

# Student-Led, Teacher-Supported Conferences

## *Improving Communication*

### **TEAM TEACHERS**

Help students compile a final portfolio that reflects all core subjects (3-4 work samples for each subject)

Demonstrate to students how to write insightful “talking points” for each work sample

Ask students to write goals in each subject area; remember to revisit these later in the year to evaluate their progress

Ask students to complete behavior and/or work habits checklists

Provide an agenda for students to follow during the actual conferences to help with time management

Use class time for students to rehearse their conference

Make sure all teachers discuss student progress with each family during the actual conferences

Offer parents the opportunity to sign up for an additional conference if they prefer meeting with the teachers by themselves

### **STUDENT**

Select work samples that reflect your progress in each core subject area

Prepare “talking points” for each sample that help explain your learning; avoid “show and tell”

Take goal setting seriously; make a plan for improvement in each subject area

Be honest about your behavior/work habits in each core subject area

Use your agenda to help you pace yourself during the actual conference

When practicing for your conference, make sure your portfolio is organized

When teachers drop in during your actual conference, pause politely and let them speak

Encourage your parents to sign up for an additional conference if they want more information

### **PARENTS**

Request a conference time that fits your work schedule; if a conflict arises, reschedule with the team

Bring your child with you; the student leads this type of conference with support from all of the teachers

Listen carefully to what your child has to say about his/her work samples; ask clarifying questions

Expect your child to synthesize his/her learning; this is not “show and tell”

Review your child’s goals carefully; offer specific support your family can provide

Behavior/work habits are critical to success at middle school; analyze these carefully

When teachers drop in, ask them questions to help you better understand your child’s progress in each subject area

Schedule another conference if you need to meet privately with the teachers