

Student Name _____

Dear Parents and Students,

It's conference time again! As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. We have something in common: we all want your child to learn and do well. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share important information about your child's talents and needs. Each person can also learn something new about how to help your child. Parent-teacher conferences are a great way to start talking to your child's teachers. This tip sheet suggests ways that you can make the most of parent-teacher conferences so that everyone wins, especially your child.

What should you expect?

- **A two-way conversation.** Like all good conversations, parent-teacher conferences are best when both people talk *and* listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child's progress in school: Ask to see data about your child's attendance, grades, and test scores. Find out whether your child is meeting school expectations and academic standards. This is also a time for the teacher to learn about what your child is like at home. When you tell the teacher about your child's skills, interests, needs, and dreams, the teacher can help your child more.
- **Emphasis on learning.** Good parent-teacher conferences focus on how well the child is doing in school. They also talk about how the child can do even better. To get ready for the conversation, look at your child's classwork, tests, and assessment data before the conference. Be sure to bring a list of questions that you would like to ask the teacher.
- **Opportunities and challenges.** Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child's progress *and* areas for improvement. Be prepared by thinking about your child's strengths and challenges beforehand. Be ready to ask questions about ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

Tip sheet from Harvard Family Research Project by the Harvard Graduate School of Education Website: www.hfrp.org

What will conferences look like at Colorado STEM Academy?

Electives and Middle School:

February 24 – Arena Conference for Everyone (2:00pm- 8:00 pm)

February 26 -- Arena Conference for Everyone (4:00-6:00 pm)

... In this style conference, we have more of an open forum for parents **and** student(s) to see the teachers with whom they would like to connect. In order to accommodate as many families as possible in this one evening, we need to limit the conference time to 5 minutes. However, here are some helpful hints for you to make this opportunity as efficient as possible:

- Choose your scheduled time based on your last name from below and arrive on time!

| | |
|--|--|
| February 24 A-D 2:00 OR 5:30 E- H 2:30 OR 6:00 I-N 3:00 OR 6:30 O-S 3:30 OR 7:00 ***Teacher dinner is scheduled from 4:30-5:00*** | February 26 T-Z 4:00-6:00 |
|--|--|

- You and your child should allow 1 hour for this time (as lines can get long – but this is student involved, so they should accompany you).
- Prioritize the teachers that you absolutely wish to see.

Elementary

Please indicate your preferred scheduled conference time by indicating first, second, and third choice. Your child's teacher will send home your finalized conference time in Thursday folders.

| Monday, February 24 | | Wednesday, February 26 |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 2:00-2:15 | 5:00-5:15 | 4:00-4:15 |
| 2:15-2:30 | 5:15-5:30 | 4:15-4:30 |
| 2:30-2:45 | 5:30-5:45 | 4:30-4:45 |
| 2:45-3:00 | 5:45-6:00 | 4:45-5:00 |
| 3:00-3:15 | 6:00-6:15 | 5:00-5:15 |
| 3:15-3:30 | 6:15-6:30 | 5:15-5:30 |
| 3:30-3:45 | 6:30-6:45 | 5:30-5:45 |
| 3:45-4:00 | 6:45-7:00 | 5:45-6:00 |
| 4:00-4:15 | 7:00-7:15 | |
| 4:15-4:30 | 7:15-7:30 | |
| | 7:30-7:45 | |
| Teacher Dinner Break | 7:45-8:00 | |

#1 Day: _____ Time: _____

#2 Day: _____ Time: _____

#3 Day: _____ Time: _____

Sibling teacher's names for schedule coordination:

_____ **Check here to request a translator**

Please contact the office to schedule a conference with an interventionist, electives teacher, or administrator. Also please stop by the book fair in the and the school store in the middle school building on these evenings as well. We look forward to seeing you at conferences!