



AMELIA MIDDLE SCHOOL
A West Clermont School

Our mission is to ensure all students achieve academic excellence in a safe environment supported by parents and the community.

DAVID L. MACK
PRINCIPAL

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GARY E. BROOKS, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

January 7, 2009

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of the up-coming parent/teacher conferences. Conferences will be student-led. Instead of only the parent and teacher discussing each student's progress, we will be enhancing the role of the students in the conference process. Therefore, the conferences will be student-led! This is a big change from the usual conference in which the child's progress is discussed by the teacher and parent. Parents would go home and tell their children what the teacher said. In that scenario, parent and teachers assumed about 90% ownership of all accomplishments and failures of students. If there was a problem, it was up to the parent or teacher to figure out what to do.

In student-led conferences, students take ownership of their work, accomplishments, and plans for remediation or improvements. In preparation for the conference, students will examine their learning, making notes about what they have learned, how they have improved, and on what they still need to work.

The teacher plays an important and often difficult role by providing students with the knowledge and strategies that will allow them to be self-sufficient on the day of the conference. The teacher will be there for support and guidance only. We strongly believe that empowering students to take charge of their work is far more powerful than parent/teacher ownership. This allows students to be accountable, communicate to their parents about their schoolwork, and set goals. To accomplish this, your child will need your encouragement and support.

As part of this format, we will be asking you to complete a post-conference reflection paper. Students and teachers will also complete a post-conference reflection paper.

We understand that occasionally there is the need for private discussion without your child present. If this type of conference is preferred, please make a note at the bottom of this form. We prefer not to send the student out of the room at the end of the conference, since this would defeat the purpose of the student-led conference.

We hope this letter has explained and clarified the student-led conference. Remember, this is a different way of conferencing. If you have any questions or comments about the student-led conference procedure, please feel free to call.

Conferences are Thursday, January 29 from 4:30-8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, February 4 from 4:30-8:00 p.m.

_____ I request a conference at this time.

Preferred day: Jan. 29 _____ Feb. 4 _____
(Indicate which day you prefer)

_____ I **do not** request a conference at this time.

Student's Name (please print)

Parent's Signature

Phone Number

_____ I prefer the parent/teacher conference format at another time. I do not want to try this format at this time.

*****Deadline to return this form to your child's teacher is January 23.**