

May 2022

Dear Families,

The following information is an update on developments regarding digital tools used for the purpose of communicating student learning and reporting in Surrey Schools. Currently, the district uses a platform called FreshGrade. As you may know, in the Spring of 2021, FreshGrade was purchased by Higher Ground Education, a Montessori provider located in the United States. Recently, Surrey was informed of upcoming changes to FreshGrade, most notably that given their direction and objectives, Higher Ground will no longer support the FreshGrade platform. As of August 31, 2022, FreshGrade will not be accessible or available to our school communities. If your child's teacher is using FreshGrade to communicate student learning, teachers will continue to use the platform for the remainder of this school year only.

As a district, we remain committed to providing teachers with a digital option for communicating student learning. Consequently, we have been piloting a new digital platform called *Spaces* by myBlueprint with 48 elementary teachers across 15 schools. Together, they have been working with the company to define and meet the evolving needs of Surrey staff and students. Overall, we have been very impressed with myBlueprint's responsiveness to all our requests and given that we have had a successful pilot year, *Spaces* will be Surrey's new digital portfolio platform for communicating student learning for Grades K-7 beginning September 2022.

Below is a list of frequently asked questions regarding FreshGrade offboarding support for parents.

1. *Are all FreshGrade web and mobile features currently working?*

All FreshGrade web and mobile features are working with exception of the FreshGrade app not being accessible for Android mobile users running the latest Android version. The earlier web app version, however, still remains accessible for Android mobile users.

2. *Will teachers be able to continue to use FreshGrade for the remainder of this school year? What about year-end student reports?*

Yes, our practice continues to be the same as in previous years. Teachers can add to students' digital portfolios until the end of June. Also, for year-end reports, teachers will follow the same summative reporting procedures as they have in every other year.

3. *Will families be able to export their child's portfolios from FreshGrade?*

Exporting portfolios as they currently exist is not possible because FreshGrade has not developed or offered districts an export tool that allows data to be transferred to any other platform. The following documents, however, have been created by Surrey Schools to support families in downloading content from FreshGrade:

- [Saving Content from FreshGrade](#)
- [Saving Photo Content from FreshGrade](#)
- [Saving Video Content from FreshGrade](#)
- [Saving Content from Archived Portfolios](#)

4. *What happens to the data (teacher materials, student materials, parent reflections) after FreshGrade discontinues?*

Focused ED, a provincial advisory for learning resources, has reviewed options related to data protection and privacy with Higher Ground. The priority is to ensure that all data is dealt with in a secure manner and that any current and historical data hosted by Higher Ground be removed from their systems by September 1, 2022. Higher Ground has confirmed that

- Higher Ground will not use any of the FreshGrade data.
- Higher Ground has not and will not transfer or provide any data to non-school or non-district third parties. Schools and districts only receive their own data.
- After the platform is taken offline, the data will be deleted irrevocably.

If you have additional questions, please contact District Principal, David A'Bear at [abear\\_d@surreyschools.ca](mailto:abear_d@surreyschools.ca).