



# SPRING CONFERENCES

## Tips for Parents

### It's Spring Parent-Teacher Conference Time!

Parent-teacher conferences are a great way to communicate with your child's teachers. Please review this guide as it provides suggestions for a productive and successful conferencing event. Working together, our goal is a positive experience for everyone, especially your child.



### TOGETHER, WE CAN!

Parents are a child's first and most important teacher. As partners in the educational process, both you and your child's school have something in common: *For your child to learn!* When you meet with the teacher, you can each share important information about the talents and needs of your student, as well as have meaningful discussion on how your child can continue to acquire the knowledge and skills needed for lifelong success.

#### Spring Conference Dates:

**Monday, March 27**

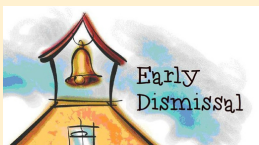
**Tuesday, March 28**

**Thursday, March 30**

**Friday, March 31**

*Wednesday, March 29,  
is a regular one-hour  
late arrival day.*

**NO EARLY RELEASE.**



During conference days, students will follow an early release schedule. View the schedule at [www.selahschools.org](http://www.selahschools.org)



During conferences, lunch **will be served.**



**Conference Checklist**

See Backside

## What to Expect

As you prepare for your parent-teacher conference, here is what you can expect:

### ✓ A Two-Way Conversation

Like all good conversations, parent-teacher conferences are best when both people talk and listen. The conference is time to learn about your child's progress in school:

- Ask to see data about your child's attendance, grades, and test scores.
- Find out if your child is meeting school expectations and academic standards.
- Talk with your child's teacher about what your child is like at home.
- Share information about your child's skills, interests, needs, and goals, so you and the teacher can work together to help your student succeed.

### ✓ Emphasis on Learning

Parent-teacher conferences focus on how well your child is doing in school. They also emphasize how your student can do even better. To prepare for this dialogue:

- Look over your student's homework, tests and notices.
- Bring a list of questions to ask the teacher.



### ✓ Opportunities and Challenges

Teachers want your child to succeed. It is important to hear positive feedback about your child's progress, as well as be receptive to discussion for areas of improvement.

- Think about your child's strengths and challenges before the conference.
- Be ready to ask questions about ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

# A Parent-Teacher Conference Checklist

Parent-teacher conferences are a great way to communicate with your child's teachers. This checklist suggests ways to foster a positive conference event, which will benefit your child's learning experience.

## Before the Conference:

- ✓ Note your conference date and time. If you can't attend, ask the teacher about other available times.
- ✓ Check your child's work, grades and progress reports.
- ✓ Talk to your child about progress in school.
- ✓ Talk with others—family, school staff, coaches—about your child's strengths and needs.
- ✓ Make a list of questions to ask the teacher.
- ✓ Think about ways you would like to be involved in your child's learning.

## How Should You Follow Up?

### • MAKE A PLAN

- ✓ Write down things that you and the teacher will do to support your child.
- ✓ During the conference or after, write down what you will do, when, and how often.
- ✓ Make plans to check in with the teacher in the upcoming months.

### • SCHEDULE ANOTHER TIME TO TALK

- ✓ Ask how you can contact the teacher.
- ✓ Ask how the teacher will contact you.
- ✓ Make a plan that works for both of you.
- ✓ Plan another time to talk with the teacher.

### • TALK TO YOUR CHILD

- ✓ If your child is not at the conference, share with him or her what you learned.
- ✓ Show your child how you will help with learning at home.
- ✓ Ask your child for his or her suggestions.

## What to Ask the Teacher About:

### • PROGRESS

Find out how your child is doing in class by asking questions, like:

- ✓ Is my child performing at grade level?
- ✓ How is he or she doing compared to students in the class?
- ✓ What do you see as his or her strengths?
- ✓ How could he or she improve?

### • ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS

- ✓ Ask to see examples of your child's work.
- ✓ Ask how the teacher gives grades.

### • YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR CHILD

- ✓ Share your thoughts about your child.
- ✓ Tell the teacher what you think are the strengths of your child.
- ✓ Explain what your child needs more help with.

### • SUPPORT FOR LEARNING AT HOME

- ✓ Ask what you can do at home to help your child.
- ✓ Ask the teacher about programs or services in the community that could also help your child.

### • SUPPORT FOR LEARNING AT SCHOOL

- ✓ Find out about available services at school to help your child.
- ✓ Ask how the teacher will challenge your child and provide support when needed.

## Conference Questions?

If you have conference questions, contact your child's school or teacher. For more about our District and schools, access [www.selahschools.org](http://www.selahschools.org).