

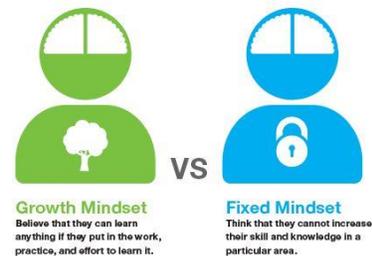
Dear Staff,

I'm reminded when I see area farm animals standing outdoors alongside a white barn wall that the sun's warmth is returning as January departs. The occasional warmish day brings opportunities for students to get outdoors for recess at least occasionally providing them a fresh air break with activity to recharge their batteries. Admittedly, February and March will provide more such chances. We say goodbye to January and look forward eagerly to the opportunities February will provide!



It's been quite some time since we've met together as the NCSC K-12 Instructional Team on a Condensed Day. The reason for this is because both schools committed to focus this staff development time meeting needs in a more differentiated way. There are times though when we're learning about a unified, corporation-wide topic, and the Condensed Day this Friday will be the official introduction to Growth Mindset that is a corporation endeavor. Our meeting will begin at 7:30A.M. for teachers and administrators in the LGI Room at HES. Holding this training at HES this time means fewer teachers moving between buildings afterward. The high school has arranged for Tiger bus transportation from the Jr./Sr. high school to help alleviate the challenge of reduced parking at HES for those teachers who prefer "to leave the driving to us."

Incorporating the concept of Growth Mindset into the support we provide students is important. According to researcher Carol Dweck, "Children who understand that the brain can get smarter—who have a growth mindset—do better in school because they have an empowering perspective on learning. They focus on improvement and see effort as a way to build their abilities. They see failure as a natural part of the learning process."



The staff at the Jr./Sr. high has identified student motivation as one of the challenges they are working to overcome. They have identified that the Junior and Senior students 'check out' early for the school year before the last bell rings in May, though the staff knows that motivation is a challenge for all of their students. Elementary teachers readily acknowledge the importance of motivating students and the crucial role student effort plays for successful learning. It is my opinion that we're teaching the multiplication tables and the concepts behind a democratic government about as hard as we are able! Learning about Growth Mindset as teachers and transferring to students an understanding of what brain research has to say about learning is a new angle that will add horsepower to the learning environment in our K-12 classrooms, and as a result will be added value to the good things students are already learning to achieve success at Nettle Creek.



Let's start in a measured and thoughtful way in this endeavor. While some staff has already stepped into the potential of Growth Mindset with the students in their classrooms, according to the staff survey ninety percent of us are not familiar or are somewhat familiar with Growth Mindset. Dr. Rhonda Roos has been to Nettle Creek before to work with some of our Growth Mindset "pioneers" and is returning on Friday for our Condensed Day to set the stage for all of us and to help us all GROW @ THE CREEK in a unified way to support our students and their learning!

We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to all of the coaches whose athletes had a big week! Mr. Payne and his staff are sending six Tigers to regional competition next



weekend. Mr. Jones' and Mr. Olinger's teams were both successful against Union City on Friday night, and the JV teams were successful as well! The games were well-attended. We appreciate all of the parents and community fans who show their Tiger Pride at each game – both Varsity and JV as well as at both girls' and boys' events!



Ms. Chew, Ms. Claywell, and Ms. Keesling's Math Bowl Team distinguished themselves on Thursday night by taking First Place among six competing teams. Placing at the top spot in this sort of competition is a nice reflection on the level of learning these students are achieving daily as well as showing these Tiger competitors that Math is fun!



It's on to Ball State for the intermediate students whose Science Fair projects were selected to represent Hagerstown Elementary School at that regional competition! We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Ms. Muller and Ms. Arnold for running great science programs all year long that prepare students well for both the local and regional science fairs!



We send a tip of the Tiger's tail to Mr. Bullock and Mr. Shepherd for their appearance, along with Mr. Cole, at last week's Hagerstown Optimist meeting. They described for club members the process of performing CPR and the importance of knowing how to use an AED.

And finally, we send a tip of the Tiger's tail to everyone who was able to complete the background check protocol on their first try. I, unfortunately, was not so lucky!

Yours for another successful week with children!

WD

