**CHOOSING GOALS FOR OURSELVES-PLEASE CHOOSE ANY 3 IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS-CATEGORIES INCLUDING “ALL SUBJECTS.” IF THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE, YOU THINK YOU NEED TO WORK ON, PLEASE LET MRS. DAVIS KNOW:  
  
ALL SUBJECTS:  
• EVERYONE: I will be open-minded, try to understand both sides of issues and analyze these “grey areas” and even revise my thinking when necessary. Or: I will continue to understand that there is no “right or wrong.” There is just difference of opinion and it is up to me to “think for myself,” and make my own judgment by examining different perspectives.  
• I will work hard to ensure that my written work matches my “smart thinking” by identifying important themes-main ideas in texts, providing evidence and adding insight.  
• I will reflect on my learning and consider how I have grown from each experience.  
• I will engage in meaningful conversation, ask “high order” questions and not just let my neighbors do the work and thinking. (In other words, I will participate more!)  
• I will stay focused, pay attention to my work and not worry about my neighbors.  
• I will be responsible and complete class work and homework in a timely manner and to the best of my ability.  
• I will set a pacing calendar to avoid saving my work for the last minute and in effect, not do as well as I could.  
• I will not be afraid to ask questions and ask for help from the teacher or peers, when needed.**

**ALL SUBJECTS-CHOOSE THE FIRST ONE AND ONE MORE:**

* **EVERYONE: I will be open-minded, try to understand both sides of issues and analyze these “grey areas” and even revise my thinking when necessary. Or: I will continue to understand that there is no “right or wrong.” There is just difference of opinion and it is up to me to “think for myself,” and make my own judgment by examining different perspectives.**
* **I will do my part to continue writing the starfish story every single day (knowing that I can make a big difference with each small random act of kindness)!!!**
* **I will reflect on my learning (self-assess) and consider how I have grown from each experience.**
* **I will engage in meaningful conversation, ask “high order” questions and not just let my neighbors do the work and thinking. (In other words, I will participate more!)**
* **I will stay focused, pay attention to my work and not worry about my neighbors.**
* **I will be responsible and complete class work and homework in a timely manner and to the best of my ability.**
* **I will set a pacing calendar to avoid saving my work for the last minute and in effect, not do as well as I could.**
* **I will not be afraid to ask questions and ask for help from the teacher or peers, when needed.**

**READING:  
   
• EVERYONE: I will learn how to integrate my prior knowledge with new information acquired (from multiple sources) in order to make meaningful judgments about topics-issues as well as speak and write about them with authority**

* **: I can deepen my comprehension of text by understanding the relationship between individuals and historical events, determining point of view, creating cause and effect diagrams and explaining how ideas in a text are related.   
  • I will learn how to gather relevant-important details and leave out those that are irrelevant and don’t pertain to the main idea.  
  • I will understand that sometimes texts have multiple meanings and will continue to identify themes-big ideas and main ideas in both fiction and non-fiction (sometimes “lifting” meaningful lines-passages) and make sure to provide sufficient evidence to support these ideas.  
  • I will make meaningful comparisons and contrasts between texts and provide sufficient evidence when doing so.  
  • I will analyze authors’ claims and arguments by conducting research and using critical thinking.  
  • I will identify and interpret different perspectives on the same topics.  
  • I will interpret and use special vocabulary words that have to deal with my topic-issue.  
  • I will understand and explain the authors’ craft (including the use of voice, tone, mood, word choice and figurative language) and consider author’s purpose to better understand how he or she conveys their messages and main ideas.  
  • I will continue to utilize predicting, clarifying, summarizing and questioning throughout fiction and non-fiction texts.  
  • I will continue to focus on how and why characters change in fiction.  
  • I will continue to make sure that my writing about my reading matches the meaningful ideas that I have in my head.  
  • I will make and defend my predictions and inferences, understanding that main ideas are not always stated. It is up to me to interpret and “read between the lines.”  
  • I will make sure to read independently with “just right books” for at least a half hour a day and respond critically to my reading by using at least one high order thinking prompt.  
  • I will engage in meaningful book conversations-class discussions by coming prepared for post it chats, listen and “piggyback” off my partners’ ideas, complete required reading and utilize high order questions.**
* **EVERYONE: I will continue to ask myself, “What is this text mostly about? What is it teaching me about life and what text-based evidence supports my ideas?”**
* **I will continue to look for themes-messages and morals in literature, fiction, drama and poetry while carefully considering main idea-angles and “so what’s?” of non-fiction texts, articles and resources.**
* **I will learn how to integrate my prior knowledge with new information acquired (from multiple sources) in order to make meaningful judgments about topics-issues as well as speak and write about them with authority**
* **I will learn how to gather relevant-important details and leave out those that are irrelevant and don’t pertain to the theme-big idea-universal truth in fiction and the main idea in non-fiction.**
* **I will understand that sometimes texts have multiple meanings and will continue to identify themes-big ideas and main ideas in both fiction and non-fiction by making sure to provide sufficient evidence to support these ideas.**
* **I will make meaningful comparisons and contrasts between texts and provide sufficient evidence when doing so.**
* **I will analyze authors’ claims and arguments by conducting research and using critical thinking.**
* **I will identify and interpret different perspectives on the same topics.**
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* **I will make sure to read independently with “just right books” for at least a half hour a day and respond critically to my reading by using at least one high order thinking prompt.**
* **I will engage in meaningful book conversations-class discussions by coming prepared for post it chats, listen and “piggyback” off my partners’ ideas, complete required reading and utilize high order questions.**
* **• I will understand that nonfiction is a powerful experience when I set goals, read to learn and share this new learning with others.   
  • I will understand that reading nonfiction can be hard. Because of this, I will rely on new strategies, consider evidence and read closely.   
  • I will carefully consider way the author has structured their work impacts how I read the information. I will carefully keep in mind the five different text structure categories (description, sequence, problem/solution, cause/effect and compare & contrast)when analyzing non-fiction text.  
  WRITING:  
  • EVERYONE: I understand that I have to utilize multiple, reliable resources when conducting research and not make claims-assertions without providing relevant and accurate information-details. In addition, when writing opinion pieces, I will understand counterclaims (counterpoints, counter-arguments) and do my best to understand and address them in my work.  
  • I will make sure my writing follows correct format, organization and contains proper transitional words-phrases.  
  • I will write with passion, conviction and authority about topics-issues I care deeply about.  
  • I will use engaging leads (utilizing the different strategies I was taught) along with “big bang” endings—always leaving my reader with an interesting thought, idea or question.  
  • I will continue to develop my own voice with interesting word choice, figurative language and sense of audience and have my own purpose (reasons for writing the piece).  
  • I understand that it is not enough to have great ideas. They must be expressed with clarity (be clear) and I must do my best to follow conventions (including punctuation, capitalization, spelling, correct word usage, etc).   
  • I will remember the rules of paragraphing and not forget to use them (especially when there is a shift in time or place and each time somebody speaks!)  
  • In narrative writing, I will make sure I have a balance between narrative and dialogue.  
  • I will write with more stamina, providing more evidence and details while understanding that it’s not just enough to “know it.” I have to explain what I mean and elaborate.  
  • Understand and apply rubrics to different kinds of writing  
  • Carefully proofread and never hand in a first draft as my assignment or published piece  
  • Use the various stages of the writing process for all of my published pieces  
  • I will use multiple meaning words appropriately**
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* **· Use the various stages of the writing process for all of my published pieces**
* **· I will use multiple meaning words appropriately.**
* **SOCIAL STUDIES:  
  • EVERYONE: When conducting research, I will understand that authors-websites-film producers have certain biases. I will try to understand these biases and try to not allow them to influence my own judgments. In addition, I will keep up with current events by reading newspapers-and-or internet news, watching television news and respond to with empathy and critical thinking.   
  • I will never plagiarize and will instead learn how to paraphrase information, integrate quotes and not simply “copy and paste them.”  
  • I will learn how to set meaningful essential (important) questions when gathering information and gear my research towards answering these questions. (In other words, I won’t include “everything but the kitchen sink” about a topic in my writing!)  
  • When studying important person or event, I will consider the “zeitgeist” (context of the times-what was happening-- in the time when the event occurred and when the person lives). I will think about how the zeitgeist affected them. I will also consider the lasting impact the event or person left on society.  
  • I will continue to explore different aspects of different cultures and their lasting impacts.  
  • I will interpret and utilize maps, charts and other graphs.  
    
  SERVICE-LEARNING & HUMANE EDUCATION: EVERYONE:  
  • I understand that I have a responsibility to make the world “better & brighter” and will do so by identifying problems that affect animals, people and the environment, come up with a plan to help and do my best to carry out my mission.**