

# LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

By Charlotte Tallman  
Sun-News Reporter  
December 3, 2003

Some parents in Las Cruces are able to keep track of their child's progress in school over the Internet. It provides easy communication with the teachers, Wendy Gallegos, a Fairacres Elementary School parent, said. Kids don't always want to show their parents what their grades are or what they have for homework assignments.

Teacher Ease is a program that allows parents to login to a secure site set up by the teacher or administrator. While online, parents can check assignments, grades and real-time information about the students. Parents and teachers can also communicate through e-mail. Currently, teachers at Las Cruces High, Sierra Middle, Picacho Middle, Camino Real Middle, Fairacres Elementary and Alameda Elementary Schools use the program. Teachers can use Teacher Ease to keep an electronic grade book, attendance sheet and behavior log. For parents without Internet access, teachers can print out progress updates and reports. All the traditional means of checking on the children are still in place, said Kristin Knight, school counselor at Sierra Middle School. At Sierra, which was the first school in the district to start Teacher Ease last year, all the teachers and school staff use the web-based program. Parents love it because it gives them the opportunity to look at grades anytime, Knight said. Teachers work really hard to keep it as up-to-date as possible.

Knight said school notices and announcements also go out to all parents who are signed up. Students still take paper notices home, but Knight said parents are more likely to see the notices when they receive it through Teacher Ease. It has really opened up communication with my children, Gallegos said. It works as a checks and balances system and it keeps us all up-to-date. Parents and students are not charged for the program, but teachers are charged yearly subscription rate of \$89 a year. Incentive specials and discounts are available. For more information on Teacher ease, log onto the Internet at [www.teacherease.com](http://www.teacherease.com).

Charlotte Tallman may be reached at [ctallman@lcsun-news.com](mailto:ctallman@lcsun-news.com).  
1-800-745-5851  
(505)541-5453  
Fax(505)541-5498