

Mount Goes Online With Edline

by Cody Santiago '08

Here at Mount Saint Michael Academy the staff is finally making themselves more familiar with modern technology. At the start of the '06 school year Mount was introduced to a new Internet program called Edline. Edline gives access to both parents and students to the daily assignments that are given for homework. Here at the Mount teachers always assign homework and often they are given some lame excuse by a student as to why they couldn't get their homework done. The introduction of this program also helps keep parents involved in their child's school life.

Around the school there are some mixed feelings on the program. Many students think that having the program would benefit them while others feel that it is a waste of time. Some students such as Jan Michael Tolentino of junior year feel that having the program is a good idea. "I like the program because some teachers put up review sheets and it helps me study for a test." Other juniors like Howard Brown II are completely satisfied with the program: "Parents can see what is assigned for homework every night. It gives the students no privacy." Well that is the point, to keep parents involved in students' school life. However, Brown doesn't think that Edline is all bad. He claims to use the program at least twice a week. He says "Mr. Hummel always has the questions up and homework for the next two weeks."

Mr. Joseph Hummel, a history teacher at Mount Saint Michael also uses Edline very frequently. When asked what he thinks about Edline, he had a very positive attitude. "I use it every day, I have the assignments for the next month on there, and I'm always changing the picture." It's true—sometimes I go on Edline just to see what picture he has up. He unlike some other teachers takes advantage of the program. Many teachers don't use their accounts but Hummel does and like to have fun with it.

Mr. Rocco Varuolo, Director of Technology here at the Mount took time out of his busy schedule to down to the technical aspects of Edline. Mr. Varuolo explained to us that this is a very easy program to use for teachers, students and parents. That is not the only reason that Edline was chosen over another program. "We chose Edline because it ties in with Administrators Plus, the software that Mount uses to keep records of both students and faculty. All we had to do was upload the data to Edline." Setting this up was fairly easy, but training the teachers on how to use it took a little longer.

Both parents and students get their own accounts on Edline. And for the parents and students who are not so Internet savvy Mr. Varuolo has some "value added services". You can email the school at edlinehelp@mtstmichael.org or you can call the school and use extension 302. The services on Edline according to Mr. Varuolo are "constantly growing". He says that he is always working on the program and he hopes that in the near future Edline has more advanced features like grades and progress reports. Those are some ideas that are in the works.

The only advice that Mr. Varuolo can give is to use it more. It really is a helpful tool. I agree, Edline is very helpful, and it gives students a reason to go on the websites for other reasons besides Myspace.