



Greetings from the School Psychologist and School Counselor

Now that we are all settled into the beginning of the school year, it is time for both teachers and parents to think about and plan for the November parent teacher conferences.

The research literature indicates that schools working with parents throughout the school year have better academic outcomes for students. In addition, improvements in school attendance, behavior, and attitude towards school also occur.

Parents can do a variety of things to prepare for the conference depending on the issues and needs of the child.

Preparing for the Conference:

Talk with your child before the conference and be familiar with how your child feels school is going with school work and relationships with classmates.

Monitor your child's homework and work coming home. How is your child handling homework assignments?

Create a list of questions, comments, and/or concerns that you would like to address with the teacher.

Consider whether you may need materials/records from home for the conference.

Be ready to work with the teacher to help solve any problems regarding your child. Teachers are very eager to work with parents in helping children succeed.

Be familiar with Heuvelton Central School's Code of Conduct.

During the Conference:

Listen carefully and be prepared to take notes. Since a limited amount of time is scheduled for each parent, and a lot of information is being shared, taking notes to look at later can be very helpful. Bringing someone else along to help with note taking can give you more time to just listen.



Be sure to offer your view of your child's academic progress, strengths, and weaknesses. Teachers appreciate your feedback as the information can help them work more effectively with your child.

If your child is having a lot of problems in school and the conference is focusing only on the negatives, be sure to also ask the teacher to point out your child's strengths as well.

Ask questions if you are confused by any information that the teacher is sharing with you. A lot of information is being packed into a small amount of time, and it can be overwhelming at times to understand everything.

At the end of the conference, offer your support to work with the teacher on your child's behalf. Remember that when parents and teachers work together, everyone benefits.

Thanks for your support!

Stephanie Gilbert, School Psychologist, Ext 3301

Suzanne Raffel, School Counselor, Ext 3307

