

Hints for Parents at Parent Teacher Conferences PT & Me October 6th and 8th

Find Out:

- **Set Up/Guidelines**—At BMS, we ask parents to schedule a time to come to the building. This is to facilitate the handing out of student portfolios and to spread parents out throughout the conference time to help with lines.
- **Time Constraints**—In most secondary schools, teachers have between 160-400 students. Our core teachers have fewer students and our elective teachers with the A/B schedule can have over 350 students. Due to the parameters of trying to meet with multiple parents and multiple teachers and multiple students, if you have major concerns that would benefit from a longer conversation (beyond 5 minutes), please call and set up a longer appointment.
- **How to Handle Private/Extended Conversations**— Be aware of the surroundings. With the numbers of parents and students involved in the conferences, this is not the time for extremely sensitive or private conversations. If you have sensitive concerns or private information that you feel needs privacy, please call and set up a more private meeting.

Expect:

- **A two-way conversation:** Be ready to talk and listen about your child's progress.
- **An Emphasis on learning:** A good conference should let you know how your child is doing in the class and what you could be doing at home to support or help your child.
- **Opportunities and Challenge:** Attend conferences with the intent to learn if your child is performing at grade level? How is your child doing in comparison to the rest of the class? Is there an area to improve?

Follow Up:

- **Make a Plan:** Set some goals with your child. These could be academic or organizational. Review or set parameters for homework—where, when, resources, etc. If the teacher identifies an area for improvement, start there.
- **Schedule a follow up time:** Set a time frame to follow up with the teacher and/or to follow up with your child on the goals that are set.
- **Verify the best way to contact the teacher**—Check with the teacher to be sure you have the correct email and/or website to get information.
- **Share with your child**—Let your child know the positive things. Be sure to celebrate the successes and then put a plan in place for areas of concern.