

Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

Children are our most precious possession.

November 2013

Parent/Teacher Conferences

It is hard to believe that November is right around the corner. Besides Thanksgiving, November also brings parent/teacher conferences. The conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 6th from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Friday, November 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

To prepare for the upcoming conferences, below are a few suggestions for a successful parent/teacher conference.

For Parents:

- 1) Ask your child if there is anything that he or she would like you to discuss with the teacher or possibly involve your child in the conference. By specifically discussing challenges or issues your child has, the conference will more likely lead to positive results.
- 2) Jot down everything you want to talk about at the conference. Often times a list helps to ensure that you have discussed all of the items with the teacher.
- 3) Be open-minded to suggestions from the teacher. Conferences that are centered on collaborative efforts between the teacher and parent about possible strategies to help your child are typically the ones that have the most impact in bringing about change.
- 4) Take notes about what has been discussed to share with your child. By taking notes, you will be better able to communicate the results of the conference with your child which will hopefully lead to a consistency of expectations between parents, teachers, and students.

For Teachers:

- 1) Open on a positive note and focus on strengths. Regardless of a student's challenges or issues, there are always positives about every student. Begin the conference by talking about the positive attributes and strengths of the student.
- 2) Be specific in your comments. When discussing the achievement or behavior of the student with a parent, be specific about exactly what is occurring in the classroom.
- 3) Offer a suggested course of action. Besides simply discussing the challenges or issues, it is also helpful to have possible strategies or courses of action that can be implemented to remedy the situation.
- 4) Forge the jargon. In education, as in many fields, there is a jargon that can be confusing to anyone outside of education. Avoid the use of educational jargon when talking to parents about their child.
- 5) Ask for parents' opinions and listen to what parents say. As mentioned above in the suggestions for parents, the conferences that have the most impact on achievement or behavior are ones where the parents and teachers work collaboratively towards a solution. Ensuring the parents have a voice that is heard is critical to the success of any parent/teacher conference.

- 6) Keep a record of the conference and follow-up on any commitments. Keeping a record of the conference and the strategies to be implemented will help serve as a reminder to follow-up on what was decided at the conference.

Strategic Planning Process

In an effort to continually improve our school district and the education of our students, we are beginning a strategic planning process to develop long-range goals. If you have suggestions for improvement or would like to be a part of a focus group to help with the development of the goals, please contact me at 618-662-2412 or e-mail me at jhackney@floraschools.com

Important Upcoming Dates:

- November 6th**-Half Day Parent/Teacher Conferences-2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.-Early Dismissal 12:30 p.m.
- November 7th**-District Veterans Day Breakfast-8:30 a.m.
District Veterans Day Program-9:15 a.m.
Radiothon sponsored by Flora Academic Foundation-6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
- November 8th**-Half Day Parent/Teacher Conferences-8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon-No School for Students
- November 11th**-Veteran's Day-No School
- November 13th**-Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting-Unit Office-8:45 a.m.
- November 14th**-Blood Drive at Flora High School
- November 19th**-Elementary School Picture Retakes
FHJHS Picture Retakes
- November 20th**-Board of Education Meeting at Unit Office-5:30 p.m.
- November 22nd**-Mid-Term for 2nd Quarter
- November 27th**-Mid-Term Progress Reports sent home
Early Dismissal-2:00 p.m.
- November 28th**-Thanksgiving Day-No School
- November 29th**-Day after Thanksgiving-No School