RSSAA LMS

Last spring when we were required to move to remote learning, we used our ParentSquare communication tool to share all class resources, assignments and Zoom links with parents and HS students. We quickly discovered that:
- The ParentSquare design was not good for managing classes
- Families became frustrated by the high number of posts being received every day
- There was difficulty in looking back to find resources for specific classes
- Faculty had to repeat a lot of information because students and parents could not find it in the long stream of posts

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RSSAA LMS

Over the summer the decision was made to prepare for the possibility of continued remote learning by implementing a proper Learning Management System (LMS) for the school.

- The school opted to upgrade its database system to one that integrates with its long-standing FACTS financial system. This upgrade came into effect in August.
- Two features of the upgrade are the LMS and the Family Portal.
- The LMS gives teachers an online location to manage and share class content, host online discussions on a "class wall", post links to Zoom meetings, create assignments with due dates and generate quizzes and tests if desired.
- The LMS is not only for remote students, it is also a place for in-person students to participate in virtual class discussions with their classmates, refer to class materials and assignments, and track assignment due dates.
- **The LMS requires that students and parents take responsibility for their classes and check it daily. Visiting the LMS is part of going to class.**

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ParentSquare	LMS	Family Portal

• **Communication Tool**
 • User-defined communications
 • Group posts and messaging (chat)
 • Primarily for parents
   • General school updates
   • General class updates
   • Zoom links to school/parent meetings
   • Community posts
 • Used by HS students for sports, trips, clubs, etc. that may need last-minute communications
 • Alerts – app, phone and text
 • Organized by each student's grade level
 • App or browser
	• **Student Resource Tool**
	 • Curriculum materials and instructions
	 • Primarily for students (though parents may manage on their student's behalf)
	   • Class resources (links, videos, pdfs)
	   • Class assignments
	   • Class wall for chat between teacher and students
	   • Quizzes
	   • Class Zoom links
	   • Calendar of due dates
	 • Organized by each student's classes
	 • Browser only
		• **Family Resource Tool**
		 • General school information
		 • Personal family information including address, phone, emergency contacts, financial, etc.
		 • Link to the LMS
		 • Primarily for parents
		   • Verify and update personal information
		   • Complete reenrollments
		   • Apply for financial aid
		 • Organized by school family
		 • Browser only

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Some Additional Information

There is some overlap between the systems:

- Teachers could email students or parents through the LMS as well as post to ParentSquare
- Teachers and students could use the chat feature in the LMS as well as ParentSquare
- Long-standing announcements or information could be posted to the Family Portal as well as ParentSquare

Each teacher may have a different approach to how they use the LMS for their class, but it is organized to make it easy for students (or parents) to find each class and see what the teacher has posted, upcoming assignments, comments or questions from other students, etc.

Because the LMS is not a communication tool, there are no notifications outside of the LMS desktop. When logged in, users can see notifications in the upper right corner of the screen, but they will <u>not</u> receive a text, app alert or email when something new happens in the LMS. **It is each user's responsibility to visit the LMS, just like going to class, to get their class information.**

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Thank You for Your Support

RSSAA will continue to learn and build on our use of these new systems to help simplify and streamline school processes in a way that will support our unique education while allowing us to work with the ever-changing expectations and requirements of students, parents, technologies and government. We appreciate the community's understanding as we attempt to balance the beauty of Waldorf education and the requirements of our current situation.

File management YouTube series for Windows and Mac
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-EID5_2D9U
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGd48PGbnBs
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7mAoa0fOts
       https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9NMjmPNqh4

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