

**PowerPack Tutorial**

---

**PowerSchool Parent Portal**



**PowerSchool**

## Document Properties

Copyright	© 2005 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. This document is the property of Apple Computer, Inc. and is for reference only. It is not to be reproduced or distributed in any way without the express written consent of Apple Computer, Inc. Other brands and names are the property of their respective owners.
Owner	Technical Communication and Documentation
Last Updated	06/22/05
Version	1.0

Please send comments, suggestions, or requests for this user guide to [manuals@powerschool.com](mailto:manuals@powerschool.com). Your feedback is appreciated.

## About the PowerPack Tutorial

This guide introduces the basic functions for customizing PowerSchool Parent Portal. It accommodates the unique needs of the school or district by specifically showing you how to use the Parent Portal feature of PowerSchool.

## Intended Audience for the PowerPack Tutorial

This guide is intended for PowerSchool users and parents interested in accessing PowerSchool. This tutorial is a companion document to the Quicktime PowerSchool Parent Portal tutorial. To use this guide, you must be familiar with the PowerSchool application, as well as a Web browser. It is not required, but advantageous to also have some familiarity with HTML.

## Introduction

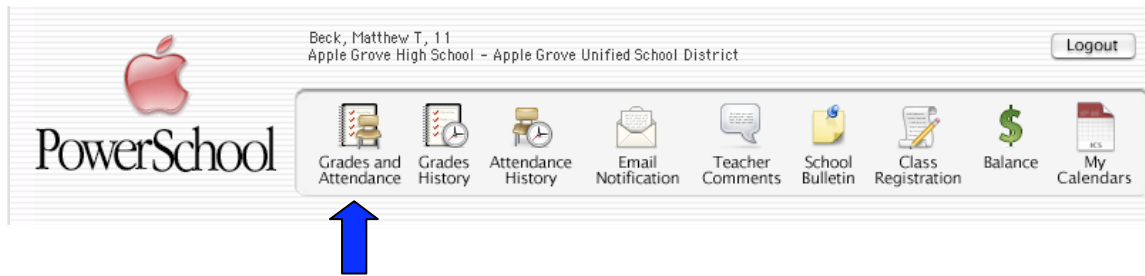
PowerSchool, a web-based student information system from Apple, empowers all stakeholders to focus on the real job at hand, optimizing student achievement of each and every student. By providing real-time visibility to the key determinants of a student's success, such as: Attendance, grades, and discipline, stakeholders can be much more proactive in monitoring a student's progress.

For instance, no longer will parent/teacher conferences be focused on the minutia of historical facts, such as "Johnny is getting a 'C' in Algebra because he didn't turn in homework #4 and missed Quiz 2" Instead, parents and teachers will be focused on strategies for improvement. This approach will allow teachers, parents, and students to truly develop a personalized education plan designed to optimize the student's individual strengths, while focusing on their weaknesses, ultimately leading to much greater student achievement.

The lynchpin of this approach is parental involvement. Study after study has validated the fact that active parental interest and participation in their child's education is THE single most important determinant of a student's achievement. It is not a student's ethnicity, gender, or even economic status that will influence academic achievement. It is the active interest and involvement of the parents and guardians to their child's schoolwork and activities on a daily basis that will ultimately underwrite student progress. This is where the PowerSchool Parent Portal comes in to play, so let's take a look!

## PowerSchool Parent Portal

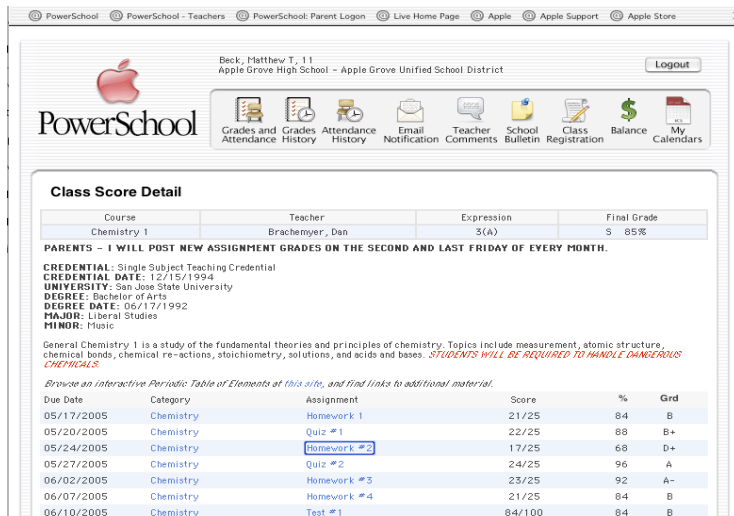
Once logged into the system, students and parents will see a variety of options to view across the top of the page. This page that initially appears is called the Grades and Attendance Screen.



On the Grades and Attendance page, a parent or student can get a real-time view of last and this week's attendance by period, as well as total absences by period for the current term, and past terms. These absent and tardy totals are clickable, and will reveal the dates of each attendance event.

Back on the Grades and Attendance screen, you can also view the cumulative grade for each course the student is currently enrolled in. This view provides a quick summary of exactly where a student stands in each course or subject area for the current term. These are the grades as they exist in the teacher's grade books... right now. This real time information on current grades helps parents and students understand exactly what areas require extra attention. For example, Cody Andrews has always been a 4.0 student and his parents notice that as of today, he is only getting an 89 in Mr. Luhman's Sociology class. Now, they would like to know why Cody has slipped...

To find out the details behind the 89 in Sociology, Cody's parents simply need to click on the "89" link, and PowerSchool will present the parents with a list of every single assignment, test and quiz that make up that grade. They quickly see that Cody got an F, or 50%, on the chapter 18 reading, which certainly impacted his overall grade. Of course, Cody's parents will certainly want to know more about that particular assignment and what they can do to help Cody master the topic.



Back: Matthew T. 11  
Apple Grove High School - Apple Grove Unified School District

PowerSchool

Grades and Attendance History | Grades Attendance History | Attendance History | Email Notification | Teacher Comments | School Bulletin | Class Registration | Balance | My Calendars

**Class Score Detail**

Course	Teacher	Expression	Final Grade
Chemistry 1	Brachemeyer, Dan	3(A)	S 85%

**PARENTS - I WILL POST NEW ASSIGNMENT GRADES ON THE SECOND AND LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH.**

**CREDENTIAL:** Single Subject Teaching Credential  
**CREDENTIAL DATE:** 12/15/1994  
**UNIVERSITY:** San Jose State University  
**DEGREE:** Bachelor of Arts  
**DEGREE DATE:** 06/17/1992  
**MAJOR:** Liberal Studies  
**MINOR:** Music

General Chemistry 1 is a study of the fundamental theories and principles of chemistry. Topics include measurement, atomic structure, chemical bonds, chemical re-actions, stoichiometry, solutions, and acids and bases. *STUDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO HANDLE DANGEROUS CHEMICALS.*

Browse an interactive Periodic Table of Elements at this site, and find links to additional material.

Due Date	Category	Assignment	Score	%	Grd
05/17/2005	Chemistry	Homework #1	21/25	84	B
05/20/2005	Chemistry	Quiz #1	22/25	88	B+
05/24/2005	Chemistry	Homework #2	17/25	68	D+
05/27/2005	Chemistry	Quiz #2	24/25	96	A
06/02/2005	Chemistry	Homework #3	23/25	92	A-
06/07/2005	Chemistry	Homework #4	21/25	84	B
06/10/2005	Chemistry	Test #1	84/100	84	B

To find out the details of that particular assignment, Cody's parents simply need to click on the *Chapter 18 Reading* link and it will bring up all of the details for that particular assignment.

The assignment topic, chapter, required questions, and MOST importantly other resources are presented here to help the parents and student learn more about the topic. With this information, Mathew's parents now know exactly how to help Cody master reading assignments. Of course, it's also VERY easy for Cody's parents to email the teacher for additional suggestions or resources to help.

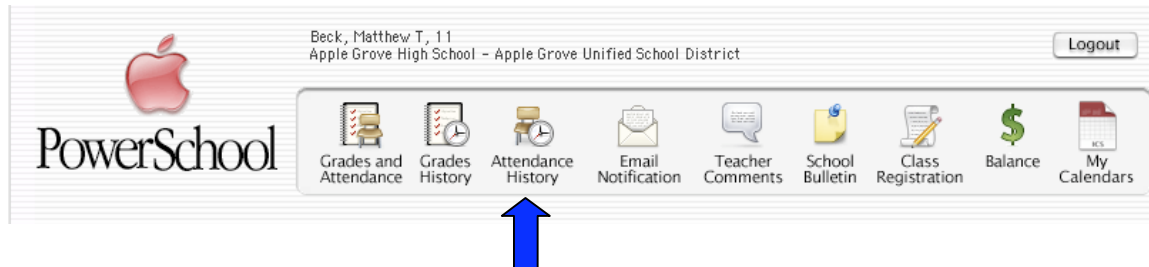
What continues to make this parent portal the most successful in K-12 education is the fact that a tremendous amount of detailed information is updated on a regular basis. The secret to the dynamic nature of the parent and student web portal is the fact that teachers are only asked to simply use their electronic grade books. As they enter assignments, scores and attendance, PowerSchool will be automatically updated with the latest information. No extra effort is required from teachers.

Next, the student's parents might want a quick view of grades from previous terms. This will enable them to better understand their kids overall grade point average and, again, better understand where to apply some time and energy to beef up a child's weak subject or topic areas.

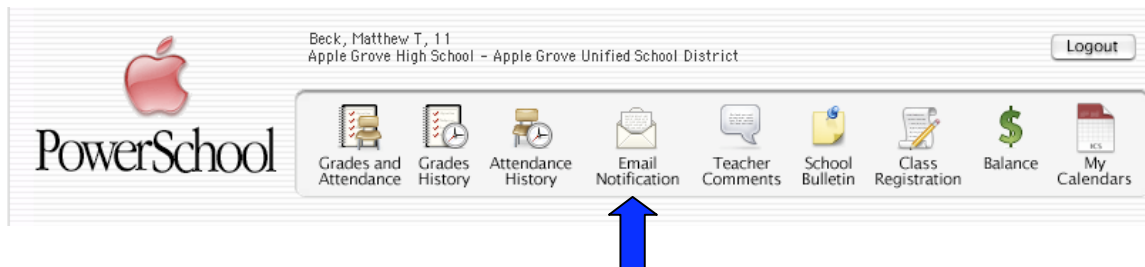


**Note** The grades displayed on the Grades History screen ONLY represent final grades for classes in the past. It does not display classes currently in session.

Next, the student's parents might want a quick view of attendance history. This will enable them to better understand any attendance patterns that may be impacting their performance, such as excessive absences or tardiness in a particular class.

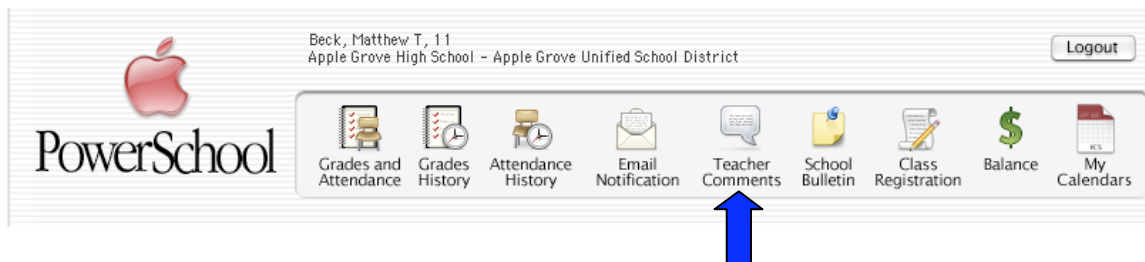


Next, the student's parents might want to receive email notifications of certain situations or events that might require their intervention, such as poor scores on recent assignments, low balance on funds for lunch, unexcused absences, and so on.

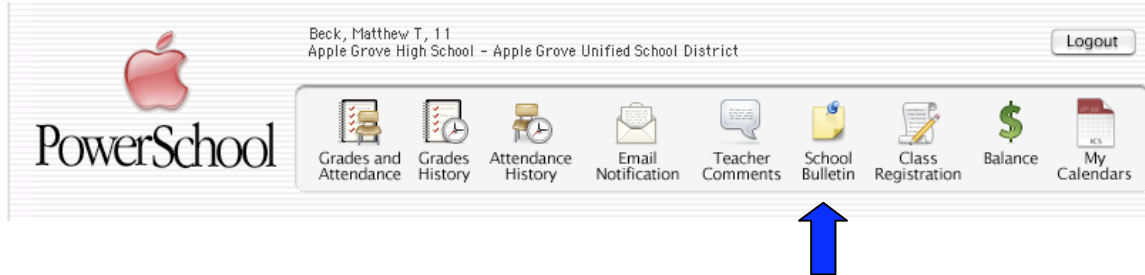


These email updates can be scheduled as frequently as *daily*, and might include other parents, non-custodial parents, aunts, uncles, grand parents, and so on. This is an extremely popular and powerful tool that will enable parents to really keep a pulse on what is going on with their child at school.

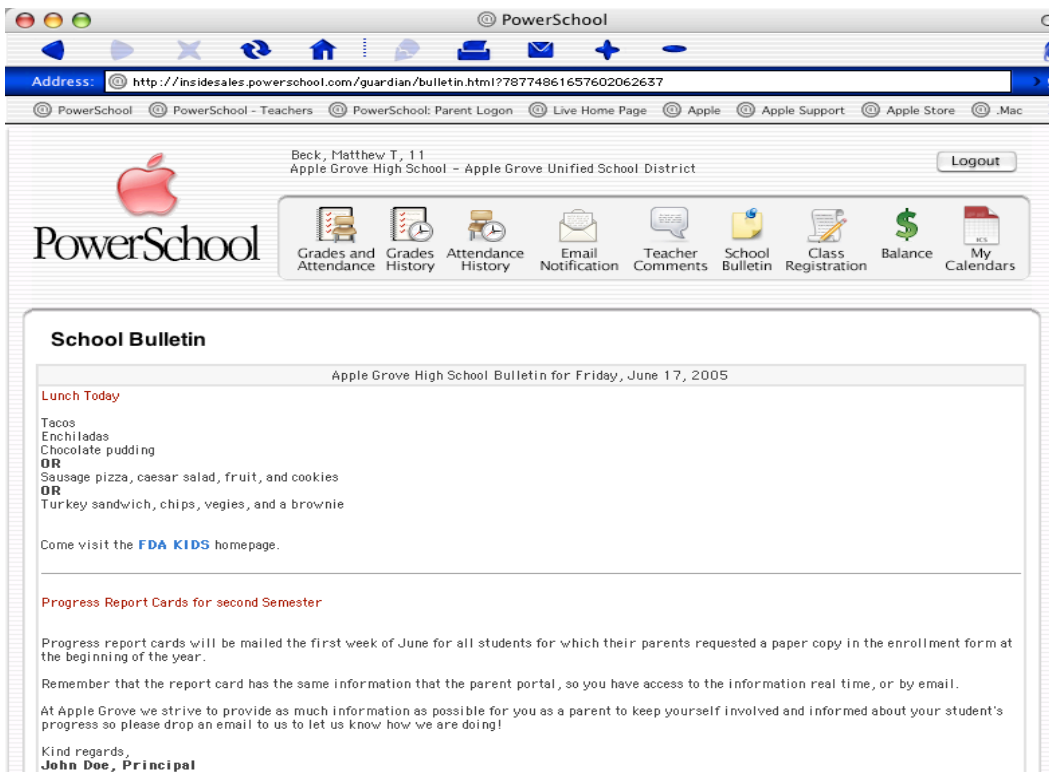
Next, the student's parents might want to view any teacher comments that have been posted, for example, suggest tutoring, pegged me in the eye with a spitball, needs to improve on test preparation, and so on. Again, this will enable parents to really keep a pulse on what is going on in each individual class.



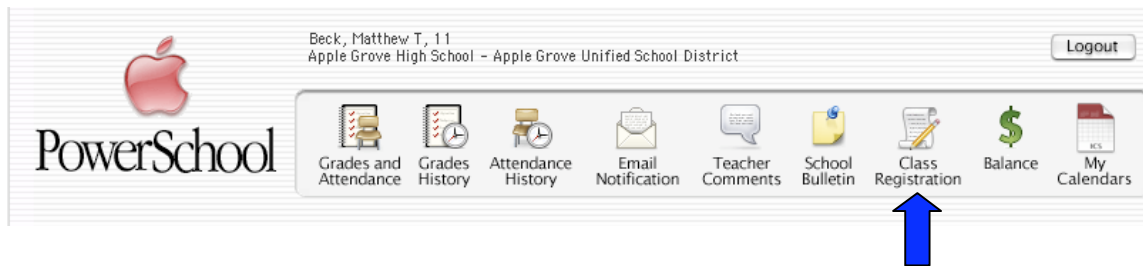
Next, the student's parents might want to view the School Bulletin to keep tabs on the upcoming school activities, lunch menus, notes from the principal, etc.



That way, when Johnny says he is going to the football game on Friday night and there is NOT a football game scheduled a parent could probe a little further. This also avoids the scenario of the paper version of the School Bulletin never quite making it home!



Next, the parents and students can sit down and request courses for the upcoming school year.

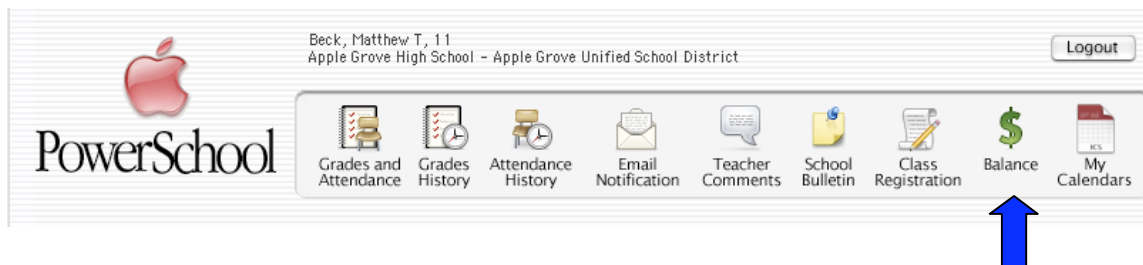


The page lists not only the required courses, but also the courses/subjects where parents/students will have choices. This capability gives the parent the opportunity to ensure the student is not signing up for basket weaving, shop, water polo, etc., to the exclusion of subject areas they have traditionally struggled with, such as math. Once the course requests have been entered, PowerSchool will automatically build the schedule for the student based on these requests and the available days/times for the requested classes.



**Note** Obviously, this activity will also include suggestions from the school guidance counselor.

Finally, the parents and students may want to view all of the various financial transactions that have occurred, for example, field trip fees, lunch transactions, parking fee, etc., and the remaining balances.



While we have not covered every aspect of the PowerSchool Parent Portal, hopefully, you now know how you can truly stay on top of the daily happenings with your children's education and how you can become an even more active member of the education process. With PowerSchool providing the critical information to developing a personal education plan for EVERY student, we can truly maximize the potential of our future leaders!