

This week's letter is from Bailey Lowenthal, our guidance director.

Dear DCI Community,

Student Led Conferences are May 6th and May 13th at DCI!

Spring student-led conferences provide a setting for parents to learn more about their child's experience this year at DCI and the amazing work students have accomplished over the entire school year.

While parents don't meet with all their students' teachers, the experience does give parents a chance to be with their child in the classroom, to see our school and classrooms, and to hear their child's thought provoking insights about their learning-both successes and challenges.

The SLC provides a platform for conversations that wouldn't normally occur in our daily routines. In my experience, parents often come away from these conferences in awe of their own children. Because the student is the center of the reflection process, parents are astonished- not only by their children's accomplishments, but also by their ability to self reflect and truly engage in assessing their own growth.

But don't take my word for it, parents themselves have reported:

- "I liked hearing my child's own evaluation of her strengths and areas for development. Self assessment and evaluation are critical for growth."
- "I appreciated seeing my child present her own ideas regarding her progress and goals. Her advisor was very engaged and did a great job of answering our questions."
- "I appreciated the ownership my child took over his assessments and the opportunity for him to analyze in which area he can improve. I enjoyed seeing samples of his work."
- "I like that this approach allows for full transparency with the students so that they have an active role in their development and are aware of the goal setting between the parents and teachers. Helps to develop our children into leaders."

We know that education is a collaborative effort between family, students and staff. By attending your child's conference you become more aware of your child's needs (and amazingness!) We can suggest specific ways you can work with your child at home and you can hear directly from your child what support they need to excel at DCI.

What are the roles? What is expected of all the stakeholders?			
	Students	Advisors	Parents/Guardians
Before the conference:	During ATL: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select work samples that represent their growth in ATL skills.• Reflect on their Q3 goal and their report card	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guide students in the collection of work for presentation and in reflection on work and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign up for a conference time• Plan to spend 30 mins (plus 20 minutes to find parking!) at the school with your child• Arrange for childcare for children too young for school

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a GoogleSlide/Prezi/Emaze presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a conference schedule based on the family schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> or not attending the conference • Notify work responsibilities that you will be unavailable for the timing of your child's Conference.
During the conference:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate, share and discuss learning with their parents • Identify personal strengths and learning goals with parents and teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a facilitator in the conference and offer feedback • Discuss academic achievements and strategies to improve areas for growth with students and parents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on and participate with their child, with an open mind • Engage in a discussion of how to help your child succeed even more in the coming weeks
After the conference:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback about the conference process via the exit survey at the front desk • Discuss new goals and next steps for learning • Follow through on agreements made at the conference 		

Please contact your child's advisor directly if you have not scheduled your Student Led Conference time.

I look forward to another successful round of Student Conferences at DCI this Spring!

Sincerely,
Bailey Lowenthal