

A Celebration of Student Learning

*Preparing for Spring
Student-Led
Conferences*



Welcome from your school's Principals

- Mary Hughes, Summit Street School,
PreK-3
- Tom Bochanski, Hiawatha School,
PreK-3
- Daniel Ryan, Thomas Fleming School,
4-5

***By the end of this session,
you will have a better
understanding of:***

- ⦿ The purpose of student-led conferences
- ⦿ Your child's role in the conference
- ⦿ Your role in the conference (resources available to take home)
- ⦿ The teacher's role in the conference
- ⦿ Conference logistics
- ⦿ Answers to "*Frequently Asked Questions*"

...**AND** you will
have time to chat
with your school
Principal!

The purpose of student-led conferences is to provide students with...

- An opportunity to reflect on and demonstrate their learning progress
- A setting to use authentic artifacts of learning that are meaningful to them and relate to standards (targets)

◎ What does research tell us?

- > Motivation is linked to student learning.
- > Ownership of the learning process is directly connected to increased student achievement.

- ◎ The student-led conference process allows students to:
 - > Take responsibility for their learning (ownership)
 - > Celebrate their learning (with their parents/guardians)
 - > Set goals to support continuous progress

◎ *Students will reflect on their learning to:*

- › Develop a clear understanding of areas where they demonstrate proficiency
- › Demonstrate an emerging understanding of standards/grade level indicators
- › Articulate areas where they have shown progress toward meeting the standards and/or still need to work
- › Present their own learning profile as they demonstrate oral and 21st century communication skills that are so important for our new generation of learners.

Student-led conferences allow students to:

- ◉ Reflect on learning
- ◉ Extend learning
- ◉ Deepen understanding of themselves as learners
- ◉ Demonstrate independence in learning
- ◉ Accept personal responsibility for their academic performance
- ◉ Be empowered to set relevant learning goals

- ◉ Engage in the process of self-evaluation
- ◉ Develop ownership of progress
- ◉ Develop and continuously improve their organizational and oral communication skills
- ◉ Increase their self-confidence
- ◉ Foster pride by celebrating learning

Your child's role in the conference:

- ◎ Your child will invite you to his/her conference area in the classroom.
- ◎ Your child will lead the conference using an outline he/she has prepared and rehearsed with the teacher and classmates.
- ◎ Your child will end the conference when he/she is finished presenting his/her learning artifacts or taking you through centers to highlight learning progress.

Your role in the conference:

- Your first role is as a listener.

It's a source of pride when a student demonstrates and celebrates learning success in an authentic manner with their parents/guardians.

Your role in the conference:

- Let your child tell you about their learning.
- Talk with your child about their learning experiences.
- Ask them prompting questions
(which are available for you to take home tonight).
- Gain a better understanding of the academic expectations set for your child.
- Identify ways you can support your child's continuous progress in achieving goals.

Handouts with sample questions are provided for you tonight. You will receive them from your child's School Principal.

The teacher's role in the conference:

- Acts as the conference host and may serve as a student coach when needed.
- Prepares students in advance to select examples that showcase quality learning
- Practice with students how to organize and present evidence of their own learning.
- Makes sure conference materials are available for students and parents.
- Schedules and organizes the conferences to ensure successful and private communication.

If a teacher sits down or rotates around the room, the student will continue to run the conference. The teacher will add comments and answer questions if necessary.

Before parents/guardians leave the conference:

- Fill out the Parent Reflection Sheet
- If time allows, take a moment to fill out a post-it with a positive note for your child's folder or desk.

Conference logistics:

- You will receive notification about the conference from your child's teacher.
- Student-led Conferences are Thursday, May 20th with an early dismissal at noon.
- Conferences are scheduled in blocks of time (30 minutes).
- Three or four conferences can be scheduled at the same time.



Video View

Of an actual student-led conference



Frequently Asked Questions

Will the teacher be part of the conference?

- Teachers will have helped the students prepare for the conferences
- Teachers will not present information
- He/She may circulate among conferences to support your child's presentation, and to monitor the conference schedule.

How will I know what to do during the conference?

- Follow your child's lead.
- Your child and his or her teacher have prepared for this conference.
- Ask prompting or follow-up questions to encourage explanation.
- Your child may prompt you to do this.
- Provide positive feedback.

What should a parent do if he or she cannot attend the conference?

- Student-led conferences will be a very special time for you and your child.
- Please make yourselves available for these conferences.
- Schools will try to accommodate parent schedules.
- However, if it is not possible for you to attend alternate appointment times, you may want to ask a grandparent, another relative, or perhaps a family friend to take your place.

What should a parent do if he or she wants a private conference with the teacher?

- If, after attending the student-led conference, you wish to schedule an appointment to speak privately with the teacher, please let the teacher know.

Break-out session with your school principal

- Ask follow-up questions
- Receive handouts
- Discuss logistics
- Offer feedback and suggestions
- Did we meet our learning intentions?
 - The purpose of student-led conferences
 - Your child's role in the conference
 - Your role in the conference (resources available to take home)
 - The teacher's role in the conference
 - Conference logistics
 - Answers to "*Frequently Asked Questions*"

Thank you for coming!

Bibliography of sources:

- ◉ *Kansas City Public Schools*
http://www.kckps.org/parents/fas/student_ed_conf.html
- ◉ *Teacher to Teacher*
ECM Educational Consulting • 1799 W. Fifth Avenue, #168 • Columbus, OH 43212;
www.teacher2teacher.info
- ◉ Student-Led Conferences at Merriam Elementary School
<http://merriam.ab.mec.edu/>
- ◉ GMS Parent Guidelines, Mountain View Whisman School District