

Canon-McMillan School District
PowerSchool Parent Access
Question & Answer

Q. How often should I check my child's grade status in a class?

A. PowerSchool provides a wonderful resource for students and parents, as it allows easy access to clear and timely grading information. Teachers will be updating grade information on a regular basis (on average at least every two weeks). *It is recommended that you do not visit PowerSchool more than once every two weeks to check on grade status.* In order for this tool to yield positive results, it must be used appropriately. It is essential that individual scores not become the focus of daily discussion or a conduit for micromanagement of the learning process. Instead, individual scores are but a piece of the more important big picture, in which a student's degree of consistency, level of effort, and overall pattern of performance are the focus. This will ensure a healthy perspective to the process of academic monitoring.

Use PowerSchool to monitor your child's progress in a way to look for unusual patterns/changes in grades and performance. It is important to realize that the final grade for a course is based on a number of factors, often including class participation, homework completion, assessment information, projects and performance-based activities (i.e. playing an instrument, group work, etc.) and labs.

Q. I understand that I should not be checking my child's grade on a daily basis. Can I check PowerSchool on a daily basis to check for upcoming assignments?

A. Yes! You are able to view your child's assignments as soon as the teacher enters the data into his/her electronic grade book.

Q. What is an "Assignment" in PowerSchool?

A. An assignment is anything that is recorded in the grade book for the student (homework, quiz, test, project, paper, etc.).

Q. What does the assignment "due date" mean?

A. The way in which teachers enter scores and due dates of an assignment varies and is somewhat based on individual preference. As shown in PowerSchool, due dates could mean the following:

1. A future date when the assignment will be due and/or recorded.
2. The date the assignment was given.

A typical due date for a homework assignment will be posted the day before the homework assignment is due. Test assignment due dates will be multiple days before the test assignment is given.

The main purpose of the due date feature is to give you prior notice of when the

assignment will be due or a test given to your child. Assignments that do not require prior notice (i.e. lab, pop quiz, etc.) will not appear until it is actually recorded in the grade book.

Q. Why does the system for grading vary from class to class?

- A. Please keep in mind that teachers have various methods of grading and the number of assignments given varies based on the course content and individual teaching style. For example, a math teacher may assign regular homework assignments and give a test or quiz once a week. An art teacher might base the final grade on several large projects and give little written homework. The science teacher incorporates lab work, homework, and assessment data in order to calculate a final grade. As a result, there may be a large amount of data available in PowerSchool for one of your child's classes but not for another.

All teachers are required to adhere to the Canon-McMillan School District's grading policy (See policy # 212). The district embraces the philosophies of Guskey and Bailey when they state, "Grading and reporting require careful planning, thoughtful judgment, and a clear focus on purpose."

Q. I've added up the total number of points my student has accumulated in a class and divided it by the total points possible and come up with a different grade than what's showing in PowerSchool. Will you explain?

- A. This difference is probably related to the weighting applied according to the teacher's weighted grading scale in place. Tests and quizzes may be weighted differently than homework and projects. This is the teacher's preference in determining the student's level of performance in the class.

Q. What is the proper procedure to follow if I have questions regarding my child's grades in a class?

- A. It is best that you contact your child's teacher directly, either by email or voicemail. This will result in the quickest resolution to your questions. However, it is recommended that you check your child's overall grade no less than a two week basis.

Q. May I request progress reports be emailed to me? If so, how?

- A. The following reports may be requested and automatically emailed to parents:
- Summary of current grades
 - Detailed reports showing all assignment scores for each class

To set up the request for electronic reports, please see the [Email Notification](#) section on the Instructions page.

Q. Can other people see my child's grades and information?

- A. As long as you protect your password, others will not be able to see your child's information. Each child/parent is issued a unique identification log in and password. As with any personal information (i.e. social security number), it should not be shared with other people.

Q. What do I do if I forgot or lost my password?

A. Please contact your child's school, and the office will be able to help you.

Q. Can I have one common login for all my children in the school district?

A. Yes, You can add additional children under the Account Preference icon after your account is setup.

Disclaimer

This system is provided as a convenience. Grades and other information provided by this system are not official records and may not be accurate due to human or technical error. Neither this institution nor Pearson School Systems accepts any responsibility for information provided by this system and/or for any damages resulting from information provided by this system. Official grades will be distributed on a nine-week basis on the student's report card.

