

Parent Conference Survey Results Initiated on December 7th

Summary of Results:

- 65 stakeholders (about 16% of those who attended the conferences) completed the Parent Conference Survey. Of those, 72.3% were parents, 21.5% teachers, and 6.2% paraprofessionals and staff.
- 91.8% of respondents rated their overall experience as positive or very positive
- 75.4% of respondents rated the sign up experience as positive or very positive
- 61.7% of respondents rated the time allotted as positive or very positive
- 77.9% of respondents rated the discussion of social development as positive or very positive
- 88.3% of respondents rated the discussion of academic development as positive or very positive
- Anecdotal information and behavior plans were the most frequently confronted evidence around social development; information about specials and behavior rubrics were used the least.
- Student work portfolios were the most frequently confronted evidence around academic development; in-class assessments, DC-BAS data and Everyday Math Checklists were also used with high frequency.

Comment Trends:

- Sign-ups were posted too close to the conference date.
- Would like to hear more about what an individual student can do to improve and how parents can help at home (regardless of the student's level, but the majority of comments revolved around challenging students)
- More time was spent on academic development than social/emotional development
- Too little time
- Best when the conversation was focused on the individual student, not the work of the class
- First Parent Conference was held too late in the year
- Teachers should share their good conference practices, especially around communicating student progress
- A more explicit chance to meet with specials teachers

Action Steps:

- Time: Unfortunately, we have yet to determine a way to extend the conference slots. We have a given amount of time, and that time amounts to 15 minutes when divided among families and a lunch hour. However, we can change the way the time is structured. Moving to the next set of conferences, we will have 30-minute slots. The first fifteen minutes will be

spent out of the classroom, and families will have a chance to review documentation of student progress (portfolios, test data, etc.) and to develop key questions. The last fifteen minutes will be spent with the teacher. Because of the time spent reviewing the aforementioned materials, this fifteen minutes can be more focused and targeted to the interests of the parent.

- **Social versus Academic Reports:** We will develop a format for discussing social progress more deeply, including developmentally-appropriate milestones for each grade level.
- **Sign-Up Process:** Although in-person sign-ups will still be available, we will do our best to change to an electronic sign-up process. Without question, the sign-up period will start more in advance of the conference day.
- **Learning From Excellence:** As ongoing learners, one of the best ways to improve a practice is to look to peers who are doing an exceptional job. Prior to the next conference, we will ask teachers to share their approach and model their conversations for their peers.