assignments that we are coming from a portal to the information. Teachers in our schools do a great job of keeping up their website and teacher team curriculum information. This awareness allows us as parents to supplement an pay attention to what our kids are learning.

This system has not freed me from a hard copy of a grade book as 1) I'd hate to get called or be in a meeting and have the site not working and 2) there are some places where you have to go through too many different screens to get what you want.

Our grades have been online for about 10 years. I have to enter each grade only once and it is available to parents/students (Or anyone they want to give their login information to) 24/7. I find that the parents/students that kept up with things before are able to do so now (although it may actually be easier for the parents). BUT the ones that didn't keep up with things before do no better with the grades online.

Our gradebook updates as we input grades. It keeps teachers timely about grading and posting if they would be bad at it. It allows parents to talk to students more as well. The increased parent contact is time consuming, but worth the effort for a professional teacher.

It is a helpful tool to those parents who utilize it as just that an on-going tool --- however, it increases the "hoverability" of those parents that are already in helicopter mode. If a student has a single bad score at the beginning of a quarter, parents don't realize that, by the end of the quarter, there will be MANY other grades with which to average the bad one such that it will be much less of an impact at the end . . .

I know my situation is unique--but thought I'd participate anyway! I like posting the grades for parents and students to see.

PowerSchool was switched to because it was cheaper than other programs. There are better programs out there

Teachers who are the most opposed to posting grades are the ones who generally don't grade anything until the last week (or weekend) of the the quarter

Most of our students (in addition to their parents)have log-ins to the grading system. I think that it works well for most students and families--however, there are parents (and some students) that become compulsive about checking grades----combine that with a competency-based grading system, in which kid's grades can go on some serious roller-coaster rides throughout the course, and you can have some problems!

ActiveGrade is designed for SBG which we use. It allows a student to see their 'letter grade' at any point, but that grade can also change frequently due to ongoing assessment and reassessment opportunities. It will change as frequently as I update score for individual standards in ActiveGrade.

Posting grades online is the only option we have for grades. This is the system used by our district. The system is offered regionally and I understand many districts in our area do use it. The system not only is used for grades, but info about the kids is also available. Their pictures, parent contact info, class schedules, past courses and grades, state test scores, and so forth can all be accessed by me if needed regarding any specific student. I like it.

Online grades has changed the conversation between parent and teacher. It isn't about checking in to find out about the grade but questioning grading practices and our students effort.

I deal with a lot of phone calls/emails between me and parents and parents/admin. about student grades. I believe online grading is great in many senses, but it has created a culture of overly nitpicky parents who really define the "helicopter parent".

The teachers who use posting of grades primarily use software they bought themselves. Believe it or not, the students are the ones who want to have us posting the grades for themselves... they don't want the parents to see them!

We hate the cuirrent grade system - Gradequick and are looking to move to a new system. So I would be very interested in your results as well

There were MANY teachers resistent to the practice but it is now a required activity per the union contract.

I really like online grading systems. I think the powerschool system is OK but not great. It is clunky to leave multiple comments for students, but I like how parents and students have anytime access to their scores and grades.

I think posting to the web is useful for parents and once the novelty wears off I hope the emails diminish. I do miss being "the man behind the curtain", now I get much more communication from students and parents.

The program also has a lesson plan area, but it is difficult to add standards and objective for lessons.

This is our second online grading program. We used to use Pinnacle. There was a steep learning curve when introducing both systems and some grumbling and complaining but once everyone got up to speed things got smoother. For the first year we spent a number of PD days just spending time showing each other all the things we had figured out how to do with the grading system. When we first started using PS we felt like we were beta testing all their stuff. This year has been better. It doesn't seem like the designers and customer support people have a clear idea of what teachers actually do and how schools actually work.