

Educational Innovation for All Students

Week 4: Growth Mindset
Culture that Empowers - Part 1

Each New Tech Network (NTN) school and district strives to continually build a culture that promotes trust, respect and responsibility at both the student and adult levels. The professional culture for adults should mirror the culture we want to build for our students.

This new shift in the educational landscape is crucial to the success of each student. A positive, empowering school culture helps facilitate a growth mindset in students. Elizabeth Bostwick, in a February 16, 2016 blog in Edutopia, talks about how a positive classroom and school culture can empower students and help them develop a "voice" in their own learning and intellectual growth:

Empowering Student Voice Through Classroom Culture

Empowering student voice transforms a learner from being an observer to an initiator. We have all seen students who walk in the door on the first day of school with a fixed mindset. Their previous educational experience may have led them to believe they may be great in math, but struggle in reading. These students come to us expecting to experience the same struggles and emotions they have in past years. Students may lack confidence, and be unwilling to take risks.

As educators, how can we support the development of a growth mindset that will lead to empowerment of student voice? After all, the most valuable voice in the classroom is the student's.

Ongoing Community Building to Support Growth Mindset

Educators grasp the importance of team building, but to take it further in order to shift the culture, I utilize Laurie S. Frank's "Journey Toward the Caring and Collaborative Classroom 2nd Edition: Using Adventure to Create Community." The structures are designed intentionally to support the development of students into responsible risk takers within the framework of experiential learning. Students participate in collaborative activities that work through the stages of cooperation, trust, problem solving and challenge. The debriefing period at the end of each activity is where students make growth in their ability to process, reflect, and emote. This is the foundation of student voice in the classroom as they progress through stages of growth.







By Elisabeth Bostwick, posted 2/17/15

Read full article - <http://www.edutopia.org/discussion/empowering-student-voice-through-classroom-culture>





What Kind of Mindset Do You Have?

Growth Mindset

-  I can learn anything.
-  When I'm frustrated, I persevere.
-  I want to challenge myself.
-  When I fail, I learn.
-  If you succeed, I'm inspired.
-  My effort and attitude determine everything.

Fixed Mindset

-  I'm either good at it, or I'm not.
-  When I'm frustrated, I give up.
-  I don't like to be challenged.
-  When I fail, I'm no good.
-  Tell me I'm smart.
-  If you succeed, I feel threatened.
-  My abilities determine everything

TESTIMONIALS

"Moving our high school into a project-based environment and providing technology to the students has given them new opportunities that they have not had in the past. The students are more engaged in their work and are taking more ownership for their learning, both as a part of the class and a part of their collaborative groups. When attending a basketball game where our girls were competing with a rival school, I was excited to see our freshmen and junior varsity girls sitting in the hallway doing school work on their ChromeBooks during halftime. I applauded their efforts in the hallway and then observed the girls continue with their schoolwork while sitting in the stands for the remainder of the game." ~ Amber Strawser, Winton Woods High School Assistant Principal

"NTN opens the door to learning on another level. I not only understand the academic content better but I can apply it to real-world issues. Coming from a traditional classroom four years ago, I have finally found more purpose and a bigger meaning for my high school experience." ~ Alexandria Denny, Class of 2018

Look for more upcoming information on New Tech Network:

Week 1: WHY NEW TECH NETWORK?

Week 2: WHAT IS NEW TECH NETWORK?

Week 3: PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: Teaching that Engages - Part 1

Week 4: GROWTH MINDSET: Culture that Empowers - Part 1

Week 5: DIGITAL LITERACY: Technology that Enables

Week 6: COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS: Outcomes that Matter

Week 7: PROJECT-BASED LEARNING: Teaching that Engages - Part 2

Week 8: GROWTH MINDSET: Culture that Empowers - Part 2