

PowerSchool Parent/Student Access (PowerSchool PSA)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is PowerSchool?

PowerSchool is Millis Public School's student information system. The district uses PowerSchool for student demographics, attendance, storing grades, scheduling and more.

What is PowerSchool Parent/Student Access (PowerSchool PSA)?

Parent/Student Access is a feature of the PowerSchool student information system that provides parents and students immediate access to grades, assignments and attendance records in an effort to facilitate and improve communication between home and school.

How do I access PowerSchool PSA?

You may access **PowerSchool PSA** from any computer with an internet connection by launching your web browser and going to the Millis Public Schools web site (www.millisps.org) The link is on the sites main web page. The minimum browser requirements are as follows:

- ◆ Mac OS X: Safari or Firefox
- ◆ Mac OS 9: Mozilla 1.2.1, Netscape 4.8
- ◆ Windows: Internet Explorer 6 or Firefox

Who may access PowerSchool PSA?

Beginning February 5st, 2008, Millis Middle and High School students and parents/guardians who have applied for a username and password may access **PowerSchool PSA**. If you have questions about your username and password or accessing the system please email powerschoolhelp@millisps.org

How do I obtain a username and password?

Parents/guardians may obtain a username and password by reading the **PowerSchool PSA** access packet that will be mailed to homes the week of January 8th, 2008.

How do I use PowerSchool Parent/Student Access?

An Information Night will be held on Thursday, January 24th at 7:30 PM in the MS/HS Cafeteria.

There will be a demo on how to use the system. For those who cannot make the meetings, a guide is available on the Millis Public Schools website.

(www.millisps.org/PowerSchoolPSA) .

What may I reasonably expect from the PowerSchool PSA System as a parent?

Attendance is taken at the Millis Middle and High School every day during the homeroom period only. You are able to monitor your child's attendance on a daily basis.

You are able to view your child's assignments and grades as soon as the teacher enters the data into his/her electronic gradebook. Although teachers attempt to record grades in a timely manner, the time needed to accomplish this task will vary from teacher to teacher. 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. Each teacher should post their individual grading policy into the system so that parents and students know what to expect. Teachers are required to post assignment grades on the 1st and the 15th of each month. Projects, major tests, or assignments that come near these dates may not appear as part of the update.

PowerSchool PSA should be used to monitor your child's progress. Look for unusual changes in grades or attendance, but realize that the final grade for a course is based on a number of factors, often including class participation, extra credit, dropping the lowest grade, etc. Your child's grade may appear unusually high or low at the beginning of the year when there have been few assignments. Your child's grade may appear lower during the quarter, but the final grade may actually be higher once all factors have been included. The opposite may also be true. The information made available to you through the system should not be considered a substitute for a dialog with your child's teacher.

Are there any guidelines that I need to know when sending an email to a my child's teacher?

When sending an email to a teacher, it is advisable to use an email address with a valid sounding name. A teacher who receives a message from peanutbutter@yahoo.com might ignore the message thinking that it is junk mail. It is also important to include a valid subject line in your emails. The Millis Public Schools have an aggressive anti-spam filter in place and it may block messages without subject lines if they seem suspicious.

This system is intended to improve communication between home and school and it should not be used as a vehicle to create an adversarial or challenging relationship between parent and teacher. Questions and comments sent over email should be informational only and not excessive in length. This system is not intended to remove the responsibility of the student to be responsible and accountable for their work. Issues and/or questions that are personal in nature should be handled by meeting with the teachers personally.