February 10, 2020

Dear Mesa Families,

On Thursday, February 20th (from 4:30 to 7:00 pm), we are inviting you to attend a type of parent conference called a student led conference. This means that the conference will be led by your child, not by the teachers. Student led conferences allow us to invite all parents to take part in their child’s learning experiences. As students lead their conferences with you, the teachers will be facilitating this process. The event will start in the commons at 4:30 pm where we talk about some building celebrations and then at 4:45 pm, parents/guardians will be able to begin the conference. In addition, teachers will be scheduling individual conferences from 3:15 pm to 4:30 pm. If you are interested in this, please contact one of your student’s teachers (there is limited space available).

Student led conferences gives your son/daughter the opportunity to present to you assignments he/she has completed and to reflect and communicate how he/she is doing in middle school. This conference will also give your family the opportunity to set some goals to ensure success for the remainder of the school year. We will prepare your child for the student led conference by teaching him or her how to lead a successful conference. Time will also be allocated beforehand for your child to practice leading a conference.

If you do not have the opportunity to talk with all of your child’s teachers at the event, please keep in mind that we conference with parents/guardians throughout the school year. You may contact one of your child’s teachers or guidance counselor at any point during the school year to schedule an individual meeting with your child’s teachers.

We encourage you to participate in this event so that you can learn more about Mesa Middle School and your child’s academic experiences.

For more information about student led conferences, please reference the second page of this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact any one of your child’s teachers or me.

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Jackowski
Principal Mesa Middle School
Mesa Student Led Conferences

What is a student led conference?

- A student led conference is a conference where the student is in charge of the conference and the teacher is a facilitator only when needed

Why do we do student led conferences at Mesa Middle School?

- It encourages students to be responsible for their academic progress.
- It teaches students the process of reflection and self-evaluation.
- It facilitates the development of students’ organizational and oral communication skills.
- It encourages parents, students, and teachers to engage in open and honest dialogue.

What are the benefits of student led conferences?

**Students:**

- Have more accountability for their learning.
- Evaluate their own progress.
- Gain greater commitment to school work and learning.
- Communicate more with parents regarding school.
- Take more responsibility for their own learning.
- Become actively involved in the process of assessment and evaluation of learning.

**Parents:**

- Celebrate child’s achievements throughout the conference.
- Receive more insightful information.
- Learn more about their student’s learning styles, interests, strengths, and areas of improvement.
- Are given opportunities to help their student set positive goals.
- Are active participants in their student’s learning.
- Spend less time waiting in line for conferences.