

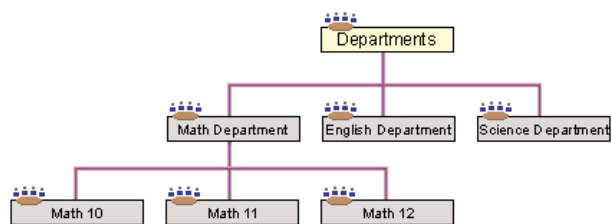
FIRSTCLASS®

Interactive Learning Environment

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

Ann Jones teaches senior maths courses to 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:

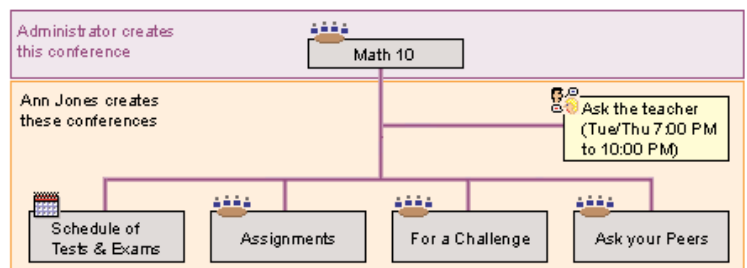
- a main conference called Departments
- a conference within Departments called Maths Department
- three conferences within the Maths Department conference called Maths 10, Maths 11, and Maths 12, respectively



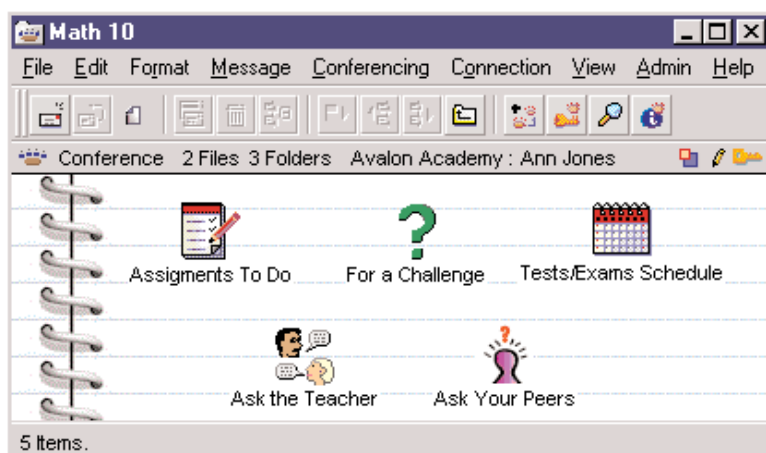
Departments Conference Structure

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



Ann Jones' Maths 10 conference structure Ann Jones created five objects within her Maths 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

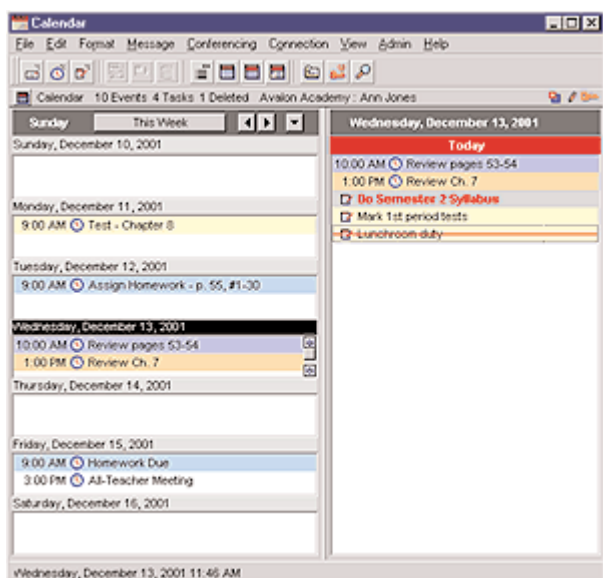
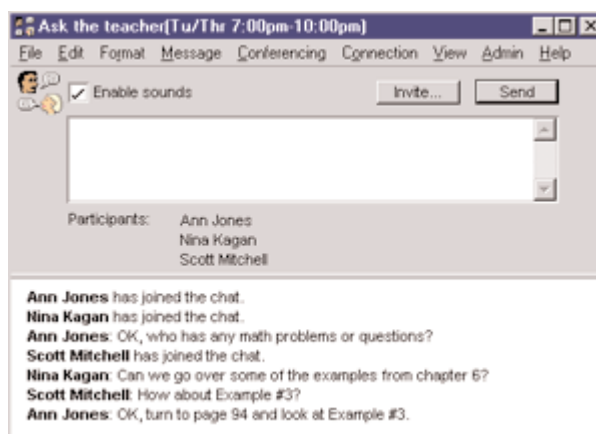
Ann Jones places maths assignments in the Assignments To Do conference. Students can access this conference anytime via their Desktop or school web site, and download daily homework. This also allows absent students to remain current in their homework. In this situation, students complete and submit 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 maths 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 maths 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 maths 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 Maths 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.

FIRSTCLASS SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Server

Windows NT, Windows 2000

- Pentium class processor
- 8MB available RAM, plus 100k/concurrent session
- 50MB available disk space, plus additional storage for mail and user data

Macintosh OS 7.1 and later

- PowerPC class processor
- 16MB available RAM, plus 100k/concurrent session
- 50MB available disk space, plus additional storage for mail and user data

Client

Windows 95 and later, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP

- 80486 class processor or better (Pentium for Windows ME/2000/XP)
- 10MB available disk space

Macintosh OS 8.5 and later, Mac OS X

- PowerPC
- 10MB available RAM
- 10MB available disk space

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