Parent – Teacher Interview Tips

As a parent, you are your child’s first and most important teacher. St. Gregory the Great CES and our parent community have something in common: We both want your child to learn and do well. When parents and teachers talk to each other, each person can share important information about your child’s talents and needs. Each party can also learn something new about how to help your child. Parent–Teacher Interviews are a great way to start talking to your child’s teachers.

Here are some tips on ways that you can make the most of parent-teacher interview so that everyone benefits, especially your child.

1. **Interviews are a two-way conversation**. Like all good conversations, parent–teacher interviews are best when both parties talk and listen. The conference is a time for you to learn about your child’s progress in school. This is also a time for the teacher to learn about what your child is like at home. When you tell the teacher about your child’s skills, interests, needs, and dreams, the teacher can help your child more.
2. **Keep the emphasis of the conversation on learning.** Good parent–teacher interviews focus on how well the child is doing in school. They also talk about how the child can do even better. To get ready for the conversation, look at your child’s homework, tests, and notices before the interview. Be sure to bring a list of questions that you would like to ask the teacher.  Think about ways you would like to be further involved in your child’s learning so that you can discuss them with the teacher.
3. **Discuss opportunities and challenges for your child.** Just like you, teachers want your child to succeed. You will probably hear positive feedback about your child’s progress and areas for improvement. Be prepared by thinking about your child’s strengths and challenges beforehand. Be ready to ask questions about ways you and the teacher can help your child with some of his or her challenges.

*Adapted from: Harvard Family Research Project – www.hfrp.org*