

BYRAM HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

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CHRISTOPHER BORSARI
PRINCIPAL

December, 2014

Dear Parents,

Since last year, you have had access to your child's attendance, report cards, and transcript information through the Student/Parent Portal. As of today, December 19th, you will also have online access to your child's electronic gradebook. This information, which will remain available throughout the year, eliminates the need for our traditional mid-quarter progress report.

The Student/Parent Portal Gradebook is meant to serve as a communication tool between teachers, students, and parents. Used appropriately, the Gradebook will serve as a tool that promotes, rather than replaces, communication between a parent and their child. Directing questions about grades to the student first keeps the responsibility for the grades where it belongs...on the learner. In recognition of this approach, we will from now on refer to the Parent Portal as the Student/Parent Portal.

Your access will be only to the gradebook of your child's teachers and you will only be able to view his/her individual grades. Please understand that each teacher maintains a distinctly different grading style and structure appropriate to their classroom and therefore, each gradebook may appear a bit different. The teachers have reviewed their grading guidelines with their students in class and with parents during their "Back-to-School" night presentations.

To access the online Student/Parent Portal account, go to www.byramhills.org. Schools – Byram Hills High School and click on the Student/Parent Portal link. Click on the login and use your Parent Portal ID and Password to log in. Portal assistance information and user guides can also be found here. If you have specific questions regarding accessing the Student/Parent Portal, please contact Mattie Garcia at 273-4187, ext. 1966 between the hours of 9 AM and 3 PM, or you may email her at: magarcia@byramhills.org.

Keep in mind that this gradebook access is a new experience for faculty, students and parents. Although we believe that it will be a beneficial enhancement of our communication structures, there will inevitably be some difficulties as we adjust to it. I have attached a few Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) regarding the use of the Gradebook for your reference. A larger list of FAQ's will be posted and updated on the Byram Hills High School homepage and can be accessed by clicking on the Student/Parent Portal link on the left side of the page.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Byram Hills High School, I would like to extend our best wishes for an enjoyable Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

Very truly yours,
Chris Borsari

Frequently Asked Questions

Question:

How often can we expect the grades to be updated?

Answer:

Teachers need time to grade projects, assignments, and tests. Please be patient because there are many factors that determine how soon a teacher can assess and return assignments.

Question:

What steps should I take if I have a question/concern about an assessment on the Gradebook?

Answer:

Parents should communicate questions/concerns to their respective students, and then advise their child to discuss a question/concern directly with the teacher. Parents should go through this process prior to calling the teacher directly and/or communicating with the department chair/administrator.

Question:

How long do teachers have to post grades?

Answer:

Teachers will post grades/assessments once ample time is allocated to grade the assessment and the grade has been communicated to the student. The primary job of any teacher is to create lessons, deliver content, facilitate learning, assess learning, and communicate feedback with students to promote learning. Students and parents should expect periodic updates throughout the quarter.

Question:

Are there any other ways that a student receives feedback outside of the Gradebook?

Answer:

Feedback is often given to students in multiple ways and a parent who wants to know how their son or daughter is doing, should always ask their son or daughter first. These multiple ways include; comments on papers/homework, in class assignments/projects, individual meetings and other ways that can't be quantified by teachers through a number grade.