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Growth Mindset –The answer to “Why do I need to know this?”

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“WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW THIS?”

A MOTIVATING ANSWER YOU
MAY SHARE!

Who am I?
Carmen Long



- Teaching high school math since 1995 (virtual since 2006)
- Math & Comp. Science degree from Georgia State University Dec 1994
- Med in Instructional Technology at KSU May 2015
- Married (27 years)
- 4 children (2 young college graduates, 1 college sophomore, and 1 disabled young adult)
- LOVE virtual education!

Searching for truths about inspiring and motivating students toward success

“It is OK - I know you don’t understand”

**“WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, MS. LONG, WHY DO I
NEED TO KNOW THIS?”**

Answers often given:

This is on the unit test.

The state standards require it.

You will need to know this for the state test.

You will need this information for the next school year or next course.

I am the teacher and that is what we are working on today.

**None of these answers are motivating or
meaningful to students.**

My answer:

You must be able to think in order to succeed!

As an adult students will need to:

- Budget
- Complete a task they don't know how to complete
- Read directions
- Communicate with others
- Do the impossible
- Work harder than they ever imagined

Academic education is the tool used to help students learn to think so they can figure out how to make the muscle in their skull do the things they will need to in order to be a successful adult.

How can we know which students will be successful?

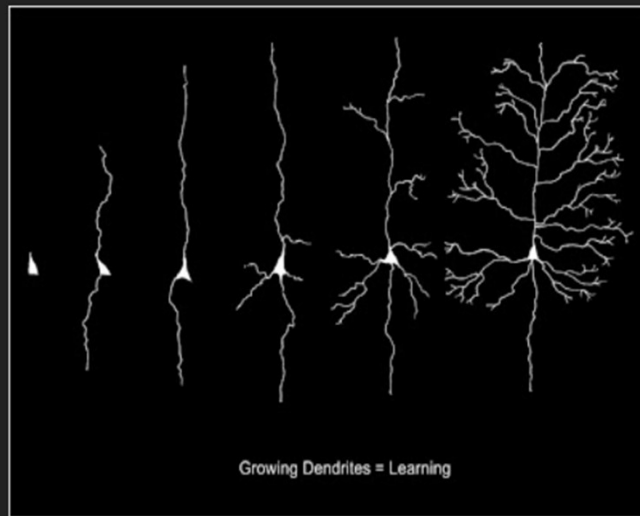
GRIT ~ ANGELA DUCKWORTH

Grit is the best indicator of success. The power of passion and long term perseverance.

How can we help students develop GRIT?

GROWTH MINDSET ~ CAROL DWECK

The science behind what goes on in the brain when it struggles with hard tasks.



Like twigs on a tree that can only grow from a twig or branch that is already there, dendrites can only grow from a dendrite that is already there - from something the learner already knows. Then, like twigs growing on a tree, learning is constructed, and skills and understanding increase.

<http://worldsoflearning.blogspot.com/p/how-we-learn.html>



WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE IN THE CLASSROOM?

Fixed Mindset

I have never been good at ____.

This is too hard.

Why do I need to do this?

What is the point?

I give up. It is not easy enough.

Why bother trying? I will fail anyway.

This is impossible.

I will never be able to graduate.

I am not important.

I have never been smart.

I don't have any reason to try.

Growth Mindset

I may need to practice this more.

I may not get it yet, but I won't stop trying until I understand.

I know this is hard and it is making my brain grow.

I am improving little by little.

I need help but I will eventually succeed.

It may be hard, but I am determined to graduate.

I know my brain can grow if I keep working on challenging tasks.

Success will occur because I won't stop until I accomplish the goal.

HOW HAVE I SEEN THIS AFFECT STUDENT SUCCESS?

Jada's story

Too many stories to share, but if we can enlighten students about the truth of how the brain can grow from struggle, we can help them move past failure and toward success.

BRAINSTORM WAYS WE CAN DEVELOP GROWTH
MINDSET IN OUR STUDENTS.

**“MAKE SURE YOUR DAILY ACTIONS
ALIGN TO YOUR LIFELONG DREAMS.”**

– ORIGINAL QUOTE BY MS. LONG

- Inspirational clips
- Quotes
- Hard tasks with no right answer
- Error analysis
- Reflection on progress
- Learn from mistakes with no penalty to grade
- Share examples of overcoming challenges & struggles

Thank you for your time and participation.

COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

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