



Student-Led Conferences at IPS

What is a 'Student-Led Conference'?

The student-led conference is an open and honest dialogue between students and their parents about learning. It is an opportunity for students to show and explain to their parents **what** and **how** they have been learning.

What is the goal of a student-led conference?

The primary goal is to empower our students to be active owners of their learning. The conference provides a real-life opportunity for students to engage in conversation about their learning with an important audience. It allows them to practice attributes of the learner profile, as well as the approaches to learning taught at IPS.

At IPS we believe **how** we learn is as important as **what** we learn. The conference, therefore, provides parents with a better understanding of their child's learning process.

What will happen during the conference?

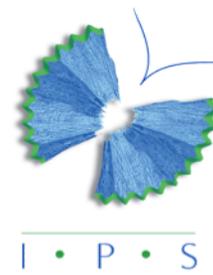
First, it is not a normal school day. Students only come to school with their parents for their appointed time. Only 3-4 families will be in the classroom at any one time. Students should be wearing their school uniforms.

Families are welcome to come before their appointment to visit single subject teachers (PE, Music, Art) or visit these learning spaces after their classroom appointment. French language teachers will be moving through all the classrooms.

During the conference, the student will engage their parents in a variety of experiences that are representative of what they do during a normal learning day. They will also review their portfolios with their parents.

Reviewing the portfolio allows students to share their reflections on their learning. Reflection is an essential learning skill as it allows students to develop metacognition - the ability to think about their thinking.

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Metacognition is also essential to helping students set their own goals for improvement.

What is my child's role during the student-led conference?

Your child will be leading the conference. S/he will show, explain and demonstrate, in a developmentally appropriate way, how and what s/he is learning.

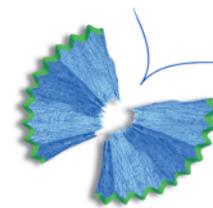
What is my role during the student-led conference?

- Listen and engage.
- Respect your child's ability to lead and share.
- Encourage your child. Be specific in your praise, comments, and compliments.
- Ask questions, such as *"What is the next step to take to improve your learning?"*, *"How can we support you at home to achieve your goals?"*, and *"What did you learn through this activity or task?"*
- Be proud! Your child's ability to take ownership of his/her learning is impressive.
- Give your child your undivided attention. **Mobile phones must be switched off for the duration of the conference.** This is something that students have also asked us to request of you. They do not wish to compete with other people talking to you on your phone. Your child should be your focus during this conference.

What is the teacher's role during the student-led conference?

Student-led conferences are an assessment opportunity for teachers. It is an opportunity for them to see and hear what students think about how they learn and identify any misconceptions that need to be remedied. It also allows teachers to see how well their students are developing metacognition.

The teacher may welcome you into the classroom, but will otherwise largely act as an observer. This is NOT an opportunity for a conference between teachers and parents. If parents wish to speak with the teacher, they can request an appointment and the teacher will book a time in the upcoming weeks.



May I take notes during the conference?

Yes, you may but do take time to listen. You will be offered paper to provide feedback to your child, in writing, during the portfolio presentation. This feedback will be added to the portfolio so students may reflect on their parents' comments and to show parents' participation in their child's learning journey.

Are we allowed to use our mother tongue language?

Both children and parents are encouraged to communicate in whichever languages are most comfortable for all family members.