

Setting Goals Project

Dear Parent(s),

As your child's teacher, one of my main concerns is ensuring that he or she is equipped with the skills necessary for achieving success – both in school and in their everyday life. One way this is accomplished is by helping students develop a sense of self-motivation. Self-motivated individuals generally have a clear idea of where they are headed – a purpose in life. Establishing goals helps to move these individuals along the road to achieving success. Yet students often find goal-setting a difficult task because they are not familiar with the goal-setting process. I intend to introduce the concept of goal-setting and provide an opportunity for practice at a level they will understand through an on-going project that students will complete outside of school.

Students have been asked to set a goal of their own. Included with this letter is a list of sample goals that you may wish to read over. The goal that your child sets can be either social or academic. It is intended that the students succeed in attaining their goal prior to the end of the year, and some goals may require parental assistance. Therefore, goals should be realistic as well as reasonable. Once your child has identified a goal, he or she should also determine how they will demonstrate that the goal has been accomplished. Together, the student and parent(s) should then complete the school portion of the provided goals sheet and return it to me by _____.

It is up to the student to work outside of school to accomplish the stated goal. Once the goal has been reached, the student should complete and return the home copy of the goals sheet, along with supporting evidence. Students will be given the opportunity to share their success at a classroom sharing session. The evidence and completed goals forms will then be placed in the student's portfolio. A new goals sheet will be sent home, and the entire process will begin again. While the goals-setting activity will not be graded, each student is expected to accomplish at least one goal by the end of the year.

I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance and support for this project. I expect it to be a positive experience for everyone involved! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you might have.

Sincerely,

At home together, parents and students should discuss and identify a goal. The goal may be social or academic. Examples of goals used by students in the past are:

Goal: I will get a 15/15 on my spelling post-tests 3 times in a row. (Academic)

Evidence: The student saves spelling tests in a folder at home. He then staples together the 3 tests that prove the goal was accomplished, and brings them to school.

Goal: I will bake a cake for my father's birthday. (Social)

Evidence: The student takes a picture of the finished cake.

Goal: I will earn a scouting badge. (Social)

Evidence: The student brings the badge to share with the class. He describes what he had to do to earn it. He then adds to his portfolio a picture that he has drawn of the badge.

Goal: I will cook breakfast for my family. (Social)

Evidence: The student creates a menu for the breakfast, and then asks family members to sign the menu and write comments about the meal.

Goal: I will read a chapter book. (Academic)

Evidence: The student makes a poster for the book. The poster displays the book's title, the author/illustrator, a scene from the book, and the major characters.

Goal: I will learn how to build a kite. (Social)

Evidence: The student writes step-by-step instructions detailing how she built the kite. She brings the kite in to share, and then gives each student a copy of the directions. One copy is placed in the portfolio.

Goal: I will read 50 books. (Academic)

Evidence: The student keeps a reading log of the books read. On it she records the title, the author/illustrator, and her reaction to the book. A parent initials each entry.

Goal: I will make 20 baskets in a row. (Social)

Evidence: The boy's parent videotapes the boy shooting the baskets. He then brings the tape in to share with the class. Afterwards, the tape is added to the portfolio.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless!!!!

(This copy should be returned to school ASAP)

My goal is to _____
_____.

This is how I will show that I have accomplished my
goal: _____
_____.

Name: _____

(This copy should be kept at home and then returned to school once the goal has been achieved)

My goal was to: _____
_____.

Date that goal was completed: _____

Evidence presented: _____

Name: _____