

**Parents!**  
**Columbia Junior High invites you to our**  
**first ever Student-Led Conferences**  
**March 23-27!**

**What are Student-Led Conferences?**

- ❖ As the name suggests, they are conferences led by students, between the student and his/her parents! Prior to the conference, students will collect work that reflects what they have learned. Students will be taught how to select work samples and how to evaluate their work to determine their strengths and weaknesses. This work will be assembled in their Advisory notebooks. As the students conduct the conference, they will explain skills they have learned and share goals they have set for themselves.

**Why Are We Having Student-Led Conferences?**

- ❖ We believe that student involvement in the conferences provides opportunities for students to evaluate their performance, encourages students to accept responsibility for their learning, and makes learning an active process. Allowing students to take charge of the conference makes them more accountable for what they are learning. In addition, this form of conferencing creates a partnership between the home and the school that is hard to get in any other way.

**How Are the Student-Led Conference Days Scheduled?**

- ❖ Advisors will have blocks of time available each day from 2:30-3:00 p.m. Conferences are 20 minutes in length. In addition, we will have a 2 hour block of time available from 6-8 p.m. on March 24<sup>th</sup>. In February, your student will be scheduling a date and time that works for both of you to attend together.

**What's the Role of the Parent in Student-Led Conferences?**

- ❖ Your first role is as a listener. Having a parent audience for learning gives students a powerful reason to learn and work hard. Your second role as a parent is to talk with the student about the work that will be presented. You will gain a better understanding of the academic expectations set for your child. Your third role as a parent is to identify ways you can support the student to achieve goals that will be set for the rest of grading period.

**What's the Role of the Student During Student-Led Conferences?**

- ❖ Students should be able to explain academic progress, discuss how their learning is reflected in their classroom work, and be able to share goals for improving performance and preparing for the future.

**What's the Role of the Advisor in Student-Led Conferences?**

- ❖ Different from student-led conferences at the elementary level, our student-led conferences are facilitated by advisors. Your child's advisor may not be one of your child's teachers. Your child's advisor has been working with your child the entire year, focusing on his/her academic progress. The advisor makes sure that all students know and can discuss the academic standards, makes sure conference materials are available for students and parents, and helps schedule and organize the conferences to ensure successful communication. If your child is an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, she/he will have the same advisor next year! If, after attending the student-led conference, you wish to have a follow up conversation with one of your child's teachers, please contact him/her via e-mail or our counseling office.

**What Should a Parent Do If He or She Cannot Attend the Conference?**

- ❖ Student-led conferences can be a very special time for you and your child. Please do your best to make yourself available for these conferences. Our school will do its best to accommodate parent schedules. However, if it is not possible for you to attend alternate appointment times, you may want to ask a grandparent, another relative, or perhaps a family friend to take your place. If you have any questions, please contact your student's advisory teacher or school counselor at 517-1600.