

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the Parent-Teacher Conferences be held?

Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Students will be dismissed from school at 1:30 pm. If unable to attend, please directly contact classroom teachers.

2. Where will the Parent-Teacher Conferences be held?

The Conferences are held at OKM in the Blue Gym and the Gold Gym with an “arena style” format. The teachers are located in one of the gyms based on the first letter of his/her surname. All teachers with surnames A-L will be in the Blue Gym and all teachers with surnames M -Z will be in the Gold Gym. If there are exceptions, these will be noted in the gyms.

3. What is the purpose of Parent-Teacher Conferences?

For parents and teachers to make a quick connection and build a relationship in order that they may work together to help students succeed.

4. What can I expect from attending the Parent-Teacher Conferences?

This is a “Meet and Greet” opportunity for parents and teachers. This session is the chance to either introduce yourself to your child’s teachers, provide your contact information and share a piece of information about your child or to further previous conversations.

Also, this is a good time for the teachers to let you know about their class. For example, the teachers may share whether or not they have a website and how they will be using it for communicating with students and parents.

5. How long is each meeting with a teacher?

Due to the number of parents wishing to attend the conferences, five minutes is the recommended time. If the five minute period is not enough time to cover all you need to discuss, you can follow up with the teacher in order to continue your discussion. However, if another parent is not waiting to speak with the teacher then you could spend a few more minutes together.

6. What should I bring to the Parent-Teacher Conferences?

It is very helpful if you bring your student’s class schedule. This listing will provide you with the names of your child’s teachers so you will know who you would like to meet. The schedule also provides the course name and block assignment which are useful pieces of information to share with the teacher. Many parents find that bringing a photo of their student is also beneficial, as many teachers have up to 200 students!

Because the interview is brief, it is helpful to prepare by making a list of questions you may wish to ask. You may also wish to discuss with your student whether or not there are any questions he/she would like you to ask the teachers. If there isn’t enough time to discuss everything at the interview, you can follow up with the teacher to continue your discussion.

7. Can I bring my student to the Parent-Teacher Conferences?

Yes. This is encouraged. Students should be a part of conversations about their learning.

8. If I have a concern about my student, should I wait for the Parent-Teacher Conferences to talk to the teacher?

No. If you have a concern about your student, you should contact the teacher as soon as possible to discuss your concern. Please send the teacher an email to initiate communication about your concern and to arrange for a time to meet.

9. I wish to discuss a sensitive or confidential matter. Is that appropriate at the Parent-Teacher Conferences?

No. The “arena style” format makes it very difficult to engage in a private and confidential conversation. Please contact the teacher by email to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet in the teacher’s classroom or another private setting. If this is not possible, a phone call conference could be arranged.

10. What do I do if I am unable to attend the Parent-Teacher Conferences?

Please contact the teachers directly by email or phone to request a mutually convenient time at which to meet.

The Staff Directory is located on the OKM website and displays both the email addresses and telephone numbers of the OKM staff.

OKM Staff Directory <http://www.okm.sd23.bc.ca/Contact/StaffDirectory/Pages/default.aspx>

11. How do I access other supports beyond the classroom teacher?

- (a) **First Nations Advocate:** Melissa Madden
Melissa Madden is at OKM on Wednesday and Friday Email: melissa.madden@sd23.bc.ca
- (b) **International Education and English Language Learner Support:** Lynn Simpson
Email: Lynn.Simpson@sd23.bc.ca
- (c) **Learning Assistance:** Beth Parks/Megan Harvey
- (d) **Behaviour Support:** Austin Ross
- (e) **Career Life Programs:** Jill Robinson
- (f) **Resource Programming:** Jan Arneson/Jen McLeod
- (g) **Academic Intervention:** Miranda Akurienne
- (h) **Counselling/Course Advising:**
Surnames A-J: Jennifer Mackereth
Surnames K-Z: Solenn Dishaw
Please visit the Counselling Centre website at <http://okmcounselling.weebly.com/>
- (i) **RCMP School Resource Officer:** Constable Lesley Smith
- (j) **Mental Health Clinician:** please contact our counsellors for Mental Health supports
- (k) **Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services:**
ARC Counsellors for OKM service all grades. For referrals please contact counsellors or administrators.
Administration:
 - (l) Nina Ferguson, Vice-Principal, for students with last names A-G
 - (m) Mike Dornian, Vice-Principal, for students with last names H-M
 - (n) Jasmine Lemon, Vice-Principal, for students with last names N-Z
 - (o) Bruce McKay, OKM Principal

All school staff contact information is available on our website.