

# Pleasantdale School District 107

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Administrative Office • 7450 S. Wolf Road • Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
(708) 784-2013 • Fax: (708) 246-0161 • [www.d107.org](http://www.d107.org)

For a second year, Pleasantdale School District is using the STAR test as one of our standardized academic measures. STAR is an online assessment, tailored to each student's individual ability level. With a year's worth of experience using STAR, we have embarked upon a goal setting process with our elementary school students. STAR provides our teachers and students with information that allows teachers to guide students through the goal setting process.

Goal setting allows teachers (and students) to see the big picture when it comes to academic improvement. Important outcomes of standardized testing include data interpretation and goal-setting. Understanding data and the processes of setting and managing goals are integral life skills. As we continue to get feedback from teachers and students on our goal setting process, it can be expected that we will make adjustments and continue to reflect on our effectiveness.

Our elementary school teachers used a teacher-created template to help students write rigorous and attainable goals. The teacher-created template reflects our current elementary theme of *I learn... What's your superpower?* Student goals focused on academic outcomes as measured by our STAR testing intervals (Fall, Winter, Spring). Our students used the STAR-provided projected goals as a guide to writing attainable and realistic goals. The goals follow the timeline of our STAR testing window which means that goals will be reflected upon after the Spring testing session. Over the course of the goal process in the months between testing sessions teachers will meet individually with students to review their goals, monitor progress, and discuss needed resources and possible adjustments.

A significant body of research reveals that a reflective goal setting process can affect student achievement. There are meaningful differences in student achievement based on academic goal setting. A recent Harvard University article stated, "It is worth reminding ourselves that goal setting costs little, or nothing, and can aid successful results in our lives, both in academic and non-academic settings." There is also a correlation between academic goal setting and student success outside of the classroom.

Main takeaways:

- Whole class conversations took place regarding goals.
- Teachers provided guidance as the students set their goals and stated strategies they would use to attain their goals.
- The end result is a student set goal that will be revisited by the student and teacher team.

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## Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.