



GradeCam™ Company Backgrounder

Overview

At the end of a full day in the classroom, teachers still have papers to grade. For most, this is an ongoing source of stress. Teaching six to eight classes daily generates a mountain of paper, and teachers are left on their own to streamline the grading process as best they can. Teachers can be easily overwhelmed by the volume of paper needing their attention.

Tami Porter was one of those teachers who felt overwhelmed by the grading paperwork demanding her time and attention. One day, on her way home from the middle school where she taught, she stopped by the grocery store to pick up a few items. As she watched the clerk scan her purchases she thought, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if teachers could grade and record student work that easily?” She did not realize it at the time, of course, but the idea for the software that would eventually be called *GradeCam* had just been born.

Even though still in his teens at the time, Tami’s son Robert was working as a software developer for a national laboratory. As the son of two teachers, Robert understood that on average, a teacher collects 500 to 1,000 or more pieces of student work each week, whether teaching six subjects at the elementary level or six to eight classes at the secondary level. His solution was to develop advanced image recognition software, which he called *GradeCam*. When paired with an affordable web or document camera, *GradeCam* instantly grades multiple-choice tests and automatically transfers the scores to an existing electronic grade book. *GradeCam* also can process other student work – graded papers and credit/no credit assignments – eliminating tedious manual data entry.

The GradeCam Mission

The company is committed to delivering high functionality at a low cost. Team Porter understands the need to automate data collection to alleviate the massive load of paperwork. They want *GradeCam* to be available to every teacher in every classroom – saving time, reducing stress, and improving student learning. They have a keen understanding of the fact that “learning is driven by what teachers and pupils do in classrooms,” and that teachers need accurate and timely data assessments of what their students understand in order to determine which strategies are working.

For the last several years, the Porter family team (Tami, her son Robert, and her husband Rick) has continued to refine and improve *GradeCam*. As a software-based solution that works with inexpensive, off-the-shelf cameras, *GradeCam* costs a fraction of what other Optical Mark Reader (OMR) scanner technology costs. This means that teachers can use it freely in the classroom to monitor, measure, and differentiate individual student learning. In addition, *GradeCam* forms are reproducible, making *GradeCam* the most cost-effective formative assessment tool in education today.

MORE

Results

Alice Keeler is a typical *GradeCam* customer. As a math teacher at Clovis High School in Clovis, Calif., Keeler says that *GradeCam*'s statistics report is one of her most important teaching tools. "With *GradeCam*, after the kids scan in their quizzes, I know each student's score immediately, and how the class did overall on each question. This allows me to review the quiz in class immediately and re-teach the questions that students missed while the text is still fresh in their minds."

Typical Testimonials

I love grading now! I love my *GradeCam*. You can quote me. I tell everyone anyway.

Lynn Keeler
Corsicana, TX

Word of my new tool has spread and I've given several demonstrations. Love it!

Robert Blood, M.Ed.
Mohave High School Prep, North Las Vegas, NV

GradeCam has cut down my workload immensely. Thank you very much.

Karla Alcalá
Santa Ana Unified School District, Santa Ana, CA

GradeCam has made it possible for me to teach – rather than be a slave to grading. And it has a great statistics package, too. Sometimes I look at the statistics for a particular quiz or test, and in the same period I can re-teach the problems and concepts that students had the most difficulty with... That simply wouldn't happen without my *GradeCam* hardware and software.

Charles Kimball, Math Teacher
Tooele School District, UT

I purchased *GradeCam* a couple of years ago, and *love* it. It helps my students by providing immediate feedback, and it helps me by documenting everything and saving time.

Frank J. Fedel, MS, CES
School of Health Promotion and Human Performance, Eastern Michigan University, MI

I *love* your product...and love the time it saves me every day. My first graders are able to take an assessment, and scan/score it themselves. That's a big chunk out of my workload.

Tanya Morrill
Clark County School District, Las Vegas, NV

The time I am going to save on beginning of the year inventory tests, the increasing number of formative assessment pieces that serve as quick "dipsticks" to students' comprehension, and grading chapter tests designed from the curriculum software, is easily worth the expense of this product.

Mary Ann Dickey, 7th Grade Teacher
Methuen Public Schools, Methuen, MA

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