

Welcome back and Happy 2010! I hope you all had a joyous and relaxing holiday season. Here at the Mountain we are back in action and gearing up for first semester finals and the start of second semester.

I want to thank all of you who attended the student-led conferences in November. Having a solid partnership between the school and the parent only increases student success and the student-led conference is one way to strengthen the partnership.

We had 1006 students complete their student-led conference. This is a huge increase over last year where only 13% of our families attended conferences.

Below is the data collected from the feedback forms available for parents to fill out and turn in. We are using your feedback to help us plan future conferences.

Number of feedback forms completed: 676

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|---|----------|--------|
| 1. Was your student's conference worthwhile?                | Yes: 629 | No: 47 |
| 2. Should the school hold student-led conference next year? | Yes: 609 | No: 66 |

**Most common comments:**

- Nice to hear from the student how they are doing.
- Student's had to share their goals.
- This forces kids to think about what they are doing and where they are going.
- Nice to have the advisor as part of the conference.
- It helps student's know how to speak in front of people.

**Most common questions/concerns regarding student-led conferences:**

- I would like to talk with all teachers and hear their feedback.
- I would like to see a progress report from each class.
- Students need to have their paper's organized before the conference.
- When will we have online grades for parents to access?

We are working on adjusting the format so it balances your desire to speak with individual teachers with the district's expectation that students be involved in the conferences.

As far as the question regarding on-line grading, the district is currently running the online grade program at several schools. They expect to have all buildings up and running by the completion of the 2009-2010 school year. I will keep you updated as I get more information. It is a fabulous tool and should help strengthen communication between teacher and parent.

Thank you again for your continued support of Mount Rainier. Go Rams!

Julie Hunter  
Principal