Dear Families,

As teachers, we know that families play critical roles in student success. You support your child’s learning, guide them through the school system, advocate for improved learning opportunities, and collaborate with us so your child can achieve educational goals.

For conferences this year the dual focus is to share student progress and goals but to also gather information from you. Here are some questions I am asking families this year. What are your hopes and dreams for your child this year? What strengths would you like to deepen? What is one concern you would like to address? What can we, as a school, do to support your child’s school experience, including how to affirm your culture?

We are sending home a packet of information with your child that shares your child’s progress so far this year in reading, writing and math, and a self-reflection your child completed about school.

As you look at this information and consider the questions being asked, please use the Note Catcher as a guide to think about what you’d like to share with me, and what questions you have.

If there is a concern that you would like me to know ahead of time, please classdojo or email me so I can prepare accordingly. Looking forward to working with you to support your child.

Sincerely,

Mr. Knox

**Structure of Family Conferences:**

**20 Minute Conference Schedule**

1 min. – Welcome and introduction of conference agenda

10 min. – School-Wide Conference Questions (also from Note Catcher)

5 min. – Reading and Math Strengths and 1 goal each

3 min. – Social/Leadership Strengths and 1 goal

1 min. – Thank you and appreciations!

**Note Catcher**

Your Child’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Hopes and Dreams for the Year | Characteristics and Strengths of Student |
| School Experience (Social/Academic/etc) | How could our class experience become more meaningful? |

**Conference Questions:**

1. What are your hopes/dreams for your child post-high school?
2. What are the characteristics of your child you love? What are you most proud of about your child?
3. What is important to you when you think about your child and his/her education? What would you like school to be like?
4. What ways would you like (your child’s) culture affirmed at school?
5. What instructional materials would you like to be part of your child’s education at Ruder? How can we work together to plan for that?