

Welcome to Open School Week!

TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE



At parent-teacher conferences you will meet individually with your child's teacher(s).

Teachers will share

- what your child is expected to learn and how she or he is meeting those expectations
- what special help or services the school offers to support your child's learning
- how you can encourage your child's learning at home
- how you and the teacher can work together to help your child.

The conference is also an opportunity for you to ask questions and discuss any concerns you may have.



How you can prepare for the parent-teacher conference:

- ask your child how he or she feels about classes, assignments and school; together, prepare a short list of questions or concerns that you can raise with the teacher
- make arrangements so you can be on time for your meeting; if possible, make child care arrangements for young children.

Think about what you can tell teachers that will help them understand your child better, such as your child's:

- favorite or best subjects
- special interests, skills, talents and hobbies
- study habits
- medical conditions, family situation or any problems that can affect learning, attendance or behavior
- any resistance to going to school.

Here are some questions that you might want to ask the teacher(s)

- What topics will be taught this year? What are some important skills that my child will have to master?
- In what areas is my child doing well? In what areas is my child having difficulties?
- Does my child participate in class activities and discussions? Does she or he do the homework assignments?
- How much time do you expect to be spent on homework? Do you assign homework every day? Are there any special projects or long-term reading assignments?
- What are the standardized tests in my child's grade or subject? When are they given? How will I be informed of the results?
- Is tutoring or other extra help available at school?
- What determines the grade my child will get in this class or subject?
- How can I get in touch with you?

Tailoring support for your child:

What's offered in the typical class may not meet the needs of every child. **New York City public schools offer many programs and services to help different kinds of learners learn.** If you think your child needs special support, ask the teacher what is available. Options may range from enrichment classes for gifted and talented students or extra help in small groups, to programs for English language learners and support services from social workers or speech or language teachers. **Talk to the teacher about your child's special needs.**

If your child is receiving **special education services**, his or her school program is based on an individualized education program (IEP). Make sure you have a copy of the current IEP and ask your child's teacher if she or he has a copy (the law requires that she or he does). If your child is not receiving the services he or she is entitled to, you should let the UFT know (212-701-9499); the ARISE Coalition is also a resource to which you can turn (212-822-9523).

**PARENT-
TEACHER
CONFERENCE
DATES 2012**

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Wed., Mar. 14 evening

Tues., Mar. 13 afternoon

INTERMEDIARY & JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

Wed., Feb. 29 evening

Tues., Feb. 28 afternoon

HIGH SCHOOLS

Thurs., Mar. 29 evening

Fri., Mar. 30 afternoon

DISTRICT 75 SCHOOLS

Mon., Mar. 19 evening

Tues., Mar. 20 afternoon

THE UFT IS HERE TO HELP!



The UFT's Dial-A-Teacher Offers Homework Help

The UFT sponsors a homework help program called Dial-A-Teacher. Classroom teachers answer homework questions at 212-777-3380, Monday through Thursday, from 4 to 7 p.m. during the school year. They can also answer parents' questions and give advice on how you can help your child at home.

The staff speaks eight languages: Bengali, Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese and Fukanese), English, French, Haitian-Creole, Russian, Slovak and Spanish.

UFT Parent Support

The UFT's parent and community outreach is led by **Director for Community and Parent Outreach Anthony Harmon**, who works out of the union's main office. In addition, the UFT offers support to parents in every borough. Workshops, networking and informational meetings are scheduled for groups and one-on-one. To find out what's available and to ask other questions, contact the UFT borough office in the borough where you live or where your child attends school.

Here is best way to reach our community and parent liaisons:

Bronx

Nick Cruz
Bronx UFT Office
2500 Halsey Street
Bronx, NY 10461
718-862-6074
ncruz@uft.org

Brooklyn

Betty Zohar
Brooklyn UFT Office
335 Adams St., 25th Fl.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-722-6936
bzohar@uft.org

Manhattan

Francine Streich
Manhattan UFT Office
52 Broadway, 10th Fl.
New York, NY 10004
212-701-9464
fstreich@uft.org

Queens

Rose Walker-Yates
Queens UFT Office
97-77 Queens Blvd., 5th Fl.
Rego Park, NY 11374
718-275-4400
rwalker@uft.org

Staten Island

Joan McKeever-Thomas
Staten Island UFT Office
4456 Amboy Road
Staten Island, NY 10312
718-605-1400
jmcktt@uft.org

Dear parent,

The United Federation of Teachers, the collective voice of your child's teachers and all the educators of New York City's school system, is pleased to offer these resources to you.

Our Dial-A-Teacher program and our parent and community liaisons are here to help you.

On the reverse side of this flyer, we offer some tips for getting the most out of parent-teacher conferences. We know that educators and parents working together can secure the best future possible for our children.

Sincerely,

Michael Mulgrew
UFT President

More information and resources are available on the UFT website: www.uft.org/parents



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