

Student/Parent Portal Gradebook Frequently Asked Questions

The Student/Parent Portal Gradebook will serve as a communication tool between teachers, students, and parents. Used appropriately, the Gradebook will serve as a communication tool that promotes rather than replaces communication between the parent and their child. Please understand that each teacher maintains a distinctly different grading style and structure within their classroom and therefore, each Gradebook may appear a bit different. The teachers review their grading guidelines with their students in class and with parents during the “Back to School” night presentations. Directing questions about grades first to the student keeps the responsibility of the grades where it belongs...on the learner.

Please take a moment to review the Student/Parent Portal Gradebook [Frequently Asked Questions](#) which appear below.

Student/Parent Question:

Q: How often can we expect the portal to be updated?

Answer:

A: 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.

Student/Parent Question:

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

Answer:

A. Parents should communicate questions/concerns with their child, 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.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. How long do teachers have to post grades?

Answer:

A: 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 Gradebook updates throughout the quarter.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Are there other ways that my student gets feedback outside of the Student Information Portal?

Answer:

Feedback is 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/homeworks, in class assignments/projects, individual meetings and other ways that cannot be quantified by teachers through a number grade.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Can I expect consistency with regards to different teachers and how they use the Student/Parent Portal Gradebook?

Answer:

A: Our teachers are highly experienced, thoughtful and well educated in their craft and as such their grading policies have evolved over time in response to the needs of their students. The nature of the content being taught and the variety of ways in which students can demonstrate their understanding will also influence how the Gradebook is utilized. Teachers, even those in the same content area, may choose to weight assignments differently.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. How many grades do teachers have each quarter? How many assessments will my child have each quarter?

Answer:

A. Each teacher at Byram Hills provides a unique learning experience for their students. Some teachers might have fewer assignments than others as each teacher has developed a philosophy within their classroom. Each teacher will determine the number of assignments based upon the content requirements and their pedagogical philosophy. Typically, the number of assessments the student will have will vary with the individual teacher. Even courses that are of the same content may have a different set of assessments to be evaluated.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Will the Gradebook assessments in the first couple weeks be typically indicative of my son/daughter's grade for the quarter?

Answer:

A. Keep in mind that early in the quarter, the grades that are posted will have a very high impact on the overall average. Early in the quarter these fluctuations can be extreme. As more assignments are given, the impact of each assignment will drop. Parents should consider that certain types of assignments that reflect synthesis of learning for the entire quarter might be given and these assignments will have a large impact on a quarter grade at the end.

Parental/Student Question:

Q. How do teachers distribute or allocate their assessments throughout the quarter? Can we find out about future assessment through this portal?

Answer:

A: Teachers have mapped out their curricula in a variety of ways. Depending on the teacher and the content area, teachers will alter the schedule of these assessments. Due to a variety of factors, there are some quarters/semesters of the school year where assignments may be delayed, pushed back or even moved up. Ample announcement time for major assessments will be given in the classroom and not necessarily on the portal. The allocation of assessments will be pre-determined in the classroom with the students and the end results will then be posted.

Student/Parent Question

Q. Why do different content areas have different amounts/types of assessments?

Answer:

A. To ready your student for the future collegiate and job world, teachers will alter their materials during the course of the year. At Byram Hills, teachers pride themselves on differentiation and the ability to alter their course path to address all different types of learners. With that, a different number of assessments are created in each course that we offer.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Why do teachers who teach the same course have different assessments?

Answer:

A. Though a course may have the same course material, the methodology used in teaching it changes depending on the structure of the class. Just like visual learners and kinesthetic learners require different methodologies to engage in the material, classrooms require the same thought and care.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. What is the difference between total points and weighted categories?

Answer:

A. Teachers at Byram Hills have different methodologies when it comes to finalizing a course grade. In the Total Point system, teachers have assigned a certain point value to their assessments. In this case, teachers may assign a different point value to different assignments. The final grade is determined by dividing the points earned by the total points offered.

In the weighted grading system, the final grade is determined by assigning specific percentage values based upon the type of assessment. Tests, quizzes, homework, labs, and other assessment categories will each have specific percentage values. In this method, teachers can assign higher percentage values to highlight the importance of a specific type of assessment in determining a student's final grade.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. How are homeworks reported on the portal? Is homework always posted?

Answer:

A. Homework assignments will be entered into the portal as any other test or quiz would. However, homework can be posted as individual assignments or grouped according to the teacher's discretion.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Will teachers offer extra credit if my student's grade is lower than expected?

Answer:

A. Every teacher has their own guidelines for offering extra credit. It is not an expectation that extra credit will be offered to individual students and/or classes at the end of each quarter or during the school year. Students will be informed of their teachers extra credit philosophy during the school year.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Is it possible to post future assignments and assessments on the portal so that my student can be more prepared?

Answer:

A. Once again, this will be at the teachers' discretion as in most cases, students will learn of the assignments in the future in their respective classrooms.

Student/Parent Question:

Q. Are the grades always rounded up?

Answer:

A. At the end of each quarter, the teacher will assess the work of the student and make that decision based upon their class guidelines. Grades are not necessarily 'rounded up' as it's at the discretion of the teacher.