

Real Time Reporting at Herons Crossing School

What is Real-Time Reporting?

In business, real-time reporting (RTR) is a practice where up-to-the-minute data is gathered and relayed to users as it happens, so decisions can be made to improve results. Data is available at any time, rather than on periodically scheduled annual or bi-annual reports. Some examples of real-time reporting include news updates, smartphone notifications, live traffic reports, weather reports, stock market tickers, and cell phone usage reports.

Why is RVS Moving to Real-Time Reporting?

In education, real-time reporting (RTR) is not that different than in the business world. Data and feedback is relayed to users (teacher, parent, student) so decisions can be made to improve student learning. It allows the users to adjust course to determine what comes next in the learning. Parents and students can access assessment information through the PowerSchool Public Portal. With Real-Time Reporting,

- Parents and students receive timely information, rather than information a few times per year
- Teachers are able to adjust their practice to improve student learning and student understanding of the curricular outcomes
- Students have the entire year to learn the curricular outcomes
- Schools are in alignment with RVS assessment policy and vision of the 4-Year Plan.

This year, Herons Crossing is one of eleven schools across five areas in the jurisdiction that has been selected to prototype Real-Time Reporting

What Does Real-Time Reporting Look Like?

Prior to RTR, you may have seen a list of *activities* that students completed in the PowerSchool Public Portal. Now, you will see a list of *outcomes* that students are learning and your child's proficiency with those outcomes. Assignment Names will be in the form of an *I Can Statement* or a learning target, rather than the name of a task or activity. This shift in language creates clarity for the student and the parent regarding what needs to be learned during the year.

Instead of three printed reports throughout the year, grades and comments will be available to parents and students any time, any day. A final report will be printed and sent home at the end of the year. In addition to Real-Time Reporting, an additional conference time for you to meet with your child's teacher has been created to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Why The Shift?

The process of continuing assessment and feedback throughout the year improves a child's chances of success. It also helps students build awareness of themselves as learners, and helps them become increasingly self-directed. Teachers also will record observations of your child in class and talk with them about their learning to gather as much information as possible before assigning a grade. As courses are no longer separated into terms, the grade does not become "final" until the end of June, when the report card is issued. End of the year grades are determined by looking at the most recent

evidence for foundational knowledge or skills, and/or the most frequent level of proficiency for learning targets.

Students learn at different rates; therefore, they will often have an opportunity to replace old evidence of learning with new evidence of learning. Grades will be updated when students demonstrate a new level of understanding of the target. Fluctuations in progress are normal, and expected, as children develop their understanding of concepts. It's also normal for parents to see different grades on the same task for varying levels of complexity in the outcomes. For example, a student may be able to demonstrate a skill, but has difficulty communicating their understanding of the same skill.

How Will We Communicate Student Learning?

RVS has a comprehensive Communication of Student Learning (CoSL) strategy that is based on current assessment research. CoSL encourages ongoing communication between you, your child, and your child's teacher about your child's progress as a learner.

These four elements work in concert to provide a complete picture of your child's learning journey:

- **Goal Setting**
 - Shared activity between students, teachers, and parents to help a child understand where they are in their learning and envision where they'd like to be
- **Three-Way Conferences**
 - Opportunities for students to showcase their learning and share what they are proud of, as well as for parents to connect with teachers. These will occur 4 times per year.
- **Portfolios (on MyBlueprint)**
 - A place to select, organize, and reflect on artifacts of learning that is created by students and shared with their teachers and parents
- **Real-Time Reporting (on PowerSchool Public Portal)**
 - Up-to-date assessment information and feedback that provides a snapshot of where a child is in his/her learning journey, as well as suggestions for improvement

Tools for Communicating Student Learning at Herons Crossing School

PowerSchool Public Portal

Many parents already have a PowerSchool login from a previous school year. If so, you already have access to the PowerSchool Public Portal. If you do not have a PowerSchool login, please check the Welcome Package that was sent home on the first day of school for a green form with login information. For extra information, please contact the office or your child's classroom teacher.

How do parents access student accounts?

Parents can log on to the website or app using information provided in the Welcome Package that was sent home on the first day of school. On the Herons Crossing website, as well as in the school office, you will find detailed steps for how to view your child's grades & comments.

myBlueprint - All About Me

myBlueprint - All About Me is an interactive digital portfolio tool that allows students to set goals, showcase and celebrate achievements, and reflect on learning. Students can explore occupations, write journal entries, set goals, upload files, pictures, and videos. Please keep in mind that *myBlueprint* is a visual student created portfolio that showcases the work your child is most proud of but is not a tool for whole classroom communication.

How do parents access student accounts?

You will receive an invitation via email from your child's teacher prompting you to create a parent account. When creating a parent account, you can see multiple student accounts on one page. The parent account also gives you the opportunity to comment on each child's posts.

To add multiple students to one parent account:

- 1) Start with one child and click on the link shared by his/her teacher
- 2) Create an account (username - whatever email the invitation came to and you create your own password)
- 3) You will see your child's name show up on your parent page
- 4) Open up the link from your next child's teacher
- 5) Login using the password/username you created for your first child
- 6) You will see this child's name show up
- 7) Repeat for each child using the link his/her teacher sent.

Once you've done the initial set up, you will only have to login once and you will see each child's myBlueprint stories on one page.

Twitter

Hérons Crossing has a school Twitter account that you can follow at @heronscrossing. Our Learning Design Coach, Kendra Jewer, who works with all students and teachers, also has a Twitter (@kendraljewer) where she posts about amazing things happening in classrooms around the school. Many classroom teachers run their own classroom Twitter accounts as well. Please talk to your child's classroom teacher to see if this is something he/she uses. You can follow our school hashtag #hcsrvs to keep up to date on the incredible work being done at Herons!

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there an app for myBlueprint?

myBlueprint - No. While there is an app for teachers and students to use to upload photos and reflections, there is currently no app that parents can use to view myBlueprint. You must use the website.

PowerSchool Public Portal - Yes. You can download the PowerSchool app to all mobile devices.

How often will I see updates on myBlueprint and PowerSchool?

myBlueprint - Every teacher will use myBlueprint differently, however, the minimum students will be updating their MyBlueprint is 4 times per year (in preparation for each 3 Way Conference.) Many teachers will choose to use the tool much more frequently in their classrooms.

PowerSchool Public Portal - Teachers will be updating Math and English Language Arts weekly, while all other subjects will be updated bi-weekly.

Do I need to sign up for Twitter?

While we strongly encourage you to sign up to keep up to date with the exciting things happening in our HCS classrooms and school community, Twitter sign up is not mandatory. Similarly, not all HCS teachers will choose to use this platform; others may use weekly emails or other tools to communicate student learning with families! Please touch base with your child's classroom teacher for the best information regarding platforms for sharing information.

My PowerSchool account is not working. Where can I find help?

We have linked a document that takes you through a step-by-step process, from logging in to viewing student grades and comments, on the Herons Crossing school website (herons.rockyview.ab.ca) If this still does not work, please call the Herons Crossing School Office at (403) 948-2330 and ask for support.