

# UPDATES FROM THE PRINCIPALS



NOVEMBER  
EDITION

WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?

Dear Seaford Middle School  
Families,

A productive parent-teacher conference begins with preparation. Families can make the most of their time by reviewing their child's recent work, report cards, and any teacher communications ahead of the meeting. Coming prepared with specific questions helps guide the conversation and ensures that important topics are addressed. For example, parents might ask how their child demonstrates perseverance in the classroom or what strategies the teacher uses to support students when they encounter academic challenges. This sets a clear purpose for the meeting and allows families to use their time meaningfully.

A key component of our work with our students is to teach them how to thrive both academically and socially. The Seaford Scholar traits is one avenue by which we accomplish this work. We teach our students through classroom instruction, activities, and everyday interactions to practice being mindful, reflective, principled, humorous, risk-takers, networkers, resilient, innovators, flexible, and communicators. During Parent Teacher Conference, we encourage you to speak with your child's teachers about how they demonstrate their traits in class.

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# SEAFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Another effective strategy is to engage in a two-way conversation rather than viewing the conference as a teacher-led report. Parents can share observations from home that may relate to traits like mindfulness or humor. For instance, if a child uses humor to build friendships or cope with stress, parents can discuss how this trait contributes to their learning and emotional well-being. In turn, teachers can offer insight into how the child's sense of humor or other personal traits show up in class. This collaborative exchange helps both sides support the child in consistent and reinforcing ways.

Families can also use the conference to set goals that align with the Seaford Scholar traits. After hearing about their child's performance, parents can work with the teacher to identify specific next steps. For example, if a student is learning to be more principled in their academic work, families can discuss ways to encourage honesty and responsibility at home. Similarly, if innovation is a focus, parents might explore opportunities for creative projects or extracurricular activities. Setting shared goals ensures that the conference leads to actionable plans that nurture both academic and personal growth.

Finally, families should end the conference by summarizing key takeaways and clarifying how communication will continue throughout the school year. This might include scheduling a follow-up meeting, checking progress via email, or using an online learning platform. Expressing appreciation for the teacher's time and insights helps maintain a positive relationship built on mutual respect. When families leave the conference with a clear understanding of their child's progress, strategies for support, and a plan for continued collaboration, they have used their time effectively and strengthened their child's journey toward becoming a true Seaford Scholar.

We look forward to a great year together, go **Vikings!**

Best, Dr. Morey & Mr. Polite



