Find Excel a Challenge? Try Engrade
by Ravneet Parmar

Engrade is an easy alternative for teachers who have trouble with Microsoft Excel when calculating grades for a class. It literally takes away the math part of entering and calculating grades. It is free for individual teachers, who can easily create new classes online for each of their classes. Schools and districts can purchase Engrade Pro. There is no set price for the Pro, so schools can inquire about a price quote based on their needs. In the settings, teachers can set their own grading scale, assignment categories, and the weighted percentage associated with those categories. Unlike Microsoft Excel, there is no need for any formulas, as Engrade software does all the calculations based on the information provided.

Teachers, students, or parents can sign up for an account (email required) and keep track of student scores, create quizzes, and make discussion boards for online conversations about things that happen in the classroom. Quizzes can be graded from the grade book program, so as a teacher you can directly enter the scores into your records.

An advantage of having this online grade book is that the student grades can be shared online with the students and the parents as needed. This keeps the students and the parents up to date on their daily assignment progress. And, because it's online, there's the added advantage that grades are able to be accessed from anywhere that has Internet access.

Of course, this can also be a disadvantage: if the website goes down for any reason your marks are lost, and if you lose Internet access but need to get into your grade book, you won't be able to. This can be easily fixed, however, by importing your grade book into an Excel sheet (an option on the website). You can also print out the grade book and individual student reports periodically.

Engrade Wikis is a website, associated with Engrade, that contains free lesson plans, resources, and wikis for different subject matter. These wikis have an option of assigning them to your own class as an assignment.

Overall, this is an easy-to-use alternative for Excel-challenged teachers. I highly recommend it.

References
Engrade website: https://www.engrade.com/
Engrade Wikis: https://wikis.engrade.com/

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