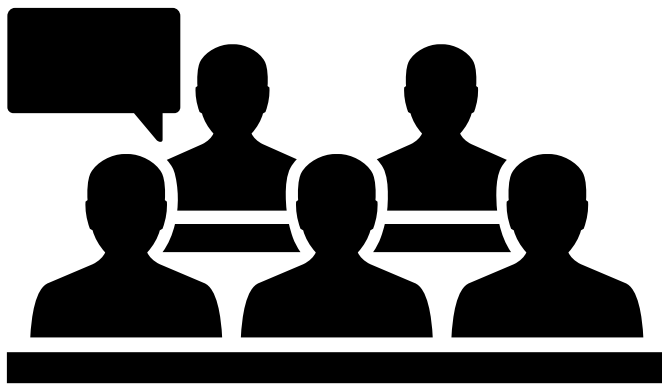
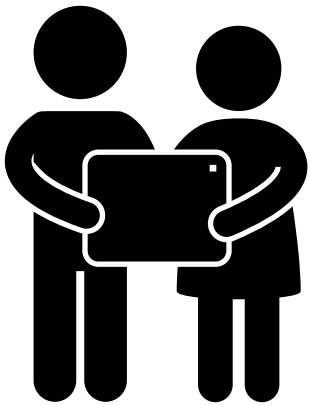


STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES



Berckemeyer Consulting Group

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NOTES:



Introduction

- » Introduce presenters
- » Survey group
- » Student-led conference is an opportunity for each student to show his/her parent(s) his/her work, class procedures, and discusses his/her own progress and behavior.
- » How we become involved



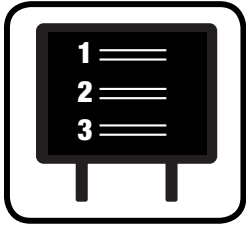
Benefits

- » Helps parents understand what is happening in the team classrooms (easier to ask own child than teacher)
- » Helps communicate actual student learning (via script, projects, and student work)
- » Student is accountable to the parent concerning learning and behavior
- » Enables student to practice organizational and leadership skills
- » Forces the student to evaluate own progress
- » Provides quality parent/child time concerning school
- » Provides goal-setting time
- » Focus is on positive and on learning; not behavior
 - behavior issues arise as an issue concerning the learning
 - not “teacher accountability-time”
- » Scheduling is easier—accommodating; late arrivals and walk-ins are no problem
- » Less stress on teachers; very relaxed atmosphere
- » Scripts can be mailed to “no shows”



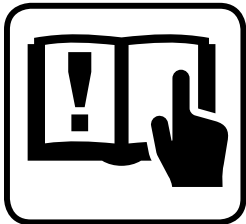
Design a format

- » List your needs in terms of communication to the parents
 - number of missing assignments
 - tutoring program
 - why this student has this grade
 - explain routines or program
- » Decide on which papers, projects, or reports that students will show - to be included in the script
- » Outline a script



Preparation

- » Introduce concept to parents early in the quarter—open house or back to school night
- » Plan 3 conference slots for each time period of 30 minutes
- » Keep samples of students' work
- » Present concept to students and parents (via letter) at least 4 weeks ahead
- » You can have students brainstorm information which parents might need
- » Send letters to appoint conference times
- » Write script—include introduction and closure
- » Students fill in necessary information
- » Collate saved work and projects from all core classes (create portfolio) - Teacher/Student
- » Students role-play conference with partner - practice
- » Have portfolios organized and ready to be easily obtained
- » Have math manipulatives, recent science experiments, and projects on display to further explain learning activities that are taking place on the team



Possible Problems

- » Harshness of parent toward child
- » Parent anxiety about not spending time with the teacher
- » Location (space) for the conferences

Welcome your parent(s) to (your school name): _____

One thing I like about (your school name) is: _____

General Team Information

There are many things in place that help students succeed.

1. a) Explain tutoring on (day) _____

b) List the four things you can do in tutoring

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

c) I _____ (do/do not) use my tutoring to help me because _____

2. If students have turned in 100% of their work in all 4 team classes, they will attend a 100%-in celebration. One at every progress report and one at every report card.

a) I _____ (have/have not) attended one. This is because _____

b) I feel this reward _____ (is/is not) enough to motivate me to turn in my work because _____

3. Explain skills time _____

4. a) We also have a lunch detention program. I _____ (have/have not) been sent to lunch detention because _____

b) We can ask to stay in the lunch detention room if we need to catch up on work. I _____ (do/do not) plan on using this time for working on assignments because _____

5. We have grade folders in each class. They are used to keep all of our assignments and grades.

Specific Core Class Information

1.
 - a) This is my folder for language arts.
 - b) I _____ (do/do not) have trouble with spelling.
This is because _____

 - c) This is my writing portfolio (allow your parents to browse).
 - d) According to my grade folder, I have _____ missing assignments.
 - e) This is my computer grade sheet.
 - f) According to my computer grade sheet, I have _____ missing assignments.
 - g) My grade is _____ because _____

2.
 - a) This is my folder in science.
 - b) Go show your parent(s) (NAME OF PROJECT) right now.
 - c) According to my grade folder, I have _____ missing assignments.
 - d) This is my computer grade sheet.
 - e) According to my computer grade sheet, I have _____ missing assignments.
 - f) My grade is _____ because _____

3.
 - a) This is my folder in social studies.
 - b) Go show your parent(s) (NAME OF PROJECT) right now.
 - c) According to my grade folder, I have _____ missing assignments.
 - d) This is my computer grade sheet.
 - e) According to my computer grade sheet, I have _____ missing assignments.
 - f) My grade is _____ because _____

4. a) This is my folder in math.
- b) After the conference, please let me take you to the math display table and show you the
 (NAME OF PROJECT) we have been doing.
- c) According to my grade folder, I have _____ missing assignments.
- d) This is my computer grade sheet.
- e) According to my computer grade sheet, I have _____ missing assignments.
- f) My grade is _____ because _____
-

Wrapping It Up

1. Ask your parent(s) to help you write at least two academic or behavioral goals.

2. Now write your plans to achieve your goals.

3. We need to save these goals and bring them to the next conference in (month of conference).

4. Thank your parent(s).

Dear Parents:

Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled for the week of (DATE). Our 6-C team will be conducting student-led conferences rather than the traditional parent-teacher conferences.

The focus of the student-led conference is to allow your child to demonstrate his/her scholastic accomplishments. As a parent, you can provide encouragement and help your student set goals for the remainder of the year. You will also have the opportunity to display a positive interest in your student's learning and to accept his/her self-evaluation of accomplishments.

Some of our goals for this conference format are:

- To help parents understand what is taking place in the classroom
- To communicate about student learning
- To accept ownership for learning and behavior
- To enhance organizational and leadership skills
- To build self-esteem through the development of self-confidence

The conferences are planned to last approximately thirty minutes and three conferences may be scheduled at the same time. We will be present for clarification or facilitation as necessary. However, your student will be in charge of conducting the conference with you and it is important to honor the student's commitment to that role. Should you wish to confer with (TEACHER NAME) or (TEACHER NAME), we will schedule a follow-up conference.

At this time, we need you to indicate a time preference for your conference. Please do so on the back-side, and return this sheet to school with your student by (DATE). We are using a first-come, first-serve approach.

We look forward to meeting with you.

TEACHER NAME

TEACHER NAME



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

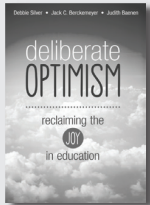
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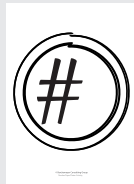
A nationally-recognized presenter, author, and humorist, Jack Berckemeyer, began his career as a middle school teacher in Denver, Colorado. After two years of teaching he was named as an outstanding educator at his school, and shortly thereafter he was identified as one of the outstanding educators in the district. In 2003, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Falcon School District. Jack brings his energy, humor, and expertise to all staff development as he helps teachers and administrators remember why this job makes a difference. Jack has presented in conference and school district settings both nationally and internationally. Jack served as a judge for the Disney American Teacher Awards and served on the selection committee for the USA TODAY All-Teacher Team.

Jack Berckemeyer is known for his motivating, practical ideas communicating a message of hope, laughter, and insight into education. Jack was also the Assistant Executive Director for the National Middle School Association for 13 years and is the author of *Managing the Madness - A Practical Guide to Middle Grades Classrooms*. His most recent publications are *Taming of the Team - How Great Teams Work Together* and *Deliberate Optimism - Reclaiming the Joy in Education*, co-authored with Dr. Debbie Silver and Judith Baenen.

Jack is currently the Owner and Director of *NUTS and BOLTS - Ready to Lead, Teach, and Learn Conferences* located in Denver, Colorado and Destin, Florida. Jack lives in Denver, Colorado and has no pets or plants.



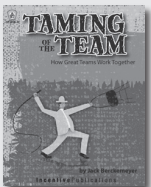
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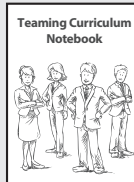
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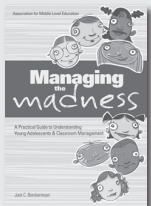
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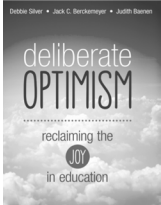
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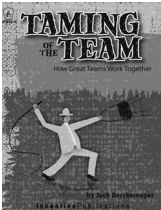
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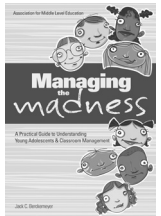
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