

“Give me your hungry children, your sick children, your homeless and abused children..... We will give you the engineers and the doctors and the scientists..... We will give you the nation of tomorrow. We will give you the American Dream.”

The “we” is our teachers who give us access to the *New American Dream*. My ELA teacher, Ms. Freeman, is one of them.

In August, many children came into her class not knowing very much or not being very confident in their abilities, but by June, they will emerge as totally different people with positive outlooks. It doesn't matter who comes into her classroom, or what their situation is, Ms. Freeman nurtures their potential to achieve the *New American Dream*.

She gives me quotes, poems, letters, and anything else that can inspire me enough to help me achieve the *New American Dream*. Ms. Freeman is my toughest critic, but she's also my fuel. Her presence alone fuels my spirit. When I'm in her class, I feel like a majestic stallion; wild and free, capable of achieving anything.

Since I've met Ms. Freeman, I've learned many things and have done many things so that I can better myself and prepare for the future. For example, I recently became a tutor to help and inspire others to want the *New American Dream*, just as much as I do. I joined the Dr. Betty Shabazz Delta Academy to hone my people skills. I became a dance aid to practice Leadership. I am so inspired by Ms. Freeman's daily impassioned example; I want to become a teacher too, so that I can equip students with the resources to achieve the *New American Dream*. I want to give people the feeling that they can reach their goals, just like Ms. Freeman does.

Ms. Freeman has also helped me excel academically. My grades and DCAS scores have improved considerably. I make honor roll each quarter and I consistently earn fours on DCAS. *The New American Dream* is coming closer than ever. I can thank Ms. Freeman for that.

Mackenzie Davis
6th Grade
Reach Academy for Girls Charter School
Ms. Freeman-English Language Arts

I have a teacher, and her name is Ms. Johnson. She is my math teacher, but she's also a mother, a friend, a team leader, and just someone to talk to when you're having a bad day. When you're happy, she's happy with you. When you're sad, she's a shoulder to cry on. She's not my homeroom teacher, but she teaches one of the most important subjects. When I don't understand my work, she will stay after school with me to help me until I get it. She wants to send me onto high school really to take on the world. She teaches me everything I need to know about math, life, relationships and math again. She gives off positive energy that uplifts the whole room.

Ms. Johnson gives me the American dream because even though I look different and learn different, that doesn't faze her a bit. She treats us all equal with kindness, maturity, and respect. She tells us to follow our dreams, and do what other people say we can't, to not listen to people who say you're not good enough. She gives me the key to living the American dream citizenship, physical well-being, aspirations, life skills, leadership, and best of all, academic excellence. To leave her this year to go to ninth grade will be hard after being with her for two long years. So, I would like to thank Ms. Johnson for inspiring me to follow my dreams. She's one of the people who made me who I am today.

Lillah Thomas
8th Grade
Reach Academy for Girls Charter
Ms. Johnson-Math Teacher