

MAXIMIZING PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Grade 6 Family Conversation Guide

1 How is my child doing?

2 What is helping or getting in the way?

3 What should we do next?

Use this guide before, during, and after conferences. The goal is not to just discuss grades - it is to identify strengths, clarify next steps, and help your sixth grader take increasing ownership of learning.

ACADEMICS

What does my child know and understand?

Questions to ask the teacher

- What academic strengths are you seeing?
- Which standards or skills should be the biggest priority right now?
- Is there a pattern in the areas where my child is still developing?
- What feedback have you already given my child?
- What is one action my child can take next?

Questions to ask your child

- What are you proud of in this class?
- Which skill or standard feels hardest right now?
- What feedback have you received?
- What is your next step? Who can help you?

At home: Coach your student

- Review feedback together rather than focusing only on the letter grade.
- Encourage your child to ask the teacher questions and use available supports.
- Focus practice on the specific skill that needs growth.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL LEARNER

How is my child approaching learning?

Classwork

- Does my child use class time effectively?
- Do you notice patterns with completing or following through on work?

Independence & Initiative

- Does my child get started and stay engaged independently?
- Do they seek help when they need it? How much prompting is typical?

Communication & Collaboration

- How does my child communicate questions or needs?
- How do they participate and work with others?

At home: Build independence

- Ask: "What have you already tried?" before solving the problem.
- Help your child rehearse how to approach or email a teacher.
- Use routines and reminders, then gradually shift responsibility to your child.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE: A 10-MINUTE FAMILY DEBRIEF

1

Start with strengths

"Your teachers shared that..."

2

Invite reflection

"What are your thoughts?"

3

Choose 1 academic goal

One skill or standard

4

Choose 1 learner goal

One habit or behavior

5

Make a plan

"What will you do next?"

REMEMBER: Support in middle school increasingly means coaching your child through a problem - not solving the problem for them.