

Sign Up at Field Dreams for Spring Season

Sign up now for spring season at Field of Dreams in Polkton through March 8. Spring sports include:
 • Tee ball (ages 4-6) cost \$35 until February 22, then \$50
 • Baseball (ages 7-12) cost \$55 until February 22, then \$70
 • Softball (ages 7-18) cost \$55 until February 22, then \$70
 Two spring sign up days will be held at the Field of Dreams on Saturday, February 7 and Saturday, February 22, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
 Or you may sign up online at www.sportsmanager.us/aaya.htm. Let's play ball!

Be a Hit at Your Child's Parent Conference Day

The second semester Parent Conference Day is here and many parents are preparing to meet their child's teacher. Below are some ideas to help you win "big" during that special meeting:

• **Head off unpleasant surprises.** No parent wants to be blindsided by poor grades, inappropriate behavior, or missing assignments when sitting in front of the teacher. Get in touch with the teacher a few days in advance or check PowerSchool to get your child's latest grades.

The easiest way to contact the teacher is by email, as teachers often cannot leave class to take a phone call. It's also a good idea to use that email to request a heads-up of any concerns that might come your way during the parent-teacher meeting.

• **Come prepared.** Don't show up empty-handed. Bring a list of items that you would like to discuss. To make it easy for teachers to contact you if there is an issue to discuss during the year, bring business cards or papers with your up-to-date contact information on them and give one to each of your child's teachers.

• **Have a positive attitude.** When either party is defensive, it creates a counter-productive atmosphere at the meeting. Even if you have issues or concerns about your child's teacher, you'll get more out of going in with an open mind and open ears. Teachers don't "pick on" students just for fun. If negative issues are brought up, it's likely because the teacher is looking to you to help solve the problem. If you do have concerns, remember that many of them, such as complaints about school policies and class size, are above the teacher's pay scale and are best brought up directly with the administration or the board.

• **Ask for suggestions.** Remember that teachers spend quite a lot of time in your child's company throughout the week and can be a valuable source of suggestions and recommendations on how you can help your child succeed at home with study strategies, homework help, and internet resources.

• **Be mindful of the ten-minute rule.** The standard time allotted for each interview is roughly 10 minutes, so don't go to parent-teacher meetings planning to spend an half an hour with each teacher. This type of behavior creates lineups and frustration for parents and teachers. If you need more time, ask to schedule a longer meeting in the coming weeks.

• **Don't flirt with your child's teacher.**
 • When introducing yourself, say both the first and last name of your child. Since it is the beginning of a new semester and staff has so many new students, bring a recent picture, either in your wallet or smartphone. Teachers don't like to admit they can't match names and faces of their student ... even if it's early in the semester.

• **Remember that teachers don't want your kids to fail.** If your child received a failing grade, it was for a reason, and you need to get to the bottom of that reason together in a constructive way. Ask why they got that grade, and what you can do to help them do better.

If possible, review Power School and become updated on your child's most current progress prior to the meeting. If you have never used Power School or do not understand it, visit Dannie Montgomery at Anson High School - A7 or call her to schedule an appointment at 704-694-9301 ext. 06408.

Play *The Mountaintop* Comes to Cheraw in February

The Cheraw Arts Commission brings the play *The Mountaintop* to Cheraw during February. The play, performed by Pure Theatre of Charleston, will be presented on Friday, February 6 at 7 p.m. at the Theatre on the Green. *The Mountaintop* is a play by American playwright Katori Hall. It is a fictional depiction of the Reverend Martin Luther King's last night on earth set entirely in Room 306 of the Lorraine Motel on the eve of his assassination on April 4, 1968. After delivering one of his most memorable speeches, an exhausted Dr. King retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel while a storm rages outside.

"Even before the first flash of lightning - and there will be plenty of that before evening's end - an ominous electricity crackles through the opening moments of *The Mountaintop*." - NY Times.

Pure Theatre is an actor driven, professional theatre hosting an fourteen-member core ensemble of professional theatre artists who have made training and theatrical discipline a hallmark of their work. Pure has been the recipient of multiple audience and critic's awards.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and can be purchased at the Cheraw Community Center, 200 Powe Street. Contact the Cheraw Arts Commission at 843-537-8420 ext12 for additional information.

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