

Parent Survival Guide to Student Led Conferences and Frequently Asked Questions /

Why Student Led Conferences?

Leadership is one of our core ethical values at Nitschmann Middle School. What better way for our students to demonstrate **personal responsibility and accountability** for their academic performance than by leading their own conference! Student-led conferences are a positive alternative to traditional parent-teacher conferences. Parents and students engage in an open and honest dialogue about learning, and students develop important organizational and oral communication skills as they present their portfolio of work.

What can I expect at the Conference?

At the conference, your child will do most of the talking as he or she shares work samples and discusses progress and goals in each class. Then, you will have the opportunity to ask questions. You may want to ask your child why they received a certain grade, if they interact well with his/her teacher, or how much time they devoted to a certain project (**see our list of suggested questions**). Sixth grade parents may want to ask how their child is adapting to middle school, while eighth grade parents may want to begin to talk about the transition to high school.

How are the teachers involved in Student Led Conferences?

In student led conferences, the spotlight is on the most important person in the process: **The student**. While the core team teachers (math, science, social studies, and English) will be in the room, **they will not be directly involved in your discussions with your child**. They are available to support the students if needed, to clarify points, or answer questions. Since many conferences are going on at once, they have a very limited time to speak with parents. Encore teachers will also be available for you and your child to ask quick questions or give clarifications.

How do I sign-up?

Sign-up using this link <https://www.ptcfast.com/schools/NitschmannMS>. Once you register on the website above, you will receive an email. In the email are the directions to select your conference times. Make sure to wait for the email! Children ages 2 and up are welcome to attend. Our 8th grade student leaders will be available to monitor children within an activity area to allow parents to have individual conference time with their student.

PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE TO STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Suggested Questions and Conversation Starters

In an effort to make student-led conferences as beneficial as possible, below is a list of questions to ask your child as you sit down and review his/her portfolio of work together.

During the conference questions:

How much time did you devote to ...

What would you say is your best/worst subject?

What do you enjoy the most/least about this subject?

Do you participate in class discussions and activities?

Is there something you wish your teacher knew about you?

What strengths or weaknesses do you bring to the group?

Conversation after the conference...

I am pleased to see your effort in...

I am proud of your improvement in...

I know you sometimes have difficulty with..., however...

I would like you to focus on...

What can we work on together at home?