

Is the Portal Causing Too Much Stress?

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At Marblehead High School, students are able to view their grades on a website called Aspen, which is also known as The Portal. This allows students to check their grades whenever they want to. The ability for students to know their grades at all times can be beneficial, but at the same time detrimental to a student's success.

If a student does poorly on an assignment, the fact that she can see it on The Portal gives the student the initiative to get in touch with the teacher and see how she can improve her grade. However, just because a student can see her grade on The Portal, doesn't mean that she can see the individual mistakes she made on the assignment. For example, if a student did poorly on a math test, she wouldn't be able to see the questions that she got wrong. This not knowing can cause stress for many students.

Another feature of The Portal is that the parents can view their children's grades as well. This can be a helpful tool for parents to see how their child is doing in school because many students don't talk to their parents about their grades. However, if a student does poorly on an assignment, even if it wasn't worth many points, the parents might get upset at their child before they even know what questions they got wrong.

Additionally, the fact that students can check their grades from their phones is something that causes stress for the students. There are some students that check their grades several times a day, just waiting to see if their latest test or essay grade has been posted. Students often take for granted the ability to see their grades every instant, and when a teacher doesn't post something right away they often go into a state of panic.

Back when our parents and grandparents were in school, they didn't know how well they did on a test until the teacher handed it back to them. If this was the case in our school, students wouldn't have to worry as much as they do now about checking online every hour of every day. It would be interesting to see how the students of Marblehead High School would react if they didn't have their grades at their fingertips. I have a feeling that at first, students would panic if they couldn't see their grades all the time; but after a while, the atmosphere surrounding grades might be more relaxed if students weren't constantly being reminded of their grades.

Nonetheless, I think that if students weren't able to access their grades, they might not feel like they need to improve them. This attitude from students might be detrimental to their success in high school. So when one looks at the big picture, one can see that there are ways in which The Portal can be helpful and also harmful for a student's stress level during high school.