

e-Tips for Parents



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NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO TALK WITH YOUR TEEN'S TEACHERS

Many middle and high schools don't set aside full days for parent-teacher conferences, as is done in elementary school. But they still encourage parents to schedule conferences with teachers.

"It's always good to meet with teachers early in the school year to establish a good link of communication," says Les Potter, a former teacher and school principal. "You can ask specific questions that will help you work with your child through the school year." Also, information you share about your teen can help teachers better meet her needs. Parents about to visit a teacher for the first time should have a plan, Potter adds. You'll want to:

- **Schedule a specific time** and call to confirm the meeting.
- **Prepare questions** to ask.
- **Write the questions down**, so you remember to ask them.
- **Approach the meeting** with an open mind.

Write a note after the conference to confirm what you and the teacher discussed.

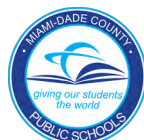
Topics you might want to discuss include:

- **Your teen's behavior** and attitude toward school, peers and adults.
- **How much your student participates** in class.
- **Your teen's work habits** and academic progress.
- **Special interests or talents** your teen exhibits.
- **Extracurricular activities** in which your teen participates, or might participate.
- **What you might do to help your student succeed.**

It's also a good idea to plan to examine some of your student's work with the teacher.



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