

Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

Children are our most precious possession.

October 2017

Parent/Teacher Conferences

As hard as it is to believe, it is almost Parent/Teacher conference time again. We are once again holding the conferences earlier this year than we have in years past. The conferences will be held at the buildings on Thursday, October 5th from 12:00-8:00.

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.

Important Upcoming Dates:

October 5th-No School/Parent/Teacher Conferences-12:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

October 6th-No School

October 9th-Columbus Day-No School

October 13th-End of First Quarter

October 16th-Board of Education Meeting-5:30 p.m.

October 18th-Elementary School Pictures

October 19th-FHJHS Pictures

Grade Cards/Grade Slips Issued

October 20th-Teachers' Institute Day-No School for Students

October 24th-District Food Committee Meeting-11:50-FES