**Spiral Explanation!**

**Spirals – A Different Approach to Assessment:**

Our class will use an assessment system that targets academic growth and rewards for learning. This is something that many are not familiar with, so here is a brief explanation:

* **Students learn a new topic.**
* **Students are assessed on this topic at the end of the week.**
* **Students receive a grade for this particular topic.** (10 points maximum)
* **Students learn another new topic.**
* **Students take another assessment at the end of the following week, on both topics.**
* **Students receive a separate grade for each topic.** (10 points maximum per topic)
* **Students learn another new topic.**
* **Students take another assessment at the end of the week, on all 3 topics.**
* **Students receive separate grades for each topic.** (10 points maximum per topic)
* **Students learn another new topic.**
* **Students take another assessment at the end of the week, on all 4 topics.**
* **Students receive separate grades for each topic.** (10 points maximum per topic)

Finally, getting to the point…

* **Students learn another new topic.**
* **Students take another assessment at the end of the week, but only on the most recent four topics.** This means that the first topic learned (the first assessment taken), will be dropped off the spiral. The average of the last two spirals for that first topic will be calculated. If the average is higher than the score on the first 2 spirals (for the first topic), each score will be replaced with that higher average. However, the 3rd and 4th spiral scores will remain the same. The idea is that by the last few spirals, students should demonstrate an understanding of the particular topic and therefore be receiving higher scores. Students will monitor their growth over the 4 spirals, and the potential grade change will serve as a reward to the students for their learning and efforts.
* **And the cycle repeats for all topics…**