

## Tips for Parents

Planning for the conference is necessary to obtain maximum benefits. The teacher will be prepared to discuss the child's school performance and the parents should come prepared with suggestions, comments, and questions.

### BEFORE

- ❖ Make adequate plans for the conference time. Keep the appointment and make arrangements for child care if necessary.
- ❖ Talk to your child about the conference. Determine if he/she has questions or concerns. Reassure your child that he/she is not in trouble. Prepare by making a list of questions or concerns. Teachers appreciate your input.

### DURING

Learn what to ask at a conference. Teachers try to share as much information as possible but are not always aware of parent's concerns. Some possible questions are:

- Is my child working up to his/her ability?
  - What is the homework policy? When and how much homework is assigned?
  - What types of projects and assignments have been planned that I should be aware of?
  - What academic standards are students expected to meet?
  - What are my child's greatest strengths?
  - What weakness have you noticed in my child's learning?
  - Does my child have any behavioral or social problems?
  - How are final grades determined for each course/assignment?
  - What types of additional supports are available for my child?
  - What can I do at home to help my child be successful?
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- ❖ Ask questions in order of importance to you in case the time for discussion runs short. You may always schedule additional time.
  - ❖ Ask for explanations of anything the teacher says that you are not sure about.
  - ❖ Expect to answer questions about your child. Share information which may help the teacher(s) meet the needs of your child.
  - ❖ Take note of special follow-up suggestions or information which may not be included on the report card.
  - ❖ Make plans with the teacher concerning appropriate ways to help our child in areas that may need improvement.

### AFTER

- ❖ Following the conference be sure to discuss it with your child. Share important information, point out strengths, and encourage your child in specific areas.
- ❖ Begin immediately if follow-up action is necessary. Work with your child to improve those areas which need improvement.
- ❖ Make sure your child understands the teacher(s) and parents are working together. Show your child that you care how he/she is doing in school
- ❖ Stay in touch with the teacher(s). Follow-up to see what progress is being made.