

Benefits of Student-Led Conferences

- Help parents understand what is happening in the classroom
- Students are accountable for classroom work and assignments
- Provides quality parent-child time
- Provides time to focus on learning instead of behavior
- Conferences are self-directed
- Allows an opportunity for 100% parent participation

Goals of Student Led Conferences

- To encourage students to accept personal responsibility for their academic performance
- To teach student the process of self-evaluation
- To facilitate the development of students' organizational and oral communication skills and to increase their self-confidence
- To encourage students, parents and teachers to engage in open and honest dialogue
- To encourage parent attendance at conferences

Students' Role in Student-Led Conferences

- Maintain a work folder in the classroom to save coursework
- Compile a conference portfolio consisting of selected assignments from work folder
- Evaluate selected assignments to determine what was expected, the things you did well and the things you could have done better

Teachers' Role in Student-Led Conferences

- Serve as a facilitator, not a leader
- Assist students in compiling a portfolio
- Help students understand and practice the self-evaluation process
- Notify and schedule parents
- Create a comfortable space for parents and students to meet
- Circulate around the room addressing issues of specific importance
- Answer student and/or parent questions as they arise

Conference Suggestions for Teachers

- Don't talk! Don't talk!
- When you do have a conversation with parents, emphasize student progress and goal attainment.
- When students seem to be struggling, encourage them to keep focused on the checklist, marking off each item as they complete it.
- Be positive and supportive, emphasizing the things the student has accomplished.
- Make yourself available throughout the evening by walking about the room.
- Remind parents to fill out the conference evaluation sheet.