

Technology Increases Parent Involvement at Reed City Area Public Schools by Dave Griffin, Director of Technology

Parents at Reed City Area Public Schools can now access their children's records online thanks to a recent upgrade of the school district's student information system. By working with the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District and several other schools in the area, RCAPS was able to upgrade its information technology for secure online access.

Using the new Skyward Family Access system, parents and guardians can view up-to-date information regarding their children. Login passwords and usernames were mailed home with middle school and high school students this fall. Online information available includes: demographic, attendance, discipline, grades, and class schedules. The new system will soon be able to automatically email announcements about school activities. To logon to the new system, all that is needed is a computer with Internet access. If a parent or guardian does not have a home computer with Internet available to him or her, he/she can use the local library.

Parents and teachers have found the new Skyward system to be a great benefit to staying in touch. This new system allows for a real-time progress report. Teachers can post classroom assignments, quizzes, and test scores directly to the new system all in a matter of minutes. Parents can easily log in and check how their children are doing. They can then email the teacher with any questions or concerns. The use of technology is helping to keep teachers in touch with more parents.

The Reed City Area Public Schools' Board of Education made it a goal to increase communication between the schools and families. The new Skyward Family Access system is helping to meet that goal.

Note: If you would like more information on how to log on to Skyward at RCAPS, please contact the technology department by sending email to dgriffin@reedcity.k12.mi.us with the word SKYWARD in the subject.