

Dear Staff,

The sun shining on the snow this afternoon certainly is a pleasant sight! While right now, Monday's weather looks as though it will be cooperative, it appears that Nettle Creek returns to the deep freeze on Tuesday. We were a little conflicted about using MLK Day as our make-up day, but our school calendar calls for it to be so, so it is what it is. On Monday teachers might consider reminding students about the contributions Dr. King made to our great American story which honors his memory and takes advantage of using the holiday as our snow make-up day. Thanks!

Three times each year I share school data with the Board. At last week's Board meeting I had the opportunity to update trustees on the progress we've made since October. Here is a summary of the information I shared:



- In Reading – The average MAP percentile grew in Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9.
- In Mathematics – The average MAP percentile grew in Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12. And while the 10th grade percentile did not grow, their percentile stands at 82 which means that compared to the national group, our average tenth grader scored better than 81% of the students who took the test nationally. Something of which everyone can be proud!
- In Language – The average MAP percentile grew in Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. These are all of the grade levels that take the language test in December.
- Our K-12 student enrollment has grown by 18 students since October.
- Our K-12 student attendance rate for the first nine weeks was 97.02%. Our student attendance rate for the second nine weeks was 94.98%.
- HES had 38 office referrals during the first nine weeks. There were 73 office referrals during the second nine weeks.
- HJr./Sr.H had 42 office referrals during the first nine weeks. There were 56 office referrals during the second nine weeks.
- There were 5 suspensions at HES in the first nine weeks with 4 suspensions during the second nine weeks.
- There were 3 suspensions at HJr./Sr.H in the first nine weeks with 6 suspensions during the second nine weeks.
- There have been no expulsions at NCSC during the first semester.

According to the numbers, the last twelve weeks have been the most academically productive at NCSC since we have begun keeping record. We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to everyone for this accomplishment! With careful planning and using instructional time wisely during second semester, we can make this quite some year! Increasing student attendance is an area of need. Illness played a large part in producing this attendance rate. Principals have been asked to use building resources to incentivize students to come to school. Working

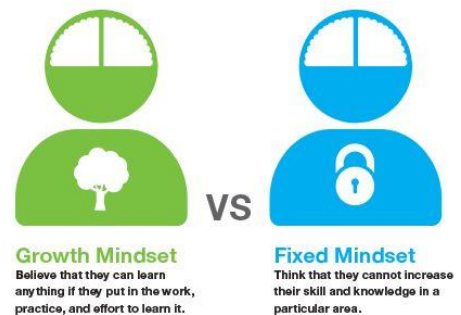
directly with families who seem to have bigger challenges with school attendance is an effective and efficient way to increase our student achievement rate. Thankfully, we have JAG and CIS on board to help students with this very thing. All classrooms can help by incentivizing students who maintain an acceptable attendance level especially if we know that the challenge is getting up and getting to school. Learning to come to school every day translates into the career-ready skill of coming to work every day which is valued highly by all employers. To summarize, this has been a very productive term! Keep up the good work! I'll let you know how we're doing in March – right before the homestretch to the end of the year begins!

The school delay on the last scheduled Condensed Day threw a monkey wrench in our plans for K-12 teachers to meet together to hear an introduction to the concept of Growth Mindset. The seeds for Growth Mindset were planted by a few NCSC teachers who attended workshops on the concept, recognized that this might be useful for

themselves and their students, brought it back to Hagerstown and have since incorporated it into the learning culture they maintain in their classrooms. Administrators noticed what was going on in these pioneer classrooms and came together as an administrative PLC to learn more about Growth Mindset.

After learning about Growth Mindset ourselves, we saw what the teachers saw - that students and staff would benefit from

learning about Growth Mindset because it is based on research that rightly replaces preconceived notions that are wide-spread barriers to students reaching their highest potential. A NCSC group composed of those early teacher adopters and administrators has worked since last summer planning how we can provide everyone a chance to give their students the Growth Mindset Advantage. One of the first activities this group did was to survey all teachers about their knowledge of Growth Mindset and to determine what sort of mindset people here tend to work from now. In the most general terms, our staff is "somewhat familiar" with the term and generally accepts that intelligence is not a fixed attribute. From here we build!



Dr. Rhonda Roos who worked with administrators on Growth Mindset last year was scheduled to talk with all teachers at the last Condensed Day and has been rescheduled for February 2<sup>nd</sup>. And while all staff and students will have the opportunity to learn about Growth Mindset over time, we're enlarging this circle slowly, so that we can spread the word as effectively as possible. We send a hearty tip of the Tiger's tail to those early adopters and administrators for bringing this concept to NCSC for students!

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

