GROWTH MINDSET IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM: Lessons for Teachers

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Why Us?

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Before we dig in to our topic, take a minute to share...

What is your role in education?

What brought you to this webinar today?

Why this topic important to you?
What IS a growth mindset...

And why does it matter?
Educator Mindsets

▪ **First**: The mindset we possess about each student’s potential.
▪ **Second**: The mindset about one’s own ability to learn and improve—to become a better teacher!
The Power of the Fixed Mindset
Implicit Fixed Mindsets: The Inadvertent Impact of Labels
Research Cautions Us to be Cautious

- Rosenthal & Jacobson’s (1968) Pygmalion Effect
- Darley & Gross’s (1983) Confirmation Bias
- John Hattie (2012) effect size of NOT LABELING  $d=+0.61$
The Power of Teacher Mindset: Teacher-Student Relationship

ADHD, Unmotivated, Learning disabled, Class clown

Capable, Cooperative, Lazy, Low achieving, Anxious, Gifted, Sneaky
Teacher-Student Relationship Factors

Goldstein and Brooks (2007) focus on effective teacher mindsets.

- “Mindsets are assumptions and expectations we have for ourselves and others that guide our teaching practices and our interactions with students, parents, and colleagues” (p. 193).

Hattie (2012) Effect size of TSR $d = 0.72$ Hattie (2012; 2016)

Cornelius-White’s (2007) large meta-analysis of learner-centered practices identified four critical qualities for effective TSR: warmth, empathy, respect, and positive relationship

But how do we talk about kids in a way that is more facilitative of a growth mindset?
How could the labels you use with your students, parents, and co-workers help you view them with a growth mindset lens?
Growth Mindset: The Power of Yet
Growing the Growth Mindset: Not Just in Our Students

Beyond believing in our own ability, research demonstrates that the growth mindset is developed by:

- **Effective Strategies:** Trying different techniques and approaches, accepting failure, and trying again.

- **Help from Others:** Having the confidence/willingness to ask others for help and support.

- **Hard Work:** Persistence on task, grit, and willingness to make mistakes and learn from them!
So, Let’s Try It: Exploring Teacher Mindsets

REMEMBER:
When you are working with challenging students (and co-workers), it is critical to be aware of your mindset.
Identify (and vote) for which statement reflects a perspective of a growth mindset.

Please select one:

- I’ve tried everything to motivate that child.
- You’re really smart to get these tough equations so fast!
- When she’s difficult, you keep trying new ways to reach her.
- I was never very good at this either, Rishi, don’t worry.
Identify and VOTE for which statement reflects a perspective of a growth mindset.

Consider: Why the statement you voted for is one of growth, while the others are not?

1. “I’ve tried everything to motivate that child.”

2. “You’re really smart to get these tough equations so fast!”

3. “When she’s difficult, you keep trying new ways to reach her.”

4. “I was never very good at this either, Rishi, don’t worry.”
Our Words Reflect Our Mindset: ACTIVITY

I can do it
I can mindset
try
keep on trying
positive
use
harder
tough
growth
keep
Keep
Mrs. Rikey
Mrs. Presto
tries
even
Ms. Lingenheld

never give up
right
hard
get
SOL
Mrs. Weerts
Mrs. Babbs
Mrs. Giampolo

I will try
better
challenge
work
new
keep
practice
encourage
help others
prancing
weak

problem
Ms. Moore
Mrs. Pherson
make
mistakes
smart

think
positively
write
think

pass
Ms. Kirkpatrick
takes

new
day
came
time
good
grades

my head
know
my head

try my best
give
reading

thing
Change these statements (or respond to them) to reflect GM while supporting the real challenges expressed:

1. That student is simply gifted at everything she attempts.

2. I don’t blame him for giving up. Have you seen his learning profile?

3. There is nothing I can do with that 8th grade class but simply survive each day.

4. Every year it is something new. When are we allowed to just teach!

5. Good luck with that parent; you will never please her.

6. It’s just not my style; that’s why I let the counselor do all the touchy-feely stuff.
The Impact of Teacher Mindset
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Personal Mindset Take-away: Take a Poll!

In what area of my life could I most benefit from a more consistent growth mindset?

1. With specific students
2. With specific co-workers
3. With my administrators
4. With specific parents
5. With my own approach to new learning

How would you benefit?
Can We Stand to Have More Relationship?
Thank you!

“Every child deserves a champion—an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”

- Rita Pierson, April 2013

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