

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

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).

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, quizzes, projects and lab.

Q. What is an "Assignment" in PowerSchool

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

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

A. The due date of an assignment is based on teacher's preference.

- A future date when the assignment will be due and/or recorded.
- A typical due date for an assignment is normally posted the Monday the assignment(s) are due.

Note: 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 written homework assignment(s). 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.

Note: All teachers are required to adhere to the Savannah-Chatham Public School District's grading policy (See policy IHA-R-1).

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?

A. This difference is related to the weighting applied to each type of assignment. The teacher establishes the weights at the beginning of school and applies to all students within the class. For example, tests and quizzes may carry a higher weight than homework.

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

A. Contact your child's teacher first. This will result in the quickest resolution to your questions.

Note: At a minimum you should check your child's grades every two weeks.

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. For security purposes, each child/parent is issued a unique identification login and password. Parents can then link the students together under one account.

Q. What do I do if I forgot my login information or I feel my account has been compromised?

A. Click on the "Having trouble logging in?" link on the Portal Login screen or contact your child's school office as soon as possible to make arrangements to pick up the new login information at the school office. Please bring photo identification.

Grading Information

Q. Do all teachers post grade and attendance information to the PowerSchool server?

A. Yes. Grades are updated at least bi-weekly. Attendance is updated daily.

Q. How often can we expect grades to be updated?

A. Grades are updated at least bi-weekly. In some instances there are many factors that determine how soon a teacher can assess and return assignments. Essays and research papers take longer to grade than a quiz. We urge students and parents to be patient as teachers do their best to return assignments and post grades as promptly as their schedule allows.

Q. Why are the grades changing dramatically in the beginning of a term?

A. When there are only one or two assignments in the gradebook, a low or high score can make a dramatic change in the overall grade average. The gradebook instantly recalculates the overall grade as every assignment is entered.

Additional Information

Q. Whom do I contact about questions not answered here?

A. Use the chart below to determine the appropriate person:

Question Topic	Person to Contact
Grades or attendance for a class	Teacher
Student personal issues	Teacher, Social Worker, or Guidance Counselor
Grades on transcripts, GPA, class rank	Guidance Counselor
Course Schedules, Graduation Progress, and college and careers	Guidance Counselor
General Attendance questions, and questions related to absences excused by parents/guardians	Teacher, Assistant Principal, or Principal
PowerSchool Password changes, or forgetting your PowerSchool Password	Parent Access Representative