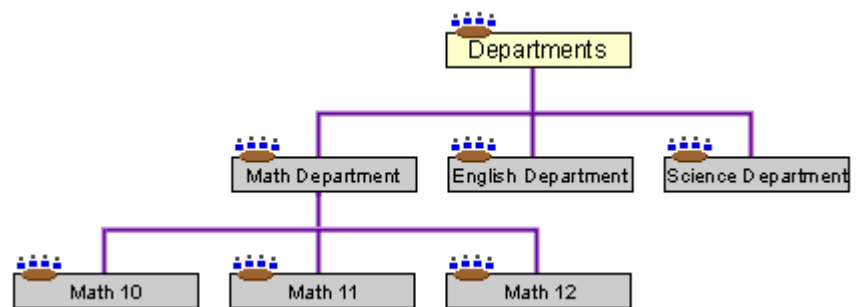


Interactive Learning Environment

Avalon Academy is a fictional educational institution. Ann Jones is a Maths teacher at Avalon Academy.

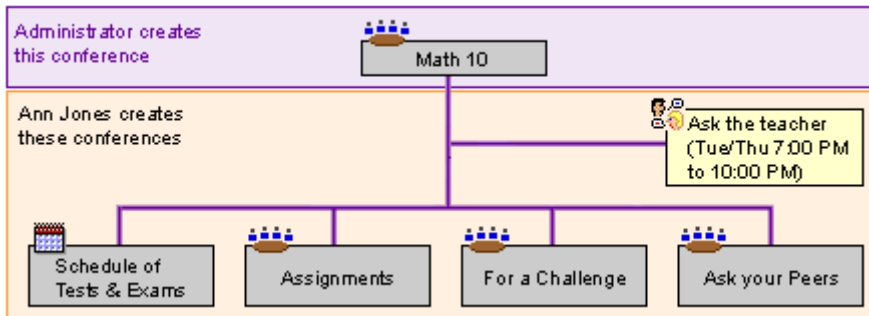
Ann Jones teaches senior math courses grades ten, eleven, and twelve at Avalon Academy. She provides her students with a variety of different online functions to promote an interactive learning environment. Students can access these functions through the FirstClass client or a web browser. To support this functionality, Avalon's administrator created this initial conference structure:

- a main conference called Departments
- a conference within Departments called Math Department
- three conferences within the Math Department conference called Math 10, Math 11, and Math 12, respectively



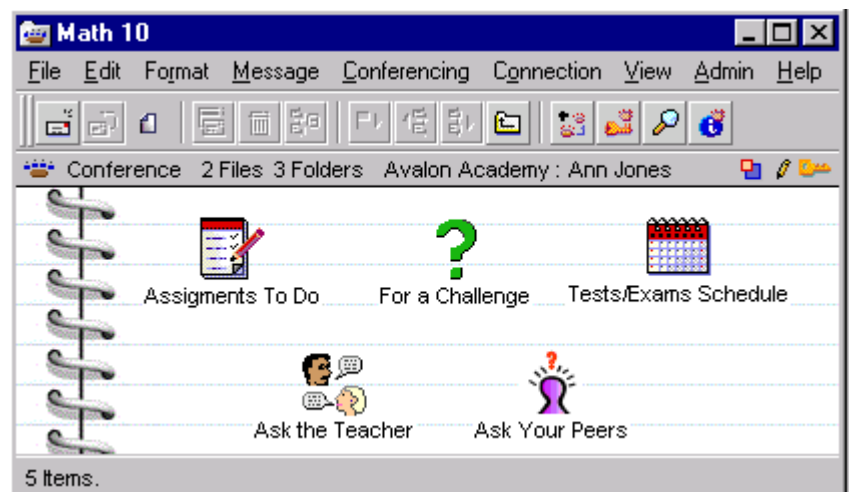
Departments Conference Structure

The administrator places an alias of the Math Department conference directly on Ann Jones' Desktop, and relevant conferences on her math students' Desktops. This means that Ann Jones is able to see and access all of the math conferences. However, only students in Ann Jones' grade 10 math class, for instance, will be able to view the Math 10 conference on their Desktops.



The administrator also gives the proper privileges to Ann Jones so she can further create conferences within each of her math conferences. She can personalise or target her work to specific classes or even groups of students. Examine the structure Ann Jones has created for her Math 10 class.

Ann Jones' Math 10 conference structure
Ann Jones created five objects within her Math 10 conference: one calendar, three work conferences, and one chat area. Ann Jones then applied the proper permissions to these items to allow her grade ten class to actively participate within them.



Work areas

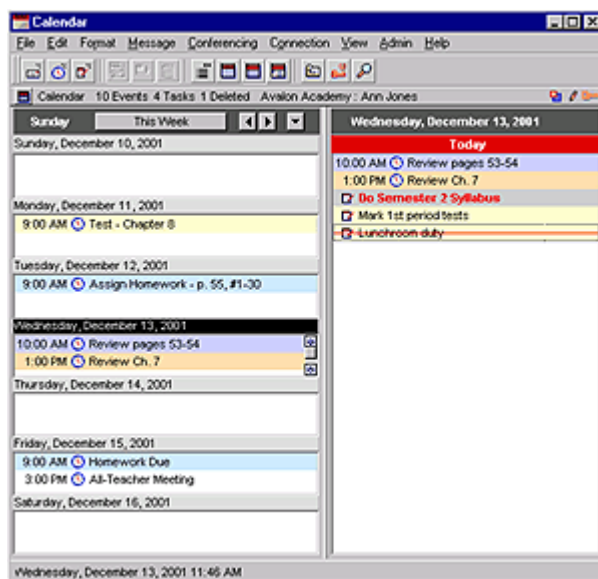
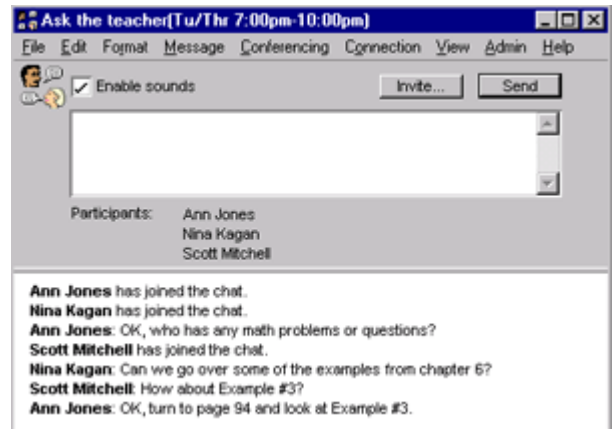
Ann Jones places math assignments in the Assignments To Do conference. Students can access this conference anytime via their Desktop or school web site, and download daily homework. This also allows absent students to remain current in their homework. In this situation, students complete and submit assignments as hardcopy. For most courses, however, students can access and complete assignments online instead of on paper, then return their completed assignments to a private email address or separate conference instead of handing them in as hardcopy.

The 'For a Challenge' conference contains advanced math questions. Students who feel comfortable with the standard material can attempt this extra work at their leisure. Again, students can email these completed questions directly to Ann Jones.

Chat area

Ann Jones provides her students with a conference that allows asynchronous communication between students. The Ask your Peers conference lets students speak to each other about math related issues. This allows students to mentor each other directly, as students sometimes prefer to get help from peers as opposed to a teacher.

Those students who require input from the teacher can communicate with her through the 'Ask the Teacher' chat. This conference lets students query any math related issues, during the specified times of 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM, every Tuesday and Thursday. Ann Jones' students find this incredibly useful, as they know they can count on her being available at the same time each week.



Calendar

To help her students organise their school work, early in the year Ann Jones schedules all of the assignment, test, and exam due dates inside a calendar that she places directly in the Math 10 conference. This provides a strong time management resource that her students can access at any time. If a student finds a date inconvenient, the student can speak with Ann Jones early in the year to discuss an alternative. With this advanced knowledge, students can plan their time accordingly without any surprises.

Ann Jones has given the parents of her students limited access to the calendar and homework conferences that they can access through the FirstClass client or a web browser. This enables parents to play an active role in their children's education.

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