

CONFERENCE WEEK AT NORTHSTAR

Northstar teachers meet with their students and parent(s) for conference week twice a year, at the end of January and again in the middle of June. Dates are usually the last three days of the semester.

These appointments are used to prepare a schedule for the new semester, go over how the previous semester went, and to discuss any questions parents or students may have. The conference is with the student's support group teacher only. They are able to discuss all the student's classes and his/her progress in each subject.

What Students Do During Conference Week

All students and their parent(s) sign up to see their support group teacher for an individual half hour appointment during the school day. While all the teachers are meeting individually with their support group students, "classes" are held by parents and outside presenters for the rest of the students. The classes are usually held from 8:10 am – 12:00 pm.

Examples of Conference Classes

The diverse enrichment activities offered are coordinated by the NAC. These classes provide an experience that goes above and beyond the everyday experience at school. The conference classes are extracurricular and include a wide range of possibilities. Some things that have been done in the past are:

- Archery
- Tie dye
- Cake decorating
- Ceramics
- Chess tournament
- Cooking
- Exploring the brain
- Foreign short films
- Indoor and outdoor games
- Origami
- Presentations on various topics: engineering, environmental science, languages, lifestyle in a foreign country, working for the Peace Corps, etc.
- Speakers from the community: a Microsoft employee, a psychologist, a race car driver with his car, a pilot (no, he didn't bring his plane), etc.
- Space exploration
- Yoga

What Parents Do During Conference Week

The help of many hands is required to offer all these wonderful enrichment classes.

Multiple 50 minute long presentations need to be put together, scheduled for presenters and assistants, and brought to students. Planning usually starts 12 weeks in advance. The volunteer efforts of many parents are needed to make Conference Week a success. If you would like to volunteer to teach a class, assist for one of the time slots, or if you know a wonderful presenter in the community, please contact the conference week committee.





