

K-12 Student-Led, Teacher-Supported Conferences



The purpose of Polaris Student-Led, Teacher-Supported Conferences is to document and celebrate learning over an extended period of time using student portfolios.

Students meet with their teachers and parents twice a year for conferences. This practice empowers students to proactively discuss their academic, social, and emotional growth in his/her own words. Such conferences invite parents into the learning environment, helping them better understand the unique developmental needs of their children and provides an opportunity for parents and teachers to share observations and assessment information.

| Students | Family Group & Advisory/Content Area Teachers | Parents |
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| <p><i>With increasing student responsibility:</i></p> <p>Select work that reflects your progress in each core subject area.</p> <p>Prepare talking points for each sample that helps to explain your learning; avoid “show and tell”</p> <p>Take goal setting seriously; make a plan for improvement in each subject area</p> <p>Be honest about your behavior/work habits</p> <p>Use your agenda to help pace yourself during the actual conference</p> <p>When practicing for your conference, make sure your portfolio is organized</p> | <p><i>As appropriate for grade level/subject area:</i></p> <p>Help students compile portfolio entries; content area teachers guide both the reflection and artifact selection</p> <p>Demonstrate to students how to write insightful talking points for each artifact</p> <p>Ask students to write goals in each subject area; remember to revisit these later in the year to evaluate their progress</p> <p>Ask students to complete behavior and/or work habits checklist</p> <p>Provide an agenda for students to follow during the actual conferences to help with time management</p> <p>Use class time for students to rehearse their conference</p> <p>Discuss student progress and offer the opportunity to schedule a second meeting if specific concerns need addressing</p> | <p><i>As appropriate for child's age:</i></p> <p>Schedule a conference time; if a conflict arises, work with the teacher</p> <p>Bring your child with you; the student leads the conference with support from the teacher</p> <p>Listen carefully to what your child has to say about his/her work samples; ask clarifying questions</p> <p>Expect your child to synthesize his/her learning; this is not “show and tell”</p> <p>Review you child's goals carefully; offer specific support your family can provide</p> <p>Behavior/work habits are critical to success; analyze these carefully</p> <p>Ask questions to help you better understand your child's progress</p> <p>Schedule another conference if you need to meet privately with a teacher</p> |