

Notice Regarding Access to Exploratory Grades on Family Access

Dear Family Access Users,

We hope you have found or will soon find our Family Access System to be a valuable tool in your child's education. Family Access promotes greater knowledge and understanding of student progress thus facilitating more productive communication between students, parents and Nippersink Middle School.

While we have taken great effort to provide our users with this comprehensive information, we have discovered, as with many new technologies, there are limitations that we must address.

Nippersink Middle School has a dual scheduling/grading system. Meaning, our core curriculum classes and our P.E. classes are on a quarterly system and our three exploratory classes (art, computers, and health) are on a trimester system. The Skyward Software Program, which handles scheduling, grading, and Family Access, will only accept one system. In order to bypass this limitation, we have listed our exploratory classes into Skyward as meeting only in Quarters 2, 3, and 4. This is observable by looking at your child's schedule. Only one exploratory class is listed in semester one, specifically in quarter two and two exploratory classes are listed in the second semester, specifically quarter three and four. While this addresses the scheduling issue, it does not alleviate the grading issue.

Having two distinct school schedules requires two distinct grading periods. While we have the means to provide grade reports using alternate methods, the Skyward Family Access System is unable to display exploratory grades for the first quarter and quarters 2, 3, and 4 will not exactly match the time-frame when the students attend their exploratory classes. We have approached the creators of the Family Access with this dilemma however they are unable to offer a solution within the Skyward System without extensive reprogramming and subsequently additional cost to the district.

We apologize for any inconvenience this creates when checking your child's grades however please know that we continue to brainstorm ideas that will alleviate this situation. Also, if you at any time have a question regarding your child's exploratory class don't hesitate to call or, more easily, e-mail our exploratory teachers. Art: Mrs. Lauer – jlauer@nsd2.com. Health: Mrs. Ziemann – kziemann@nsd2.com. Computers: Mr. Luecht – jluecht@nsd2.com.

Thanks you for your understanding and patience.

Sincerely,

Mr. Kevin Shelton
Principal