

Hillcrest School

2018-2019 Building Goal

Adopting and Fostering a Growth Mindset in the Classroom

Focus: To provide professional development and ongoing support to the Hillcrest staff and students in adopting and fostering Growth Mindset in the classroom, specifically embracing challenges as an integral part of the learning process. This goal aligns to the Morris School District's Way Forward (Student and Community Wellness) as well as a focus on social-emotional learning and competencies.

Rationale: During the 2018-2019 school year, Hillcrest School is committed to social-emotional learning and competencies. Embracing a Growth Mindset framework at Hillcrest will build and enhance a culture of success, perseverance, and embracing challenges as part of the learning process. Based off the work of Carol Dweck, Growth Mindset is the belief that all children can, with effort, persistence and motivation, succeed. Professional Development will provide teachers with the necessary tools to embrace Growth Mindset in the classroom.

Smart Goal: By June 2019, the following will be noted on enhancing Growth Mindset at Hillcrest School:

- Follow-up activities will have taken place.
- Students will show growth in the Growth Mindset survey questions focusing on embracing challenges in learning.

Action Steps:

- Dedicate one staff meeting per month for Growth Mindset professional development for staff.
- Organize a grade one field trip to see *Rosie Revere, Engineer* at the Morristown Performing Arts Center, which directly aligns to Growth Mindset.
- Partner with the HSA to schedule a Growth Mindset school wide assembly titled "Ball in the House".
- Create *The H.I.L.L.* (Hillcrest Innovation and Learning Lab) to foster an environment of creativity and discovery among Hillcrest students. The lab will be open to all students through a teacher sign-up system.
- Attend a Growth Mindset PD session in March 2019 on applying Growth Mindset strategies to mathematics.
- Introduce **Oops the Octopus** as the mascot for persevering through mistakes. Students are encouraged to write Wee Deliver letters to **Oops the Octopus** highlighting the success stories of turning a mistake into a learning experience.
- Highlight Growth Mindset accomplishments through the Hillcrest High Five program.
- Speak about Growth Mindset at HSA meetings to educate parents and members of the Hillcrest community.
- Collaborate with Grade 1 and Grade 2 teachers to provide challenging opportunities during Enrichment clusters.
- Counselors to provide classroom lessons on Growth Mindset on a rotational schedule.
- Distribute Growth Mindset information to parents at Back-to-School Night.
- Facilitate a Growth Mindset activity station at Literacy Night on 10/10/18.
- Implement Growth Mindset Daily Warm-Ups, focusing on embracing challenges.