

Tips for Parent Conferences Mendon Center Elementary

Before the conference...

- Be prepared to share any information that may help create a better understanding of your child (i.e. feelings about school, important changes in his/her life, hobbies, special areas of interest, etc.)
- Prior to the conference, ask your child if he/she has any input that may be important for the conference. For example, ask your child about his/her favorite subject, things they are excited about doing, or parts of the day that are challenging.
- Ask your child “What am I going to hear at your conference?” Then ask yourself that same question.

During the conference...

- Go into the conference asking yourself “What is there to learn about my child?”
- Be prepared to hear about your child’s strengths and growth opportunities. You will also hear about how your child is doing relative to their social/emotional learning and work habits at school.
- If discussing homework, please remember that homework is intended to be an independent practice of a skill that has been learned in school. Homework is not meant to be new learning and homework does not take the place of the authentic learning experiences and interactions that happen during classroom instruction.
- With regards to reading, ask questions about the behaviors your child demonstrates and some of his/her instructional goals. It is also helpful to ask about what your child is reading at school or what would be some recommended books for him/her to read at home. **While our assessments identify a “level” which is used as a reference point for our instruction, it is far more important for you to know the behaviors and understandings that your child exhibits and the specific teaching he/she may still need.**
- Use the conference as an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your child’s report card.
- After the conference reflect on any “next steps” that have been agreed upon with the teacher. Ask “What’s the action item?”