

Media Release



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RE: RVS asks for parents' patience as it integrates new student information system

Beginning Sept 6, 2011, Rocky View Schools will be moving to Pearson's PowerSchool, a web-based student information system (SIS) that enables today's educators to make timely decisions that impact student performance, while creating a collaborative environment for parents, teachers and students to work together in preparing 21st Century learners for the future.

"Having worked with this new system over the summer months, we now know the enormity of its power," said Glenn McClure, Rocky View's lead administrator overseeing the integration of the new student information system. "Outside of providing teachers with a robust system in which to collect data and organize individual learning plans for every student, Rocky View parents will have access to far greater information regarding their child's daily activities, progress, and achievement.

According to McClure, as a PowerSchool parent, all RVS parents and guardians will be able to check to see whether or not their child is in class, find out what tonight's homework is, confirm that last night's homework was handed in, and view their child's final grades as they exist in the teacher's gradebook at any given moment. Parents can also track the formative progress of their child's performance, register to receive alert notifications, review the daily comments from teachers, and much more.

"The new system is truly amazing," said Director of Technology for Learning Kevin Wttewaall. "Since its introduction to Rocky View in June, we've heard nothing but positive remarks from staff who have attended training sessions over the summer.

"The new system is full speed ahead, but we must ask for parents' patience as the system is integrated at the school level and school staff has the chance to be trained and to become familiar with all of its features," he added.

Wttewaall said to allow for a smooth transition schools have been advised to refrain from issuing student and parent usernames and passwords until their staff is comfortable with the system. As with all new initiatives, there are bound to be early and late adopters, equating to some schools being ready to launch with parents sooner than others.

"Despite that some schools will not be ready 'til mid Fall, once in parents will find the new system well worth the wait," said Wttewaall. "One username and password will give parents universal access to all their children's marks, attendance records, homework and teachers comments."

Rocky View's move to PowerSchool was prompted by Alberta Education's introduction of the Provincial Approach to Student Information (PASI), a provincial strategic, multi-year initiative aimed at ensuring the business processes and technologies used to collect student information suit the needs of Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 education system. In order to be PASI Compliant by August 2012, RVS had to move from its SIRS 3.0 platform, which included moving away from Home and Teacher Logic.

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