

Student-Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences are an important part of the assessment and learning process of IB schools running the PYP program. Unlike conferences earlier in the school year in which teachers primarily lead discussions, Student-Led Conferences put students at the center of their learning journey, their family is the audience for their learning reflections.

Student-Led Conferences involve students, parents and teachers. The main purpose is for students to take responsibility for their learning. Students are responsible for leading the conference and sharing their learning process with their family. The conference involves students demonstrating their understanding in a variety of different learning situations.

During conferences, students will present, discuss and reflect upon samples of work that they have chosen to share with their parents. These samples are selected with guidance and support from the teacher. With their parents, students are expected to reflect on their own learning journey, showcase their current progress, and set goals for the future.

What are the benefits of Student-Led Conferences?

1. **Learner Agency:** Student-Led Conferences encourage students to exercise more agency over their learning. Students will lead all stages of the conference. They prepare work samples, plan the agenda, and reflect on the feedback from parents. These conferences establish the opportunity for students to have voice, choice, and ownership for their own learning. In turn, students can exhibit higher levels of motivation and engagement in their journey to become an IB Learner.
2. **Self-Reflection:** Student-Led Conferences require students to give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and areas for development in order to support their learning and personal development. Students may reflect on the following topics during conferences:
 - a. Ways in which we learn.
 - b. What has been learned: knowledge, skills, attributes etc;
 - c. Outcomes arising from learning.
3. **Communication ability:** Leading a conference helps students develop stronger communication skills. They learn to articulate their thoughts, share their accomplishments, and discuss their challenges. This experience can enhance their ability to express themselves effectively, both in and out of the classroom.

4. Parent involvement: Student-Led Conferences support parents in their role as partners who work alongside students in their learning process, giving parents an insight into the progress and process of their child's learning. The conferences promote open communications between parents, students and teachers. The conference is an opportunity to empower students and parents with an emphasis on growth, progress, and development.

5. Teachers' Partnership: Working as a facilitator to support students' ownership of learning helps teachers to support student metacognition (thinking about thinking). Metacognition has been shown in research to be a trait more highly developed in able learners. Teachers also support students in preparation for the conference by helping them choose good evidence of their learning, and helping students with the accuracy of their reflections.

Expectations

Student

- Demonstrate responsibility for their learning journey.
- Plan the conference ahead of time.
- Reflect on their learning journey.
- Lead his or her parent(s) through a variety of activities independently.
- Celebrate strengths and identify areas for improvement.

Parent

- Encourage and support their child in describing their learning journey by asking questions.
- Provide feedback to their child.
- Support in setting learning goals for the future.

Teacher

- Provide time for students to plan, organize, and practice for the conference.
- Mentor students when setting learning goals.
- Offer guidance and expectations for student reflection.