

## IMS Spring Forum Validator Instructions

Thank you for your participation in our Spring Forum program. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will present a portfolio that reflects their growth and accomplishments during middle school. Each student has 30 minutes - this includes time for questions and writing comments. Most students finish in about 20 minutes. If you need additional time, you can finish up your comments in the library after the last student finishes their presentation. All comment forms should be returned to the hostess in the library before you leave campus. Please offer each student a bag of "Spring Forum Fortune Cookies" before they leave.

**The role of a validator is to actively listen to each student's presentation and provide positive written feedback to each student. Your unedited comments are given to the students when Spring Forum concludes. Some information you may find helpful:**

- Students are given guidelines for their presentations but the final results will vary considerably based on learning style, interests, and presentation style.
- In addition to academic accomplishments, students may include a letter from their parents, accomplishments in sports, fine arts and community service.
- Although you may want to take some notes, try to wait until the student is finished with his/her presentation before you write your detailed comments.
- Positive feedback may also include a gentle critique.
- Your supportive responses are highly valued by the students and will be read carefully.
- Feel free to ask relevant questions and make encouraging comments during or after the presentation.

### Sample Questions

- From which assignment do you think you learned the most?
- What advice would you have for a new 6<sup>th</sup> grader to help them be more successful in their middle school years?
- What was your biggest challenge in middle school?
- Can you give me an example of when perseverance paid off in your middle school years? Do you think that experience will help you in high school?

### Comment Format

Specific comments are more powerful than generalizations.

General comment examples	Specific comment examples
Your presentation was great.	Your Humanities project showed off your writing skills!
I liked the energy you showed.	Your love of math and science was obvious from your enthusiastic robotics demonstration!
You are very organized.	The presentation of your 8 <sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies project really showed your attention to detail and organizational skills!
You are very creative.	Your PowerPoint presentation had an amazing number of interesting graphics!

**We hope validating for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be a rewarding volunteer experience!**