

STUDENT-LED CAFÉ CONFERENCE

Overview

Student-led conferences are a great way for students to share their learning with their parents or family. A student-led conference is a meeting between the students and their family. The student shares their portfolio of work and discusses their own progress in different subject areas with their family members. The important thing about student-led conferences is that the student takes charge of showing their work to their own audience. There are many different styles and formats for student-led conferences, but the format of this particular conference is set up as a café. Bon appetit!

Structure

1. Set up classroom as a small café.
2. Depending on how much effort you want to put in, add a lamp or two, tablecloth, and set the mood for a small French café.
3. Get students to invest in the idea by having them create decorations for the café and outlining their expectations and duties.
4. Explain to the students that they will be a server at the café, serving their parents with their schoolwork instead of regular café items.
5. The teacher will act as the maitre-d'.
6. Please see attached document of a class café menu.
7. Rehearse with the class on what is expected and how the evening will run.
8. An option is to have the students also serve tea and biscuits to their parents while going through the different courses.
9. Parents are encouraged to give positive feedback to their children and to enjoy the evening.
10. Adding music such as bossa nova or light jazz is a nice touch.
11. Make sure the night is fun and informative.

Benefits of Student-Led Conferences

- Encourages responsibility
- Promotes good organizational skills
- Promotes communication skills
- Creates an authentic experience for parents to learn about their student's progress
- Builds student's sense of responsibility and accountability for their own learning
- Allows for short and long term goals to be set
- Increases understanding of meeting learning goals
- Reassures students that parents and teachers are there to support them
- Shows students that they are accountable for their academic and behavioral choices
- Provides an insight into the parent and child relationship
- Takes pressure off the teacher to run parent teacher conferences

