



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

# Tip-Off

October 10, 2022

## Parent-Teacher Conferences - Fall Session

The bargaining unit members may be required to attend two to four parent-teacher conference sessions per year. A session may occur over multiple days.

- High school conferences will be the week of October 10.
- Middle school conferences will be the week of October 17.
- Elementary conferences will be the week of October 24.

For more information, please visit the *Omaha Education Association Master Agreement 2021-2023, Section VI. Other Provisions Part B.*

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### Helpful ideas for Parent-Teacher Conferences paraphrased from the article Mastering the Parent-Teacher Meeting: Eight Powerful Tips by Nancy Barile, Award-Winning Teacher, M.A.Ed.

**Be Proactive** - "Finding ways to welcome families and encourage them to become active participants in your classroom. If childcare is a problem, let parents know they can bring young ones to the meeting.

**Be Welcoming** - Set the right tone for your parent-teacher meeting by shaking hands, stating your name and the subject you teach, and mentioning how happy you are to be teaching their child.

**Explain Objectives and Expectations** - I like to give parents an overview of the goals for my classes, discuss the expectations I have for my students, and explain any language that a parent might not be familiar with (rubric, scaffolding, readiness, testing acronyms, etc.).

**Be Prepared** - Review your students' grades and portfolios before the conferences. Jot down notes about each student, anticipate questions or parental concerns, and reread any prior parent communication so you don't miss a beat.

**Create an Action Plan** - Create an action plan that clearly lays out the specific steps that the teacher, the parent, and the student will need to take in order for the student to be successful.

**Use the Good-Bad-Good Sandwich** - Highlighting something positive first, then move on to the issue, discuss your action plan for correcting the behavior, and finish up with another positive statement.

**Don't Tolerate Abuse** - If a parent becomes abusive, simply end the meeting; explain how they can take up the matter with the principal.

**Keep Lines of Communication Open** - Explain to parents how they can get in touch with you after the meeting and ask the best way to reach them.

You can read the entire article at: <https://www.wgu.edu/heyteach/article/mastering-parent-teacher-meeting-eight-powerful-tips1612.html>

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### More Parent-Teacher Conference Information on Page 3

## One of "those" days?

*Need to get your mind calmed down?*

Try one of these...

1. Go do something you like to do.
2. Try to meditate.
3. Draw/Doodle, color in a coloring book
4. Read a book, magazine, or newspaper outside
5. Take a walk
6. Write down the negatives of the day on a piece of paper. When you are done, tear it up and throw it away.
7. Get a face mask with lotion from the store and use it.





# Student-Led Conferences

Are you going to be doing Student-Led Conferences? Here are some helpful ideas paraphrased from the article **10 Simple Tips for Making Student-Led Conference Work For You by Differentiated Teaching.**

**Consider if technology is the right choice.** Instead of having students make a PowerPoint presentation for their parents/guardians, have students fill out an organizer that includes grades, goals, strengths and weaknesses.

**Make a template to guide your student-led conferences.** If you do decide to use computers to create your presentations, be sure to create a template in advance.

**Look at non-digital alternatives.** A mini-book is another great way to share information with parents during the student-led conference and it makes for a great keepsake.

**Practice, Practice, Practice.** I always start our practice time by talking about what a good presentation looks like.

**Schedule it out.** I schedule my student-led conferences open-house style.

**Create personalized invitations.** I give my students about 20 minutes to design an invitation.

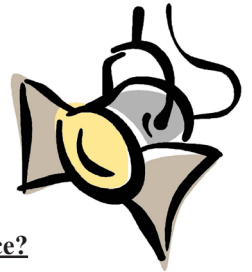
**Bring treats to keep the atmosphere light.** The parents love to look through the journals or take another classroom tour with their children while they enjoy a snack.

**Write a note to each student as a personal touch.** I write each student a personalized note about why I enjoyed having them in class and how I am proud of them.

**Give options to those who cannot attend.** The bonus of this system is if a parent cannot come to school, their child can still share at home!

**Spend some time on clean up before the big day.** I use this as my chance to send home the portfolios and other work samples I've collected.

**You can read the entire article at:** <https://www.differentiatedteaching.com/10-simple-tips-for-making-student-led-conferences-work-for-you/>



## Master Agreement “Spotlight”

### Sick Days vs Personal Days... What Are These?

All full-time professional employees of the District shall be entitled to an annual sick leave allocation equal to one sick day per month, up to ten sick days per school year. The maximum accumulation for sick days is 127 days for all full-time employees.

New employees will receive one personal day per semester their first year. Used personal days will be paid out after the conclusion of the calendar year at a rate of \$185 per day. Personal leave cannot be requested during the first five student contact days or on days when parent/teacher conferences are scheduled or the last ten contracted days or on days immediately preceding or following a district observed federal or school holiday and/or recess period except for a few reasons.

*For more information, please visit the Omaha Education Association Master Agreement 2021-2023 (Section IV. Leaves of Absence, Part A-B).*

### Coverage vs Overage... What's the Difference?

When a teacher has a coverage, this means a substitute teacher was unable to be at the school for a teacher for that day. Therefore, teachers within the building will need to take turns being the substitute in that classroom throughout the day during their prep time. Loss of plan pay is paid \$50 per hour.

When a teacher has an overage, this means a teacher was unable to be hired for a certain class in the building. Therefore, a teacher within the building will need to volunteer to take on an extra class during their plan time for the semester. Teachers who volunteer to take on an overage for the semester will be compensated \$4,300 per semester.

*For more information, please visit the Omaha Education Association Master Agreement 2021-2023 (Section III. Compensation and Benefits, Part D 2-4).*

**Where can I find a copy of the Omaha Education Association Master Agreement for 2021-2023?**

**A digital copy of the agreement can be found on the OEA website @ <https://omahaoca.org/membership/master-agreement/>**

## A Little OEA History... Did You Know?

**1917 – Omaha Teachers Forum came to be.**

**1936 – Blue Cross and Blue Shield insurance coverage became available for teachers.**

**1942 – Omaha Teachers Forum became Omaha Education Association (OEA).**

**1968 – OEA gained recognition as the bargaining agent with Omaha Public Schools Board of Education.**

**2000 – OEA inherited some money and was able to move into their newly built building on South 57th Street.**

**Register for Early Voting at:** <https://www.nsea.org/EarlyVoter> Early voter ballot requests closes on October 28, 2022.  
Remember to vote! The General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 8.

**NSEA member-recommended candidates and information at:** <https://www.nsea.org/2022General>

**NSEA Children's Fund** Do you have a student in need? There is never red tape or lengthy delay for members who want to use the fund. A simple toll-free call to Karen Hunt at the NSEA (800-742-0047) is usually all that is needed. All requests are handled discreetly and confidentially.

Recipients are never identified or disclosed. <https://www.nsea.org/childrensfund>



**Webinars and professional development opportunities available at:**

<https://www.nsea.org/webinars> These online sessions are applicable to NSEA members with topics such as bargaining, politics, member benefits, student loan forgiveness, advocacy and membership. Visit <https://www.nsea.org/PDforEd> to indicate which webinars/topics you are interested in attending:

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 • Last Call: Student Debt Management, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 • Online Holiday Shopping and Travel through NEA Member Benefits, 5:30 pm

Thursday, November 17, 2022 • Financial Essentials, 7 pm

Tuesday, November 29, 2022 • Delegate Assembly 101, 7 pm

Thursday, December 8, 2022 • NSEA Member Opportunities, 8 pm

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 • Retirement Seminar, 7:30pm

Thursday, December 15, 2022 • Budgeting for the New Year, 5:30 pm

*\*These topics and other workshops can also be requested for local presentations at:*

<https://www.nsea.org/professional-development-catalog-0>

**NSEA's Conversations on Race and Belonging** is back for 2022-23. The sessions are designed to encourage participants to improve their personal racial understanding based on self-examination and awareness. The program builds a peer cohort and peer-to-peer relationships through conversation and storytelling. Participants will have the opportunity to gain empowering skills to initiate meaningful conversations on race and to approach such opportunities as bridges into relationships and connections with others. These skills will be incorporated into each session, as well as outside of the sessions, with friends and family. All assignments, including the podcasts and videos, generally run less than one hour. For more information or to sign up, visit: <https://www.nsea.org/Conversations>

**Mentoring & Instructional Coaching for Nebraska teachers. Videos and more information are available at:**

<https://www.nsea.org/mentor>

The NSEA is working to help passionate young educators stay in the profession and be successful through its Mentoring and Instructional Coaching initiative. NSEA received a three-year grant from the National Education Association's Great Public Schools Fund to help support these virtual programs. The NSEA can match you with a professional mentor who will help you with classroom questions and concerns. Mentoring programs not only help teachers, they help states and school districts retain and develop teachers and they benefit students through increased learning. Research shows that students who had teachers with formal mentoring saw significant achievement gains! If you'd like more information regarding the NSEA mentoring program, please contact Jason Wiese, Northeast Organizational Specialist, at 402-475-7611 or email him at [jason.wiese@nsea.org](mailto:jason.wiese@nsea.org).

*Virtual Instructional Coaching: Help build your skills through discussion and feedback from a caring, highly effective teacher who has been specially trained by the NSEA to be an instructional coach. Watch our online series for more helpful tips on managing classroom issues: <https://www.nsea.org/mentor>*

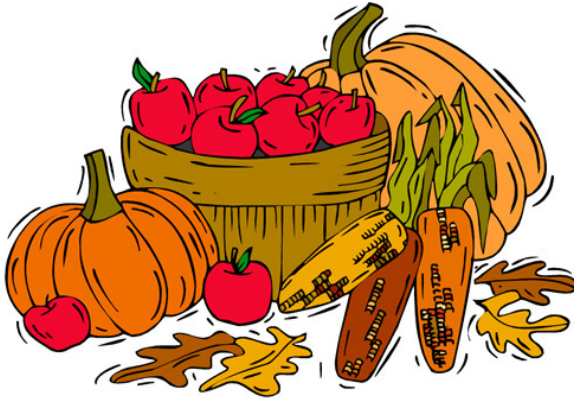
**NSEA's Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee** meeting dates and information can be found at: <https://www.nsea.org/emac>

All meetings begin at 10 a.m. with each Ethnic Caucus meeting from 9:30-10 a.m. All NSEA members are invited to participate.

## Calling All Apple Fans!!!!!!

Here are some fun locations to visit to pick some apples and enjoy some apple cider!

- **3 Bee Farms** 14922 535th Street, Griswold, Iowa
- **Arbor Day Farm** 2611 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska
- **Martin's Hillside Orchard** 2024 Ashland Road, Ceresco, Nebraska
- **Vala's Pumpkin Patch & Apple Orchard** 12102 S 180th Street, Gretna, Nebraska
- **Ditmars Orchard and Vineyard** 19475 225th Street, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- **Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard** 5995 G Road, Nebraska City, Nebraska
- **Small's Fruit Farm** 1844 194th Street, Mondamin, Iowa
- **Super Bee Orchard** 4571 Highway 75, Fort Calhoun, Nebraska
- **Tree, Shrubs & More** 3803 Cornhusker Road, Bellevue, Nebraska
- **Union Orchard** 2405 South Highway 75, Union, Nebraska



## More of a Pumpkin Spice Fan?

Here are some fun locations to get your pumpkin spice fix!

- **Nelson Produce Farm** 10505 North 234th Street, Valley, Nebraska
- **Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch** 3935 NE-133, Blair, Nebraska
- **Martin's Hillside Orchard** 2024 Ashland Road, Ceresco, Nebraska
- **Vala's Pumpkin Patch & Apple Orchard** 12102 S 180th Street, Gretna, Nebraska
- **Camp Fontanelle's Split Oak Hollow** 9677 County Road 3, Fontanelle, Nebraska
- **Arbor Day Farm** 2611 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska
- **Roca Berry Farm** 16531 South 38th Street, Roca, Nebraska
- **3 Bee Farms** 14922 535th Street, Griswold, Iowa
- **Bellevue Berry & Pumpkin Ranch** 11001 S 48th Street, Papillion, Nebraska
- **Bloom Where You're Planted** Farm 911 108th Street, Avoca, Nebraska
- **Camp Fontanelle** 9677 County Road 3, Nickerson, Nebraska
- **Grandpa's Pumpkin Farm** 116 Street F32, Panama, Iowa
- **Harvest Moon Pumpkin Patch** 1098 County Road N, Oakland, Nebraska
- **Pioneer Trail Pumpkin Patch** 21534 Chestnut Road, Council Bluffs, Iowa
- **Pumpkin Hill Farms** 28817 Westgate Road, Neola, Iowa
- **Roca Berry Farm** 16531 South 38th Street, Roca, Nebraska
- **Union Orchard** 2405 South Highway 75, Union, Nebraska
- **Welch's Pumpkin Patch** 17676 Sunnysdale Road, Council Bluffs, Iowa

## Tired of Pumpkin Patches and Apple Orchards?

*How about...*

**Popularity Coach (October 7-23)** at The Rose Theater, 2001 Farnam Street in Omaha, Nebraska (reserve your tickets soon)

**Fontenelle Family Fishing Frenzy (October 15)** at Fontenelle Park from 10am-2pm, 4405 Fontenelle Blvd in Omaha, Nebraska

**Alpacas of the Heartland (reservation needed)** \$8/person donation 7016 County Road 39 in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska

**Check Out a Public Library Pass** - Public library members can check out a pass to visit the following location(s):

**Durham Museum**

**Fontenelle Forest**

**Lauritzen Gardens**

### Omaha Craft Brewery Tour different breweries in the Omaha area:

Infusion Brewing Company  
Brickway Brewery & Distillery  
Lucky Bucket Brewing Company  
Zipline Brewing  
Thunderhead Brewing  
Kros Strain Brewing

Infusion Brewing  
Nebraska Brewing Company  
Farnam House Brewing Company  
Vis Major Brewing Company  
Scriptown Brewing Company  
Cut Spike Distillery

Upstream Brewing Company  
Keg Creek Brewery  
Site-1 Brewing  
Lazlo's Brewery and Grill

**Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts** where the art "pushes the envelope" and where the "artists and pieces... take you out of your comfort zone." 724 South 12th Street, Omaha, Nebraska

**Freedom Park Navy Museum** outside museum with plenty of incredible military memorabilia from the sea and air. 2497 Freedom Park Road, Omaha, Nebraska.

**River City Star** "Omaha's sole riverboat" Reservations are required. There are admission fees. 151 Freedom Park Road, Omaha, Nebraska.

#### **OEA Tip-Off**

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

Direct Inquiries to:

Michelle Settlemyer  
michelle.settlemyer@nsea.org  
402-346-0400

Sue Perkins

Communications Specialist  
sue.perkins@nsea.org

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.omahaoea.org](http://www.omahaoea.org)