



## 2017-2018 Instructional Focus

### Cultivating a Growth Mindset through Student Engagement and Formative Assessment

Our Schoolwide Instructional Focus is a collective goal that creates a common language, inspires collaboration, and directly impacts teacher practice and student performance. As we work together to cultivate a **Growth Mindset**, all members of our school community will strive to **embrace challenges, persevere** in the face of setbacks, and regard **effort** as an essential path toward mastery.

#### **Students will:**

- Be members of caring classroom communities in which they feel respected, valued, safe, and comfortable taking intellectual risks (*Danielson 2a*)
- Formulate questions, initiate topics, and respectfully challenge one another's thinking in an environment free of judgment where mistakes and failures are viewed as essential aspects of learning (*Danielson 3b*)
- Engage in meaningful learning activities through which they gain awareness of the individual and collaborative processes that support deep understanding and high quality work products (*Danielson 3c*)
- Develop personal, social and academic goals, and monitor their growth as learners through peer and teacher feedback and self-reflection (*Danielson 3d*)

#### **Teachers will:**

##### **Create supportive classroom learning communities that foster growth mindsets for all students**

- How will I model warmth and caring in my daily interactions with students?
- How will I help each student to feel respected, valued, safe, and comfortable taking intellectual risks?
- How will I positively reinforce each student's current best efforts – while encouraging his or her continued social, emotional and intellectual growth?

##### **Deepen student understanding through the use of complex questions and collaborative protocols**

- How will my use of questioning challenge students cognitively and advance high level thinking and discourse?
- How will I encourage students to formulate meaningful questions and to build upon each other's thinking?
- How will I work with the class to ensure that all students are engaged and all voices are heard in discussions?

##### **Plan rigorous lessons in which all students are intellectually engaged in meaningful learning activities**

- How will I structure the lesson to allow time for students to engage with significant ideas, explain their thinking, reflect upon their learning, and consolidate their understanding?
- How will I provide appropriate scaffolds and extensions within the context of low floor/high ceiling learning activities?
- How will I use differentiated resources, flexible groupings and multiple entry points to support the growth of students with diverse interests, learning styles, readiness levels and academic needs?

##### **Promote student understanding through the use of formative assessment and growth-oriented feedback**

- How will I align the learning target and lesson activities so all students can make their thinking visible and produce tangible evidence of learning?
- How will I communicate clear criteria for success and help students monitor their understanding through peer-to-peer feedback and self-assessment?
- How will I monitor student learning in order to assess each student's understanding, address misconceptions, provide actionable feedback and guide students toward next steps?

#### **School Leadership will:**

- Model the values of respect and trust that will support the cultivation of growth mindset among all members of the school community
- Facilitate a growth mindset culture by promoting clear, consistent and high expectations for social, emotional and academic learning across all classrooms
- Provide professional learning opportunities that will foster a collective understanding of growth mindset and a coherent repertoire of growth-oriented classroom practices

#### **Parents and families will:**

- Participate in meetings, workshops and special events designed to cultivate and celebrate growth mindset
- Learn to praise children not only for successful outcomes, but for problem-solving, persistence and progress
- Maintain open lines of communication and reinforce children's growth mindsets at home as well as at school