

SP³ - Student Planning Pointers for Parents



Conversation Starters

Parent-Teacher Conferences – 8th Grade

You know your student the best, so the following talking points are simply a guideline to use in starting a conversation with your 8th grader about parent-teacher conferences.

These are some suggested talking points for a conversation with your student to use at your discretion.

Suggest that your student attend conferences with you and encourage him/her to ask questions. This will help your student develop effective and positive communication skills with adults.

Beforehand, consider asking your student the following questions:

- ▶ In what classes are you doing well?
- ▶ Is there anything you want to tell me about before I hear it from your teacher(s)?
- ▶ If you are getting a grade lower than our expectation, do you have a plan to improve your grade and if yes, what is it?
- ▶ Are there any classes where you and your teacher don't have a positive working relationship?
- ▶ Are there any classes where you don't understand what your teacher's expectations are?
- ▶ Are there any classes where you don't understand the material?

During conferences, consider asking the following questions of your student's teachers:

- ▶ How is my student performing?
- ▶ What are your suggestions if improvement is needed?
- ▶ Are there resources outside of class that we could utilize?
- ▶ This is what my student is telling me, what is your perspective?
- ▶ Are there any negative or inappropriate behaviors we should address?
- ▶ I know it's early in the school year, but since my student is planning for (college/career) after high school, do you feel my student is on the right track?



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After conferences, consider discussing the following with your student:

- ▶ If your student wasn't present at conferences, share information about your interactions with teachers.
- ▶ Emphasize the positive comments you heard and commend your student's achievements.
- ▶ If improvement or changes were recommended, discuss an agreed-upon plan or direction for your student.
- ▶ Set goals and checkpoint dates for the plan and create a triangle of communication between you, your student and teachers.