

Escaping the Stress of *Costly, Fragmented, and Unresponsive* School Management Systems

How [switching](#) from [Blackbaud](#) to [MySchool](#) helped Okanagan Christian School save [\\$10,000 annually](#) and increase parent engagement

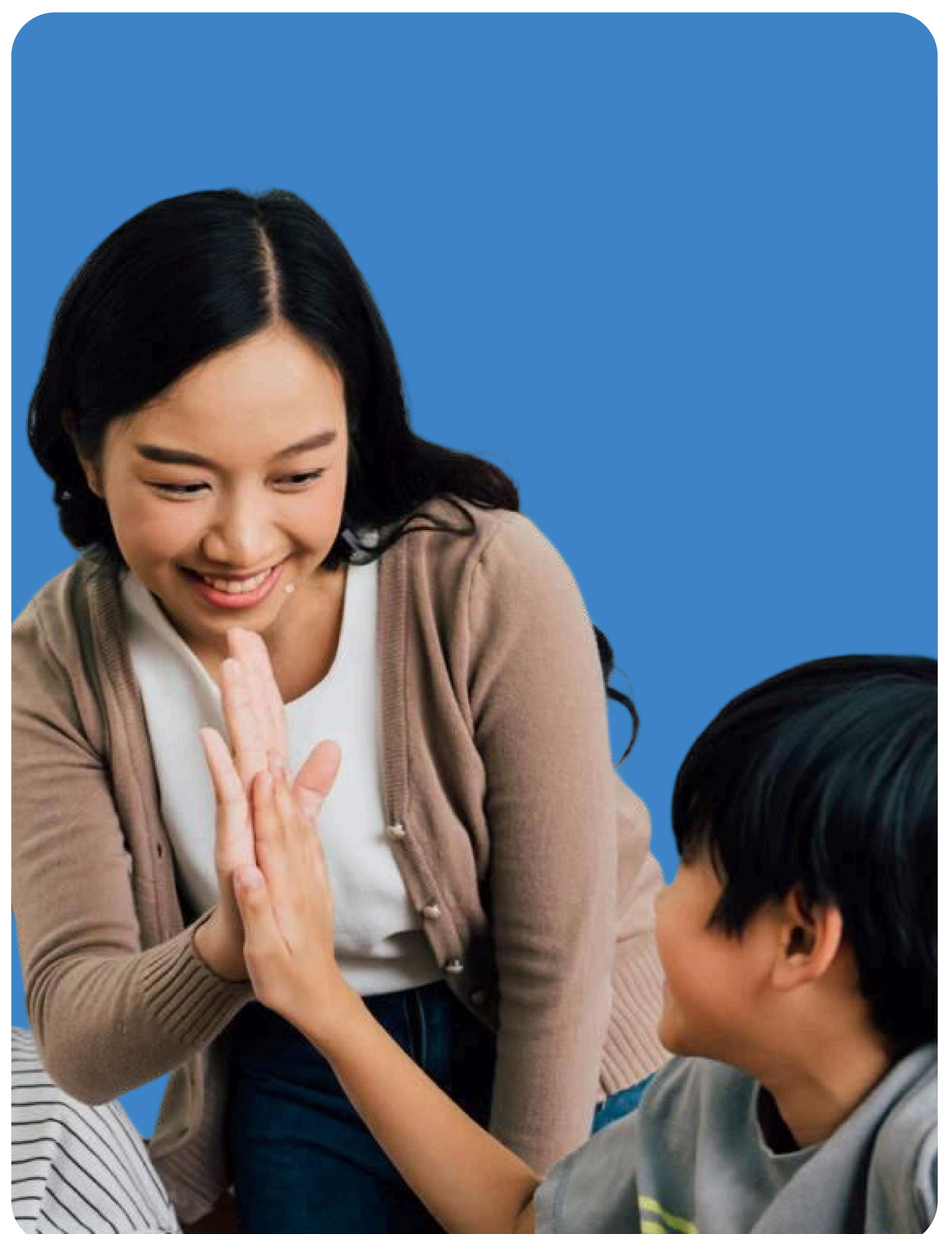


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Key Results

- ✓ ~\$10,000 annual software savings
- ✓ Parent engagement increased from < 50% to > 60%
- ✓ Report card preparation reduced from 1 day to ~1 hour
- ✓ Multi-day government audits reduced to minutes
- ✓ From weeks-long support delays to fast responsive issue fix

About Okanagan Christian School

Okanagan Christian School (OCS) is an independent K-12 school in Kelowna, British Columbia. It serves a close-knit community and demonstrates a strong focus on academic achievement, faith, and student development.

OCS is similar to many small, independent schools: It operates with a lean administrative team and high expectations from its families. OCS teachers, administrators, and parents all rely on systems to be intuitive, reliable, and efficient without fail. There's no room for extra costs or complexity.

OCS has to balance instructional excellence with growing administrative and reporting demands. This makes choosing the right school management platform critical.



The Challenge

When the System Becomes the Stressor

Managing day-to-day operations became unnecessarily stressful for OCS. The stress originated where educators least expect it to – the school management system.

OCS had been using Blackbaud for school management. The platform looked comprehensive on paper, but functioned as a collection of disconnected modules in practice. Core features didn't sync. Information lived in disparate places. Simple tasks required too many steps.



So, instead of bringing administrative clarity and space for innovation, Blackbaud caused:

- teachers getting lost in the needlessly complex UI,
- parents missing or not receiving important messages about their children,
- the finance department allocating thousands of dollars for minor SIS add-ons,
- staff being forced to pause some projects for days as they waited for Blackbaud support to reply to their tickets.



The Breaking Point

In Search of Lost Time – And a New Platform

OCS knew this stress had to end.



"We wanted one platform that worked all in harmony," explains Jordan Wirtz, the principal at Okanagan Christian School. "Not a basic structure with constant add-ons, and not something that took hours of onboarding just to use."

The school began looking for a platform that could do one thing well: It had to bring everything together. One system. One experience. No hidden costs.

After evaluating several alternatives, including PowerSchool, OCS chose MySchool.

The Shift

One Platform, One Experience

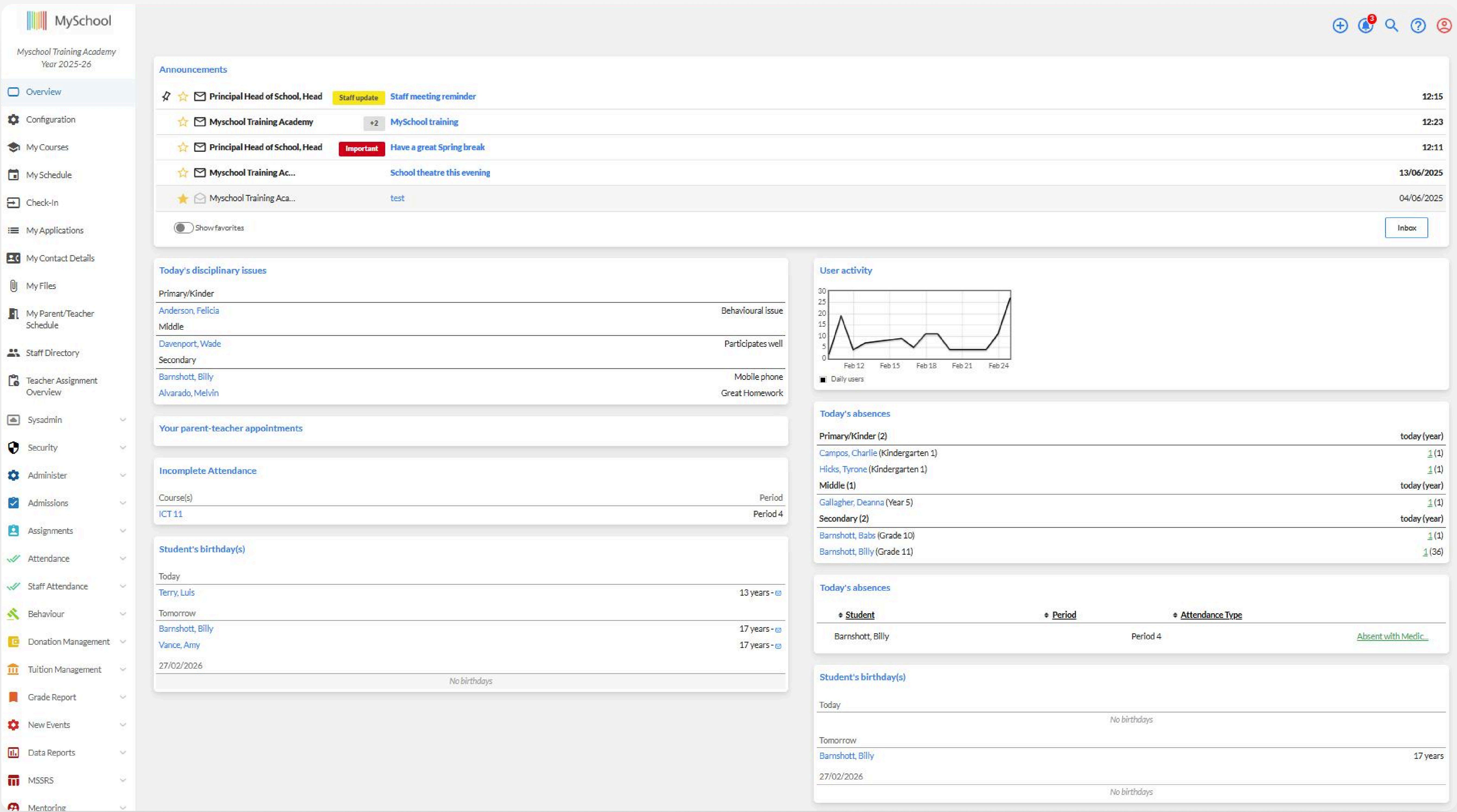
The difference was apparent immediately.

In the MySchool ecosystem, everything lives in one place. Most tasks are done either in the main overview or are clearly organized during navigation. Teachers and parents don't need hours of training to find what they need.



"MySchool is intuitive," Mr. Wirtz says. "If teachers and parents really have to search for things, they're not likely to use the system. With MySchool, everything is right there – you don't get lost."

All Core Functions Accessible From One Place



The screenshot displays the MySchool dashboard for 'Myschool Training Academy Year 2025-26'. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like Overview, Configuration, My Courses, My Schedule, Check-in, My Applications, My Contact Details, My Files, My Parent/Teacher Schedule, Staff Directory, Teacher Assignment Overview, Sysadmin, Security, Administer, Admissions, Assignments, Attendance, Staff Attendance, Behaviour, Donation Management, Tuition Management, Grade Report, New Events, Data Reports, MSSRS, and Mentoring. The main content area includes:

- Announcements:** A list of messages from the Principal Head of School and Myschool Training Academy, including reminders for staff meetings and training, and announcements about a Spring break and school theatre.
- Today's disciplinary issues:** A table listing issues for Primary/Kindergarten, Middle, and Secondary levels, such as 'Behavioural issue' for Anderson, Felicia and 'Participates well' for Davenport, Wade.
- User activity:** A line graph showing 'Daily users' from Feb 12 to Feb 24, with a peak around Feb 12 and Feb 24.
- Today's absences:** A table showing absences for Primary/Kindergarten, Middle, and Secondary levels, including students like Campos, Charlie and Barnshott, Balos.
- Today's absences (Detailed):** A table with columns for Student, Period, and Attendance Type, showing Barnshott, Billy is absent with medication in Period 4.
- Student's birthdays:** Two sections showing birthdays for today, tomorrow, and 27/02/2026, with 'No birthdays' listed for each.

Stronger Communication Means Greater Engagement



This clarity had an immediate impact on communication.

With the previous system, many parents had struggled through navigation. As a result, they missed important messages. Some communications stayed internal; others were never seen. Parent engagement suffered.

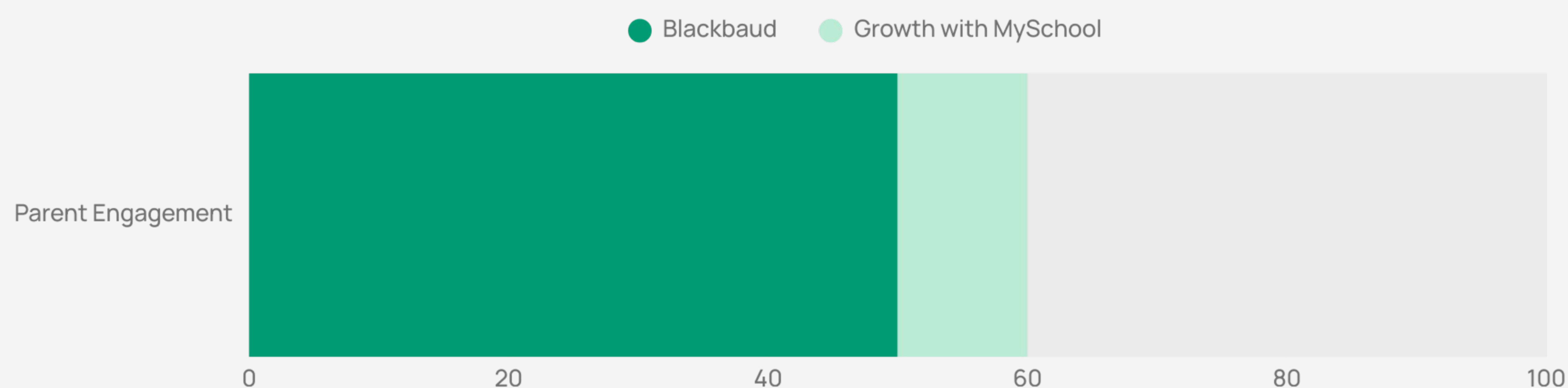
With MySchool, that changed.

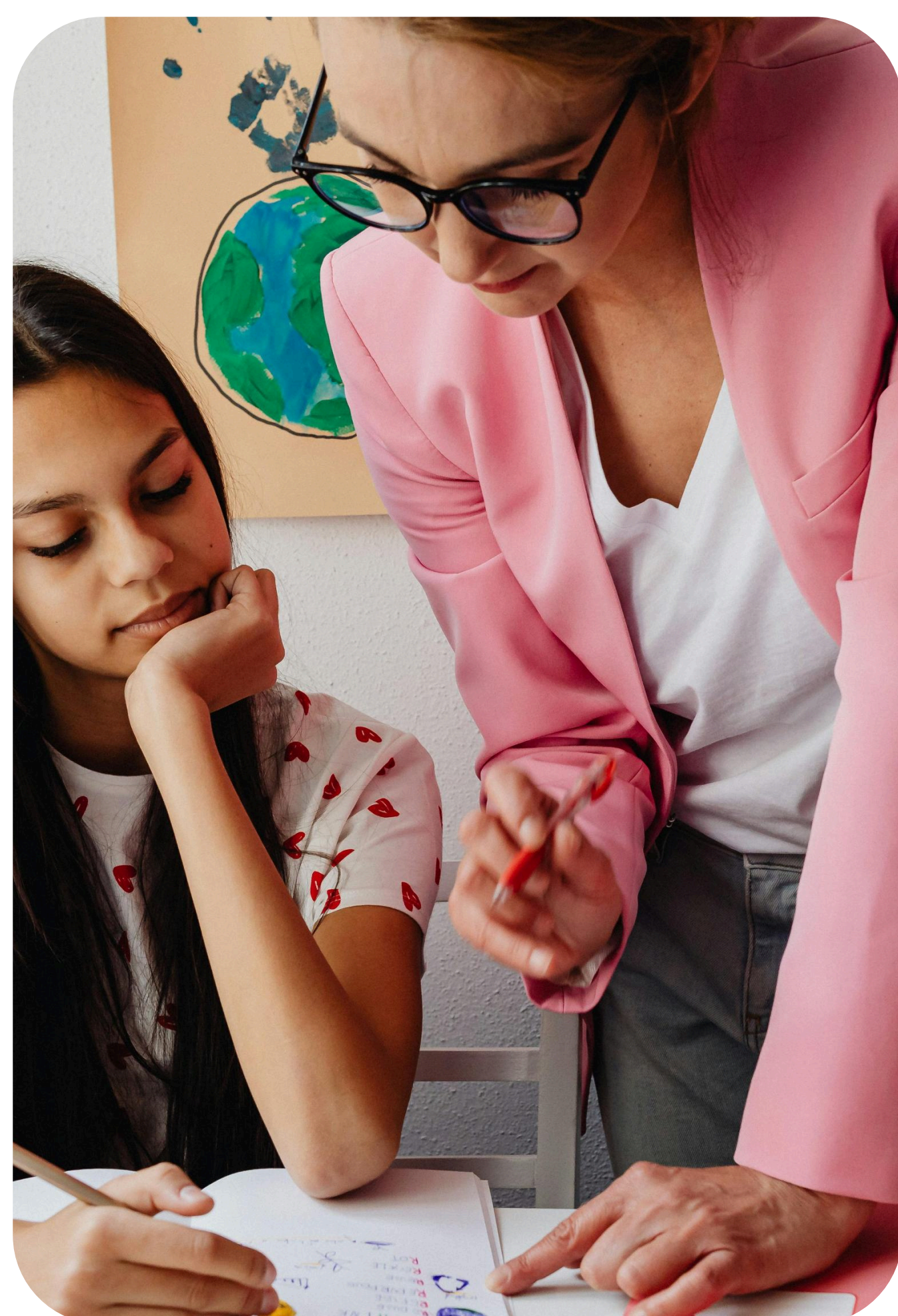
Announcements are delivered by email and through the mobile app. The school can see who has engaged with each message. Parents receive timely notifications and can respond to permission slips in a single click.

No extra steps. No confusion.

As a result, parent engagement increased from under 50% to over 60% and continues to rise. This gave OCS confidence that families were staying informed and connected.

When the Platform/System Starts Helping





Teachers and Administrators Reclaim Their Time

For kindergarten through Grade 9, OCS now uses MySchool's proficiency-based grading. This allows the school to dramatically reduce the time required to prepare report cards.

Learning outcomes are linked directly to assessments. With the help of clear visual indicators, teachers can complete report cards in a fraction of the time they spent before using MySchool.



"What used to take a full day now takes about an hour," Mr. Wirtz explains. "That's actual hours saved."

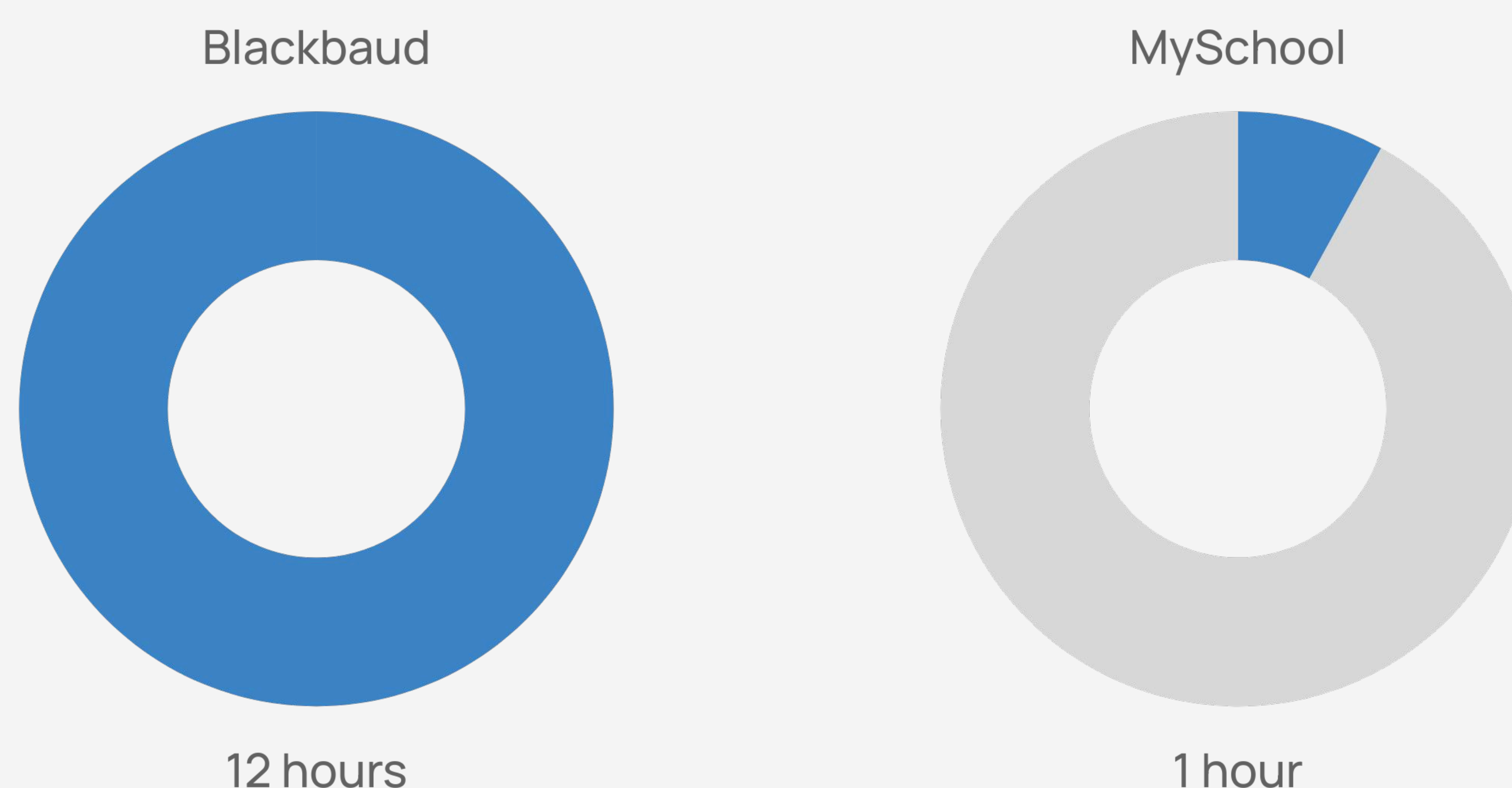
Operational efficiency has improved beyond the classroom as well.

Administrative reporting and government audits were previously multi-day processes. Now they are a matter of review and export. Data is produced quickly, accurately, and in a format that external auditors find clear and professional.



"Even our auditor was really impressed with how easy the data was to produce," Mr. Wirtz notes.

Reducing Time to Complete Report Cards



Lower Costs, Better Value

Financially, the shift to MySchool delivered meaningful results.

OCS moved away from a system built on costly add-ons and disconnected modules. In doing so, the school reduced annual software expenses by approximately \$10,000. For less money, OCS got broader functionality across academics, communication, reporting, and administration.

Conclusion

A True Partnership

Just as importantly, the relationship between school and system feels different.

OCS has found MySchool responsive, collaborative, and genuinely interested in customer feedback. Ideas are heard. Conversations lead to action. The school feels supported rather than sidelined.

For Okanagan Christian School, switching from Blackbaud to MySchool wasn't just about changing software. It was about removing friction and **reducing stress.**

And giving educators, parents, and administrators the clarity they needed to focus on what matters most.

Repeat Okanagan Christian School's *Success!*

