

Maranacook Community Middle School  
Regional School Unit 38  
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**“A Caring School Community Dedicated to Excellence”**

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Greetings Parents/Guardians:

It's time for Spring conferences which feature Advisor-based Student Led Conferences, however this time we will be making some changes to these conferences to try and make them more beneficial for both students and parents.

Since October, a group of staff has convened to look at our conferences and make them more consistent across the school. The focus of these conferences in all advisor groups and across all teams will be having each student go through the process of presenting their learning, reflecting on it, and setting goals around improvement. One of the primary focuses of middle school is to have the students take ownership and become active participants in their learning. It is a process I have been part of in the other schools I have worked in, both as a teacher and as an administrator, and fully endorse..

We understand that not all parents may be able to attend their student's conference for various reasons, however we want all students to go through the important steps of evaluating their learning at this point in time and presenting how they plan on becoming a better student academically, socially, and emotionally. This directly supports the current work that teams are doing with our Habits of Work rubric, and it relates to the soft skills that both colleges and employers say all students need for the 21st century. The expectation is that if a student cannot do this with their parents, then we will find 15 minutes at school at a time that does not disrupt a class for them to present to their Advisor and one other staff of their choice.

We will be spending staff meeting time over the next several weeks to provide training opportunities so that these conferences will be worth the time. We will also spend four extended advisee times helping the students prepare both the work and the presentation, including time to rehearse, so there should not be any work around this outside of school.

Advisor-based Student Led Conferences will be scheduled through Pick a Time, the online program we used in the fall. When scheduling this conference, please sign up for a common time when you and your child plan to attend. Please use the link on our website to sign up at: <http://mcms.maranacook.org> or go to <https://pickatime.com/mcms>.

Be sure to sign up under your child's **ADVISOR**. The conference will be 20 minutes long. Your child's teachers will be available if you have questions after the student led conference. In order to meet with them, you will need to sign up the day of your child's conference on the sign up sheet outside the teacher/team door.

- **Thursday, February 8 and Thursday, March 1.**
- **Parent, Student, and Advisor: 3:00 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. (Sign-Up Online)**
- **Available time with Classroom Teachers: 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. (Sign-Up on Team Door)**
- **Parent, Student, and Advisor: 5:20 p.m. to 6:35 p.m. (Sign-Up Online)**
- **Available time with Classroom Teachers: 6:35 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Sign-Up on Team Door)**

**Attention 8th grade parents!** Both of the conference dates occur before Advisors will be signing students up for 9th grade classes. If you have questions about classes at the high school or the registration process, please bring them to the conference.

Looking forward to seeing you,  
Rick Hogan & The Maranacook Community Middle School Advisors

\*\*If you do not have internet access, please contact Phyllis Cote at 685-3128 to sign up for an Advisor-based Student Led Conference.