

Important Questions You Might Ask the Teacher

- What will you cover in this grade or subject this year?
- How are you addressing state and district standards?
- What are your expectations for homework? Has my child missed any of his/her assignments so far?
- How are my child's work habits? Does he/she use his/her time in class well?
- Does my child read at the level you would expect for this grade? What skills does my child need to be proficient in to get to the grade level expectations?
- Is my child able to do the math you would expect for a student in this grade?
- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Describe flexible grouping practices.
- Has my child missed any classes other than the ones I contacted the school about?
- Does my child get along well with the other students in this class?
- What can I do at home to help my child be more successful at school?



PREPARING FOR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES



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Parent-Teacher Conference Tips

All children learn in different ways. They have their own individual personalities, and their own listening and work habits. To help their students learn new knowledge and skills, teachers must know as much as they can about each child's likes and dislikes. No one knows more about these things than you, the parents. And no one has more influence over your children than you.

That's why teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Working together, you and the teacher can help your child have a successful school year.



Each teacher will probably come prepared with samples of your children's work and with ideas to

help them do even better in school. You should get ready for each conference, too.

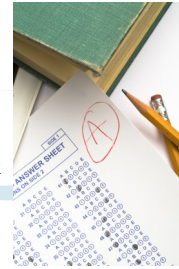
Before the Conference

Talk to your children before the conference. Find out what they think are their best subjects, and what subjects they like the least. Find out why.

Also, ask your children if there is anything they would like you to talk about with their teachers. Make sure your children don't worry about the meeting. Help them understand that you and their teacher(s) are meeting together in order to help them.

Before you go to the school, write notes to yourself about things about your child's life at home; personality; problems; habits; and hobbies; as well as things you feel it's important for the teacher to know:

- your concerns about the school's programs or policies;
- questions about your child's progress, and
- how you and the school can work together to help your child.



During the Conference

It's a good idea to ask your most important questions first, just in case time runs out before you and the teacher have a chance to discuss them all.

Questions to ask:

- Is my child in different groups for different subjects? Why?
- How well does my child get along with others?
- What are my child's best and worst subjects?
- Is my child working up to his or her ability?
- Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- How do you differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students?
- Have you noticed any sudden changes in the way my child acts? For example, have you noticed any squinting, tiredness or moodiness that might be a sign of physical or other problems?
- What kinds of assessments are being done? What do the assessments tell about my child's progress? How does my child handle taking tests?

Be sure to ask the teacher for specific suggestions on ways to help your child do better.

This is the most important part of the meeting. It will become your action plan. If the teacher says something you don't quite understand, don't be shy about asking for an explanation.

It's a good idea to end the conference by summing up decisions you've made together. If needed, ask to meet again.

After the Conference

- Start immediately on the action plan you and the teacher worked out together. Discuss the plan with your child. Make sure he or she knows that you and the teacher care. To see if the action plan is working, watch your child's behavior and check your child's class work and homework.

- Stay in regular touch with the teacher to discuss the progress your child is making. Meeting with your child's teachers should help build strong parent-teacher partnerships —partnerships that are needed if you and your child's teachers are to reach your common goal of helping your child get the best education possible.



Check out our district website:
www.oldbridgeadmin.org

