

Parent Communications  
March 2018

### **Mindset: A Cornerstone for Success**

By Rick Grothaus, Director of Educational Systems

The purpose of formal education is to give kids the tools they need to be successful in life. Basic academics are an important part, and yet, they are not enough. In life, success is much more dependent on things like working hard, persevering, being self-directed, knowing how to learn, problem-solving, and being able to work well with others. This is why in the Germantown School District Initiative we have defined our work as, “Building a foundation for SUCCESS within every child!”

One important piece of any person’s success foundation is something called a “Growth Mindset.” Carol Dweck, renowned Stanford psychologist, coined the term in her popular book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*. Through her research, she has discovered that how people views themselves in terms of their intelligence and capabilities can make a huge difference in how they react to challenges and setbacks – will they embrace them as opportunities to learn and get better, or will they feel incompetent, defeated and give up (a “fixed” mindset).

Teachers and parents have a huge influence on whether kids develop more of a growth or fixed mindset. In Germantown, we are learning how to foster a growth mindset in our students as part of their ‘foundation for SUCCESS.’ If you would like to learn more about mindset and what you can do to develop this cornerstone for success in your child, come to a Mindset Learning Session for Parents on Monday, March 26 from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Gold Activity Center at Kennedy Middle School. Please contact your child’s teacher or principal to let them know of your desire to attend this session so I can know how to plan.

Here’s to doing all we can to help your child(ren) develop the skills and dispositions that are foundational for their success both in school and especially throughout their lives.