

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN TO DISCUSS WITH A TEACHER, THE PROCEDURE YOU SHOULD FOLLOW IS:

1. Call the teacher at your child’s school to schedule an appointment. (Phone Numbers Provided)
2. If the teacher cannot be reached, leave a name and phone number so that the teacher may return the call to set a conference with you. (Please try to contact teachers before school, or after school, or during their planning period.)
3. Please do not attempt to contact a teacher at home, unless directed to do so by your child’s teacher.
4. Please do not try to conduct a conference with a teacher during the school day unless the conference has been previously scheduled. Teachers have their schedule of classes and students to which they must attend. These can be emotional times for both the parent and the teacher and usually do not promote positive resolutions.

THE NEXT STEP

What can you do if the meeting with the teacher did not provide a satisfactory resolution?

1. Call and schedule an appointment with the School Principal to discuss the situation.
2. At this meeting, the appropriate next step can be determined if necessary.
3. Contact the Central Office only after going through the School Principal initially. Stokes County Schools’ Central Office contact number is (336) 593-8146.

SCHOOL CONTACT NUMBERS

Middle Schools

- Chestnut Grove Middle School983-2106
- Piney Grove Middle School593-4000
- Southeastern Middle School591-4371

High Schools

- North Stokes High School593-8134
- South Stokes High School994-2995
- West Stokes High School983-2099

PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Ensure that your child understands that no matter what, you love him or her.
2. Assist your child in setting realistic goals.
3. Emphasize “improved” performance.
4. Emphasize academics first, extra-curricular activities second.
5. Provide a safe and caring environment at home.
6. Control your emotions at conferences.
7. Be a “cheerleader” for your child and all children in the educational setting under all circumstances.
8. Respect and support your child’s teachers. Communicate with them in a positive way. Encourage others to do the same.
9. Respect and support the administrators at your child’s school. Teachers and administrators are human and do make mistakes.
10. Be a positive role model for your child. Children do pay attention to your actions.
11. Be sensible, be responsible, and keep priorities in order.
12. Expect hard work and demonstrate your commitment to high standards.

SCHOOL CONTACT NUMBERS

Elementary Schools

- Francisco Elementary.....351-2453
- Germantown Elementary.....591-4021
- King Elementary.....983-5824
- Lawsonville Elementary..... 593-8284
- London Elementary.....591-7204
- Mount Olive Elementary.....983-4351
- Nancy Reynolds Elementary..... 351-2480
- Pine Hall Elementary.....427-3689
- Pinnacle Elementary.....368-2990
- Sandy Ridge Elementary.....871-2400
- Walnut Cove Elementary.....591-4408

Alternative Schools

- Meadowbrook Academy.....985-3224



**Stokes
County
Schools**

**Parent/Teacher/Student
Conference**

**Mr. Ronnie Mendenhall
Superintendent
P.O. Box 50
Danbury, NC 27016**

(336) 593-8146

E-mail:ronnie.mendenhall@stokes.k12.nc.us

PARENT/TEACHER RELATIONSHIP

Parenting and teaching are both extremely difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding of each position, we are better able to accept the actions of the other and to provide a greater benefit to children. As parents, when your child is involved in our education program, you have the right to understand what expectations are placed on him/her. This begins with clear communications from the teacher of your child.

FIVE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. What skills and knowledge will your students be expected to master this year?
2. What will your students learn this year in core subjects like Math, Science, History, and English?
3. Are there challenging academic standards in place at your school, and how do they compare with those at other school districts? Show these standards to parents.
4. How will you inform students about the academic standards they're expected to meet?
5. What kinds of projects and assignments have you planned that will help your students meet higher academic standards?

PARENTS PREPARATION LIST FOR CONFERENCE

1. **Talk to your child before the conference.**
Ask your child what he/she would like you to discuss at the meeting. One strategy is to say, "I'm going to be meeting with your teacher; what will she tell me?" Your child's response will give you ideas for what to discuss with the teacher. If your child responds, for example, that the teacher will say he/she is terrible in math, or that he talks all day long, then you should address these issues in the meeting.
2. **Ask questions.**
Come to the conference with a list of questions regarding your child's academic and social issues, as well as questions about the teacher's philosophy.

Some good questions to ask may include:

- What are my child's strongest and weakest subjects?
 - What can I do from home to extend my child's learning at home?
 - Is my child working up to his or her potential ability? If not, what can we do to change that?
 - How well does my child get along with classmates?
 - How do you evaluate my child?
 - How can you challenge my student if he is excelling? How can you support my child if he is falling behind?
 - What is your homework policy?
 - Share information about your child. Teachers need your help as they educate your children. And no one knows your child better than you. Bring to the conference work samples that you'd like to discuss, or, if it's an early-in-the-year conference, bring work samples from last school year. The more you share about your child—both strengths and weaknesses—the better the teacher will successfully meet their needs.
3. **Raise issues of concern.**
Plan ahead of time how you will raise issues of concern. When expressing concerns be tactful, but not so much that you don't communicate the problem clearly. Listen to what the teacher has to say in response to the problem. Then work together to find a solution.
 4. **Take notes.**
Take notes during the conference so that you remember everything the teacher says. After the meeting, review your notes. If something is unclear, schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher to clarify.
 5. **Make the most of your time.**
Conferences are usually scheduled for a half-hour. Make the most of your meeting by arriving on time. Try not to bring babies or young children to the meeting as they can cause distractions.

TEACHER PREPARATION FOR CONFERENCE

Professionally conducted parent-teacher conferences can prove a most valuable strategy for improving student classroom behavior as well as enhancing learning. Here are some ideas used by successful teachers to reap the maximum benefit from parent-teacher conferences.

- Before the conference, plan what you hope to accomplish. What information do you want to share with the parent? What problems need solving? Do not overwhelm the parent. Settle on no more than two or three concerns to be addressed. A laundry list of complaints will only discourage or alienate them.
- If you are requesting the conference in response to a specific problem with the child, allow some time to cool off before meeting with the parent. You'll be less emotionally charged and more objective after a couple of days. Remember, you are a professional educator.
- When a student begins to misbehave in class, begin to keep an index card recording specific disturbances noted. Include the name, date, description of problem behavior, and action taken. Make your notes as soon after an incident as possible.

APPROPRIATE TIMES FOR A PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE

1. Child is experiencing problems at home.
2. Concerns about your child's behavior.
3. Concerns about your child's academic performance.
4. Safety of your child.
5. Quarterly conferences should be scheduled to discuss student performance. Neither party should wait for a problem to arise to conduct a conference.