

## Suggestions for a Successful Conference

Teacher conferences are a great way to learn about your child's progress. Here are a few suggestions to help in establishing a partnership with your child's teacher.

*Please note: Students in grades 6-8 will attend the conference with their parent/guardian.*

### Before the conference

Check with your child. Is there something he/she would like you to ask the teacher? Also, jot down any changes that may have affected his/her behavior (a new baby, death, or separation). Next, make a list of your own questions. Plan to ask the teacher about classroom rules and how they are enforced, how your child is doing socially, expectations for neatness, homework and projects, your child's strengths and weaknesses, whether or not he/she is completing assignments, and if extra help is indicated.

### During the conference

If you don't understand something the teacher states, ask questions. If a concern or problem is identified during the conference, please focus on ways to correct it in order for him/her to move forward and for progress to occur. Before leaving, ask what you can do at home to help. If time runs short, schedule another meeting when you'll have more time.

### After the conference

Discuss the conference with your child. Share a detail you've learned, an impression you have or a strategy to which you've agreed. For example, if you promised to monitor homework, set aside a place and time. Finally, stay in touch with the teacher. If the plan isn't working, change it until you find something that does work.

Remember, if you have a concern or question, it isn't necessary to wait for a conference to voice it. Send an email, call the teacher, or schedule an appointment. Please don't expect to engage the teacher in a discussion during pick-up or drop-off time. Most of all, keep in mind that you're both on the same team, working together for the benefit of your child ~ our student!