

Classroom++ - Active learning beyond the classroom

Classroom++ inspires to provide a platform to schools that allows them to make learning experience more open, collaborative and seamless. At its core, it tries to answer the following question – Can we foster critical-thinking and healthy partnerships among students by providing them incentives for asking good questions and answering doubts of their peers?

Data is available that shows that Indian universities are unable to generate quality research at a global scale. The roots of this problem can be traced back to schools where traditionally, students are exposed to immense competition and pressure to memorize vast amounts of information. This discourages the innate curiosity and eagerness to experiment with new concepts – something that is essential to develop a “researcher mindset”. The skill to ask good questions and share answers with others is really never emphasized enough.

Classroom++ allows teachers to setup Notice Boards for their classes which can be accessed through laptop or mobile devices. The Notice Board is a one stop shop for all activities one would associate with a traditional classroom:

- Teachers can use it to post important announcements and answer student doubts
- Students can use it to ask questions, discuss possible solutions and “star” important items for quick look-up during exams
- Teachers use the system to collect student grades, generate student report cards and share the overall class performance
- Students and teachers have profiles in the system (for e.g., like their Facebook profiles). Both students and teachers get “Helpfulness points” by their peers when something they posted or answered was genuinely helpful for the class
- This allows them to unlock badges and rewards which would aggregate over terms and will be visible on their profile page to the entire school
- This gives a sense of pride and incentivizes them to further improve their classroom participation
- The students and teachers can also upload various course related documents into the tool which are then easily available for access throughout the term

The tool can therefore act as a digital repository of knowledge which exists in form of questions, their answers, relevant material from outside textbooks etc. The future batches of the same class can then pick-up this knowledge directly from their seniors.

A Picture is worth thousand words. Below are some illustrative images from the product: (NOTE: These are just for illustration purpose. Final product will be much more aesthetically pleasing)

Example of a typical Notice board for a class:

Classroom homepage

http://classroompp/class

Physics VIII B Select a different class

Welcome, Rohan

New Post Course Overview

Search a post by title, posted by etc.

Notice board

Filter notice board by: ☐ Starred ☐ Unread ☐ Posted by me ☐ Posted by instructor

Welcome message!

Week of 8th May 2017

Week of 24th April 2017

Week of 17th April 2017

Week of 10th April 2017

Few possible posts made on the notice board:

I have a doubt regarding equation balancing covered in last lecture. Please help!!



Lorem Ipsum is simply dummy text of the printing and typesetting industry. It has survived not only five centuries, but also the leap into electronic typesetting, remaining essentially unchanged.

15

Updated by Rohan, 2 days ago

2 Responses so far

As per my understanding, **equation balancing** is done using blah as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like readable English. Also, *balanced equations* can be derived using certain techniques. For more details, visit this [website](#) Hope this helps!

9

The class teacher thinks this is a good answer Updated by Priya, 1 day ago

Various versions have evolved over the years, sometimes by accident, sometimes on purpose (injected humour and the like).

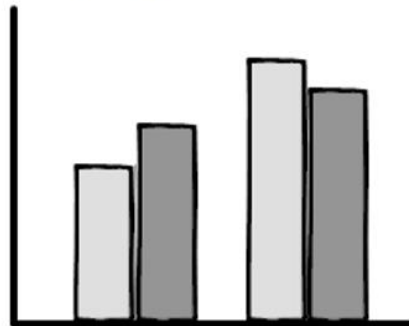
Updated by Anonymous, 3 hrs ago

Test has now been graded



Class,

The test has been graded and I have emailed your scores. You can visit me after class in my cabin to see your answer sheets and clear any doubts. I am happy to tell that the class performance has been really good. The average marks are pretty good and standard deviation is low too.







I hope this gives motivation to you all to do even better in the next test. Please feel free to create a new post on any common doubts during the test.

This post was published by the class teacher


Updated by Kavita, 1 day ago

How the student profile looks:


Rohan's Profile



http://classroompp/student/profile



Rohan Mathur, VIII B



✓ Top 50 most helpful students

✓ Class Monitor

✓ Posted a question with 1000+ likes


1,021

Helpfulness points


Bio

I am a 15 year old student from New Palasia. I love solving Math and Physics problems and share my knowledge with others through posting new content and answering questions posted by others!

Feel free to meet me. You can find me on the first bench of VIII B in building 2 :D


Give Rohan a Helpfulness point 

[View Rohan's most popular posts](#)

Take Rohan's help on a topic 

A Course overview page:

Classroom homepage




http://classroompp/class

Q

Physics VIII B

Select a different class ▼

Welcome, Rohan 

Physics VIII B

ACME School, Summer 2017

Overview

In this course, we will get an introduction to various topics of Introductory Physics including but not limited to:

- Laws of Motion
- Collision of Physical bodies
- Thermodynamics
- Planetary Laws
- Angular velocity
- Atomic Theories

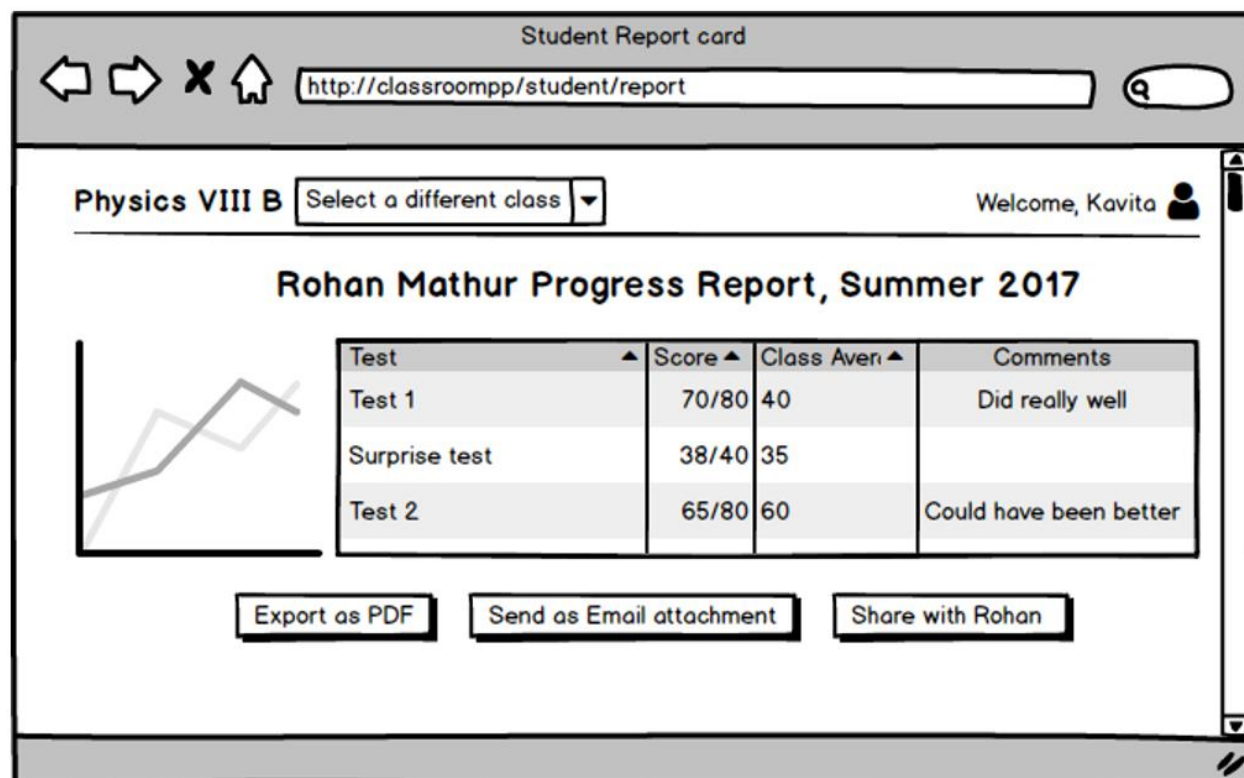
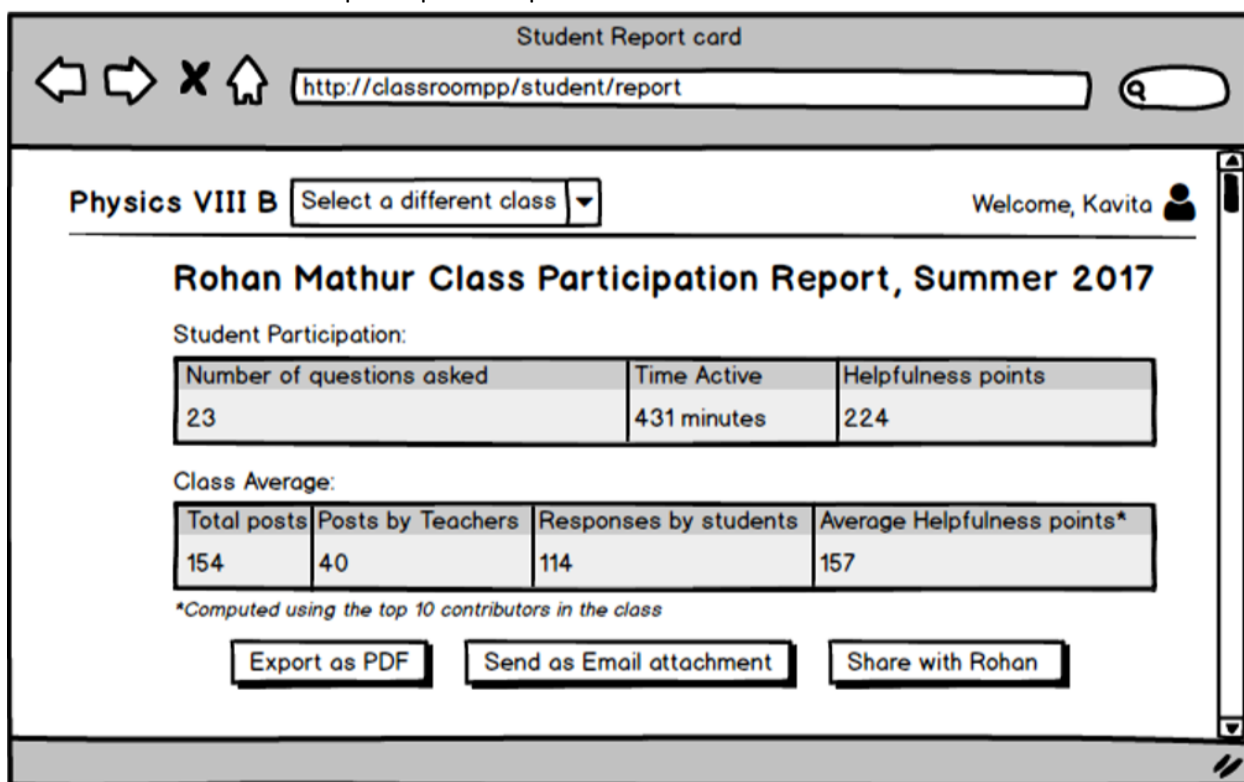
Teaching Staff

Class Teacher:	Mrs. Kavita Joshi	Visit Profile
Class Monitor:	Pallavi Mathews	Visit Profile

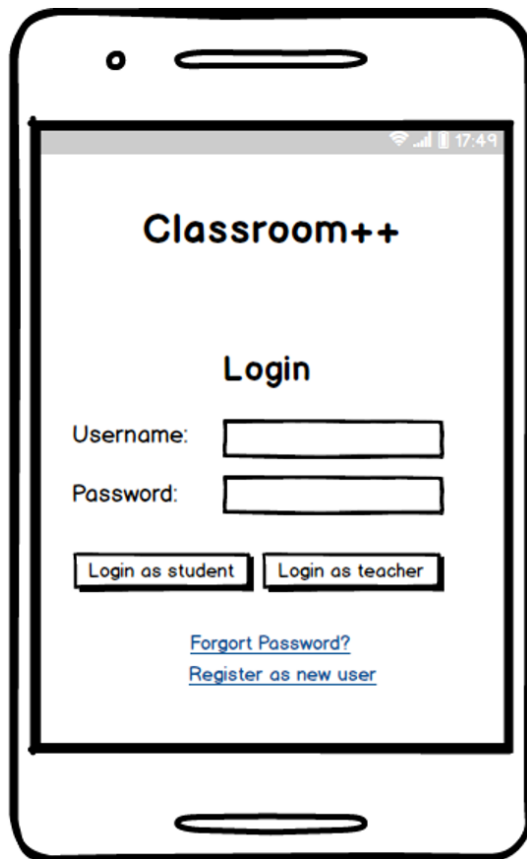
Study Material

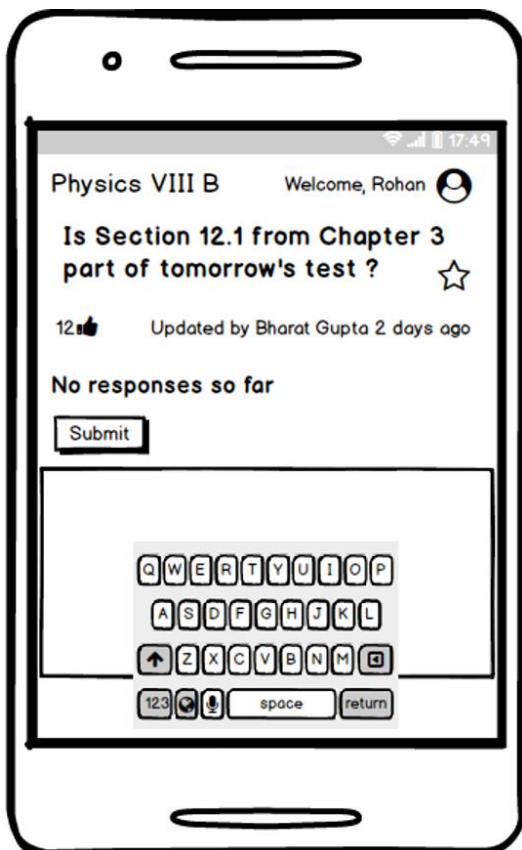
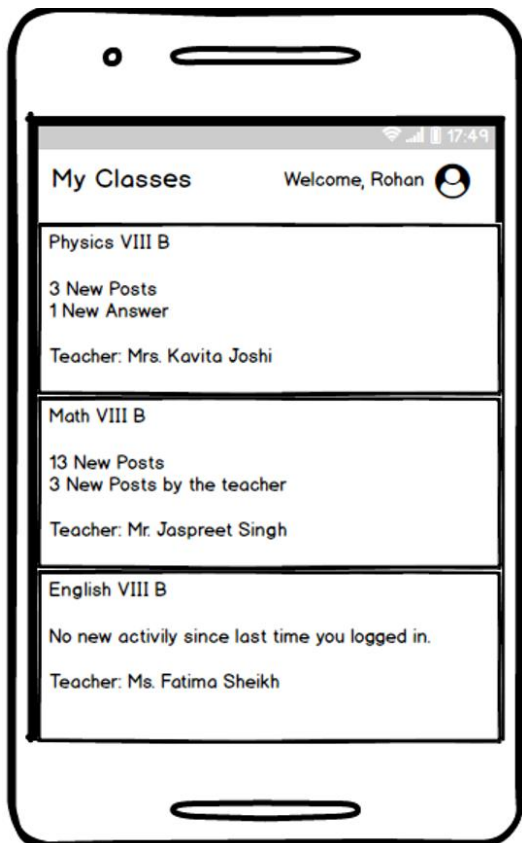
Homework_0_solution.jpeg	Uploaded on Jan 23, 2017
Agarwal_and_Sodhi_textbook.pdf	Uploaded on Jan 25, 2017
Team_project_partners_list.xls	Uploaded on Mar 31, 2017

Student individual and class participation report cards:



Some screens from mobile interface:





This is just the beginning. In future, Classroom++ can be extended to cover all these:

- More effective parent involvement
- Fighting plagiarism in assignments and tests
- Availability in multiple Indian languages
- Students can provide teacher feedback directly through tool
- Teachers can be kept up-to date with latest developments in their subjects through relevant curated content delivered to them directly from the tool
- Integration with school library system to allow students to checkout or request books directly from the tool

To summarize, following are the value add of the product to your school:

- First big step towards a truly digital classroom
- Teachers can now better gauge student strengths and weaknesses by reviewing the kinds of posts student is involved in
- Students get an open ground to “think-out-loud”, take risks, ask questions and admit when they do not know something
- With actionable data about performance of both students and teachers gathered through the tool, schools have accelerated feedback loops and better knowledge of which areas need investment
- The adoption of the tool and changes it can bring about can become a stand-out factor amongst schools in terms of improving quality of learning experience by leveraging technology

Finally, a little background about myself:

I came back to India in January this year after finishing my Masters in Computer Science from Northeastern University in the US with a scholarship. I did my Bachelors in Computer Science from Manipal Institute of Technology and was a merit holder throughout all semesters. Having worked in the past with companies like Amazon and Microsoft, I decided it was time to start something on my own. So, I moved back to India even after having a lucrative offer to work in US from one of the top 5 IT companies in the world. Continuous learning and helping others is something I strongly believe in. Hence, I decided to start with education sector - Right efforts made in this field can have great impact for the society and help inculcate strong values in students from an early stage.