



SCS Bulletin



Welcome back, everyone, after an unexpected time away. The unpredictability of the events was a challenge to all, especially the kids we serve. It feels good to return to the predictable pattern of school and all the smiling faces we missed seeing, both the kids and our colleagues.



Spotlight Topic

Parent Conferences this week are all about building conversations on student success as opposed to a previewing of all the data parents will get after the First-Trimester closes (Nov 15).



The challenge is how to build a successful two-way conversation in just 15 minutes!

Consider framing the conversation as if YOU were the parent. Using this mindset, you would want to hear the following...

1) Start with Strengths -- Tell the parent where their child is succeeding both in academics and socially – Parents get academic scores each week, but want to know the “score” on his/her emotions during the day and interactions with others. After sharing information, ask the parent to convey how their child describes school – this is a comfortable way to get the parent to become part of the conversation and for you to gauge the level of child-parent involvement at home.

2) Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) -- Sonoma Charter takes pride in focusing on the Whole Child, but what does that mean? The answer was what you started talking about in part one of the conversation above. This creates a natural segue to talk about...



Our new K-8 Second-Step SEL Program --
Describe the weekly lessons your students have been working on and how it fits into a positive school-wide culture.

The “Other-Side” of the Report Card --
One side of the progress report shares academic performance data and the other side shares observations about **Work Habits**, which also correlate with the Second-Step Program.

Many would argue that **Work Habits** are the most important scores, in that they predict performance outcomes in ALL academic areas.

3) SCS Weekly Connections with Parents includes...

- **Second-Step Home-Link Activities**
- **Home Literacy Coach** – parent & child interacting nightly about reading connected to *Step-Up Reading*.
- **Math** – Ways for parents to help (or get help understanding the new approach to math). *Be prepared – Math will most likely generate the most questions/frustrations from parents during your conference.*

Ask parent about School-to-Home Communication...

- Classroom information directly from the Classroom (including Wednesday Folders)
- *ParentSquare* postings from: Classroom, School, PTO, etc.

Explore any barriers in Home-to-School Communication...

- **Wednesday Folders** are really two-way feedback opportunities. Feedback on student performance flows home (include how we value any parent feedback that flows back). This is also your chance to address directly any Folders that come back untouched.
- **Emails, calls home...** confirm what works best with each family.
- **Parent Participation – Mention our upcoming Heritage Feast (Wednesday, Nov 20).** Describe this shared-meal tradition that takes place in your classroom and across the school. Ask the parent if you could jot their name on the list of parents willing to help/contribute. We'll give your *interest list* to the room-parents who coordinate this event). *This is an easy opportunity for parents to become connected to a classroom/school event.*

4) Homework for Everyone...

- **Show** the Progress Report form and preview the types of data that will be shared at the end of the Trimester (Nov 15).
- **Preview** areas on the Progress Report that will reflect challenges for the student.
- **Discuss** no more than three-goals to focus on during the second Trimester (Nov 18 - March 2).
- **Summarize** any specific actions/goals established during the meeting.

November 4 - 8, 2019

TIME got turned-back on Nov 3 and shorted each day this week (1:15 p.m. dismissal) to allow for **Parent Conferences** (Nov 4-8).



MON (11-4) (1:15pm dismissal)

- **RainbowDance** (grades K & 1)
- 1:30p **Parent Conferences start**

TUE (11-5) Min. Day (1:15pm dismissal)

- 1:30p **Parent Conferences start**

WED (11-6) Min. Day (1:15pm dismissal)

• **Pumpkin-Fest!**

11:00a - 1:15p schoolwide event.

Each K-8 student “**Family**” will enjoy a variety of fun **field-events** and **free lunch** (pizza, dessert, and drink).

Thanks PTO for sponsoring this “Family”-fun event!



- 1:30p **Parent Conf. start**

- 5:45p Boys Basketball vs. Summerfield Game played at Sebastopol Community Church

THU (11-7) Min. Day (1:15pm dismissal)

- *Recess Activities from Boys & Girls Club*
- 1:30p **Parent Conferences start**

FRI (11-8) Min. Day (1:15pm dismissal)

- 1:30p **Parent Conferences start**