Growth Mindset
The Power of “Yet”

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Columbia Heights Public Schools create worlds of opportunity for every learner in partnership with supportive small-town communities by challenging all to discover their talents, unleash their potential and develop tools for lifelong success.
Community
☆Excellence
Collaboration
Integrity
Respect
☆Courage
Innovation

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Informational Update/ Non-governance

Question: How is Growth Mindset and the Power of Yet incorporated into Columbia Heights Public Schools?
Mindset Work Led by the District Center

Teaching & Learning Leadership (2015-16 and 2016-17)

AVID PD

Responsive Classroom Leadership Committee

Mathematical Mindsets PD for K-12 Math Teachers

Mindset Graphic and Info included in College & Career Guides
Mindset Work in Early Childhood
Mindset Work in Early Childhood

Quotes from Early Childhood teachers:

“I will share with my students when we begin writing our names or drawing a self-portrait in September, that this may be hard and that is okay. Rather than say “I can’t”, instead we can say things like “I will try”. We talk about as we practice things they become easier and easier and pretty soon things that used to be hard for us to do are now not as difficult.”
“We also use growth mindset in learning self-help skills. For example some students really struggle with getting outside gear on to go outside. We practice the words you can use and techniques you can apply that will make these tasks easier and eventually students will be able to be self-efficient at completing this task.

I included a photo of a step direction chart I have posted and I make individual copies for cubbies for students who would benefit from this. I think this helps students feel like they are independently problem solving and working to figure this new task out.”

In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point.

- Power of “Yet” - add yet to the end of a negative statement
- Teachers were given time to create visuals for their classrooms.
Mindset Work at Highland

Highland teachers have many visual reminders for students to practice having a growth mindset.

“I can’t spell the words YET.”
The Power of Yet

“I don’t know.”
“I can’t do this.”
“I don’t understand.”

Take a deep breath and remember the power of Yet!
As in...

“I don’t know...yet.”
“I can’t do this...yet.”
“I don’t understand...yet.”
Mindset Work at North Park
Mindset Work at North Park
Mindset Work at North Park

MISTAKES HELP ME LEARN

I'll use a...
Mindset Work at North Park

I'll try a Different Strategy.

Olivia
Mindset Work at North Park

Fixed Mindset
Instead of this
I give up → I can try my best
I'm not doing this → I can do this
I hate this → I can try
This is too hard → This is not so easy . . . YET
I quit → I'm not going to give up
I'm bad at this → I'm good at this
I don't want to do this

Growth Mindset
Say this!
I can try my best
I can do this
I can try
This is not so easy . . . YET
I'm not going to give up
I'm good at this
I'll go for it
I'm going to get it later/eventually.
Mindset Work at Valley View

Instead of thinking...

“I made a mistake.”

“I give up.”

“I can’t make this any better.”

Try thinking...

“Mistakes help me improve.”

“ll use some of the strategies I’ve learned.”

“I can always improve. I’ll keep trying.”
Mindset Work at Valley View

If I make a mistake, I take responsibility and learn from it.

Brains at Work

I'm not sure I can do it now, but I know I can learn.

A challenge is an opportunity to learn something new.

If I put in effort, I will get better at this and it will be easier for me.
Mindset Work at Columbia Academy
Mindset Work at Columbia Academy

The power of YET...

I don’t get it + yet = optimism
I can’t do math + yet = perseverance
I can’t do this + yet = growth mindset

I can’t do this
What am I missing?
I give up.
This is good enough.
I can’t read.
This might take some time & effort.
I made a mistake.
Mistakes help me to improve.
I’m not good at anything.
I’m not going to do that.
I’m not going to fail.
I’ll never be as smart as them.
Growth Mindset
- This is hard so I have to try harder
- I can get smarter
- I learn from my mistakes
- I don’t get it yet
- I can retrain my brain
- Effort is why I succeed
- Keep trying until you get it

Fixed Mindset
- I’m stupid and I can’t do it
- You’re smarter
- I’m not as good as you are
- I don’t
- I can’t learn it
- Effort doesn’t matter

WHAT IS YOUR MINDSET?
Growth Mindset
Fixed Mindset
Can’t OR Won’t?
Mindset Work at Columbia Heights High School