

-- ABOUT --

Prayer Before a Parent-Teacher Conference:

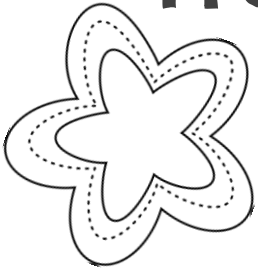
I do this prayer for a few reasons.

1. It starts the conference off on the right note. Our focus is on what is best for the student and his/her bigger picture. We can re-focus our priority on the child or teen's soul and personality over grades and schoolwork (although we will of course get to those in the conference too). We share this moment to show that we are all on the same page and have the same ultimate goals. We invite God into the conversation and the relationship. We put aside any stress or frustration for a little while to center ourselves with what matters most.
2. If the student is present (this prayer works either way, but I prefer a student-led conference), it shows him/her how much we care. It's ok to pause for a minute to reinforce that we care so much about his/her well-being and there are no sides here. We are all on the same team. It's really a great feeling as a kid/teen to see that people are praying just for you! They almost always start the conference with a little smile after hearing and participating in this little prayer that is all about them.
3. It begins with positive traits about the student. We acknowledge him/her as a blessing and thank God for the characteristics that make him/her special. We are thankful for this child!

I actually just ad-lib and do this general format, but making it up as I go. Once you do it a few times, you may be able to get comfortable doing the same. You can print the template or the sample as a guide.

I spend a quick 30 seconds between conferences to select the positive traits that I want to say for the next student, then when the parents walk in, right after introductions and taking a seat, I invite them to join me in taking a quick moment to start with a prayer. The reactions have always been positive.

Prayer Before a Parent-Teacher Conference:



God,

As we come together today, we thank you for the gift of _____ (student name).

We are grateful for his/her _____ and _____ (positive traits about individual student).

(Optional): He/she really can _____ (positive effect on others).

He/she is a blessing for us and for the entire class.

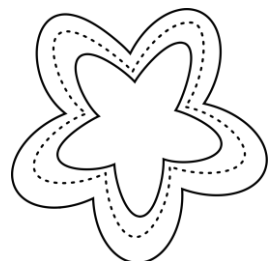
We thank you for bringing us together to help _____ (student name) today.

Please help us as teacher and parents to always do what is best for _____ (student) and to be patient and understanding. Guide us to be role models and supportive adults for him/her.

Give _____ (student) a healthy, happy year filled with growth and learning. Help him/her to grow in grace and love and to become the best young man/woman that he/she can be.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

(Optional: Now say an "Our Father" or other prayer together)



SAMPLE

Prayer Before a Parent-Teacher Conference:

God,
As we come together today, we thank you for the gift of
Jordan.

We are grateful for his positive outlook, cheerful attitude,
and quick wit.

He really can light up a room!

He's truly a blessing for us and for the entire class.

We thank you for bringing us together to help Jordan
today.

Please help us as teacher and parents to always do
what is best for him and to be patient and
understanding. Guide us to be role models and
supportive adults for him.

Give Jordan a healthy, happy year filled with growth
and learning. Help him to grow in grace and love and
to become the best young man that he can be.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

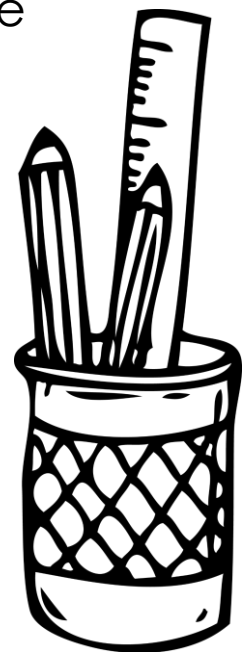
Sample Positive Traits

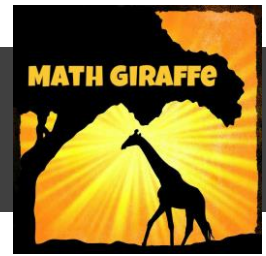
(You'll be able to find one or two in this list for even the most challenging students!)



Creativity
Sense of humor
Sense of adventure
Willingness to try
Inquisitive mind
Unique personality
Persistence
Cheerful attitude
Leadership ability
Internal strength
Loving spirit
Bravery
Resilience
Integrity
Different way of looking at the world
Fun personality
Friendliness
Unique perspective
Peaceful spirit

Willingness to accept a challenge
Thoughtfulness
Self-confidence
Respectful attitude
Enthusiasm
Dependability
Self-reliance
Curiosity
Expressiveness
Self-control
Social skills
Maturity
Cooperative attitude
Empathy
Independence





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