

HOPE 2.0

September 15, 2017

Fixed or Growth?

Our Journey of HOPE is grounded in the belief that mistakes are opportunities for improvements or OFIs. Imagine being told that your capacity to achieve was limited by your innate abilities and that you were either “born with it” or you weren’t. How might your outlook on life change as a result of this revelation? How would this revelation impact the effort that you put forth?

In her book, *Mindset*, Dr. Carol Dweck refers to the idea that we are all equipped with a predetermined, finite set of skills as a **fixed mindset**. School districts with a fixed mindset believe that students are limited in their capacity to learn based upon their IQ, past experiences, or socio-economic status. These organizations make excuses for why students can’t achieve and too often blame student failures on circumstances.

Learning environments in which children are encouraged to take risks, set goals to monitor their own learning, and view mistakes as part of the learning process demonstrate what Dweck calls a **growth mindset**. As the term suggests, organizations with a growth mindset are constantly looking for ways to improve. Anyone who knows me, knows that I am a huge Steve Jobs fan and take great inspiration from the innovative mind that made the iPhone a mainstay among tech giants. Steve Jobs held a growth mindset. Despite the great successes he experienced throughout his career, he never stopped learning and creating and improving. He knew that with targeted and sustained effort, his company could change the world. And it did.

HOPE exemplifies the district’s adoption of a growth mindset. *World Class* does not mean flawless as many would believe. On the contrary, we seek to uncover our flaws in order to correct and learn from them. It means that we will strive, each day to make this district a better place for our students, our employees and our community. It means that we will be the place in which students are encouraged to take risks, set goals to monitor their own learning, and view mistakes as part of the learning process. It means that students will be recognized as partners in the learning process and not just receivers of information. It means that we will produce graduates who can compete with students across the globe because they will be creative, innovative, and critical thinkers who believe that they too can change the world. And they will.

Piece of the Puzzle



Hats off to Ms. Jen Halfond, head nurse, for her efforts in getting our students immunized and ready to attend school. She worked closely with the technology department to notify parents and ensure that students were properly vaccinated at the start of school. This was a major undertaking and we thank you for keeping our students safe.

Kudos to Kara Brady on successfully defending her dissertation research at Weidner University in August. Dr. Brady will receive her Ed.D. in Cognitive Studies in Reading. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Brady on this accomplishment.