

# Teacher October Newsletter

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Fall is here, which means parent-teacher conferences are around the corner. These conferences are an important part of the ongoing communication between teachers and parents. Parent-teacher conferences are not just an opportunity for you to share information with your students' parents about their child's education experience, it also is an opportunity for you to gain valuable information to help you understand your students better. Remember, parents are a student's first teacher, and they can give you information about a student's strengths, learning styles and weakness that you may not have been able to observe. They can also share information about background and future expectations that will help you meet the needs of the student and family.

Parent-teacher conferences are two-way conversations. Use the conference as an opportunity to develop trust, respect and a partnership. By opening communication with parents, they can support you as you teach their child. Below are questions to consider before beginning conferences.

- How are my students progressing in relation to the learning standards?
- Are my students prepared to move to the next level of learning?
- What support can I offer to a struggling student?
- What questions will parents have about ACT and college registration?
- What can parents do to help their children?

If you are a new teacher, the Teaching Channel offers a helpful video that will give you tips for conducting your first parent-teacher conference. It can be found at <https://www.teachingchannel.org/videos/parent-teacher-conference-tips>.

October also is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Some signs of bullying are obvious and easy to spot; others are more subtle. Educate yourself on the signs of bullying and your school policy on reporting bullying. As you think about bullying in your school and classroom, think about the following questions.

- What can I do to prevent bullying in my school or classroom?
- How can I help a student who is a victim of bullying?
- How can I help a student who is a bully?
- What recommendations can I give my student's parents on preventing cyberbullying?

A wealth of information also can be found on the Arkansas Department of Education's website, <http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/safety/anti-bullying>, or at <http://www.stompoutbullying.org/>.

October also marks the beginning of flu season. Staying healthy during flu season will prevent absences that can slow academic progress. The CDC offers free resources and lesson plans you

can use to teach your students about flu prevention. The resources can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/teachingchildrenflu.pdf>.



<http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/communications/my-childmy-student>