Those who can, do:
Creating a growth mindset in every classroom

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HORROR
Once upon a time...
That was me!
FIXED MINDSET

- Failure is the limit of one’s abilities
- I’m either good or not
- When I’m frustrated I give up
- I’ll stick to what I know
GROWTH MINDSET

● Failure is an opportunity to grow
● My effort & attitude determine my abilities
● Challenges help me grow
● I like to try new things
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The path to a growth mindset is a journey
Those who can, do:
My “aha”

I realized my students’ learning was limited by my ignorance and incompetence ...rather than being empowered and enhanced by it
AND...

If only I had had the courage to share the questions and issues that stumped me with my students, inviting them to join me in adding their own questions, and together seeking answers!
What changed?

I had students who believe in *me* and we were willing to teach me, and teach with me...
My realizations

If education is to be a tool of liberation, not oppression, then students must learn how to take charge of their own learning.
Anything that’s worth doing.. Is worth doing badly!*

(*my philosophy of life & of education)
WHAT DID YOU MAKE TODAY?

MISTAKES.
What “I can do it!” looks like.. Growth mindset in action
In a growth mindset, challenges are exciting rather than threatening. So rather than thinking, oh, I'm going to reveal my weaknesses, you say, wow, here's a chance to grow.

-Carol Dweck
“If we want innovative students, we need innovative educators. In other words, innovation begins with you. Ultimately, innovation is not about a skill set: it’s about a mindset.”

(George Couros, 2015)
As educators, we must first adopt a growth mindset for ourselves:

1. Acknowledge that we are a mixture of fixed & growth mindsets

2. Accept that this likely will always be

3. To move closer to a growth mindset in our thoughts and practices, we need to stay in touch with our fixed-mindset thoughts and deeds

*Carol Dweck* in her revisiting of her initial work on growth
Next: Need to start with recognizing different perspectives (abandon the old golden rule!)

“What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing. It also depends on what sort of person you are.”

_The Magician’s Nephew_ by C. S. Lewis
Change Agent

The only way to help people move forward is by building relationships and understanding where their journey begins, not focusing solely on where you want them to be.

@gcouros
Innovation + Culture = Culture of Innovation

The act or process of introducing new ideas, devices or methods to solve problems

The way of thinking, behaving and working that exists in an organization, such as districts or states

Nurturing an environment that continually introduces new ideas or ways of thinking, then translates them into action to solve specific problems or seize new opportunities

Image source: Katie Martin (2015)
Foundation for growth & innovation mindsets

Inclusive learning environments
Students feel safe & valued for what & who they are

Where the magic happens!
Teacher’s beliefs about students

Teacher’s actions towards students

Students’ outcomes in school & life

Students’ actions in school & life

Students’ beliefs about their own capabilities

Adapted from Katie Martin (2017), "Why Believing in Your Students Matters"
“The biggest gap is between doing something and doing nothing -- not between good and excellent”

Dean Shareski (TIES, 2016)
Sugata Mitra: Build a School in the Cloud (TED Feb 2013)
Rubik's Cube: A question, waiting to be answered (Google, 2014)
Katie Martin: The Power Of Their Ideas

“Imagine if we focused on deliberately crafting better questions to elicit and expand on the ideas of the learners rather than planning how to transfer information?”

“Beyond the skills, and possibly even more important, is that the students see their ideas matter.”

(June 4, 2017)
Highly successful people are tinkerers.

We need to cultivate hunches.

Tony Vincent, in his presentation on Question the Status Quo (TIES, 2016)
Where does technology fit in?

Although many organizations approach innovation as if the word is synonymous with technology, it isn’t. Technology can be crucial in the development of innovative organizations, but innovation is less about tools, like computers, tablets, social media, and the Internet, and more about how we use those things.” (Greg Whitby)
Ultimately, it’s about what you do as the teacher...

Past-ucation vs Future-cation is not just "adding technology" (Marc Prensky)

The biggest game changer in education is not a device, it's a teacher (George Couros)

For more ideas, follow Twitter: #InnovatorsMindset and #GrowthMindset
WHAT DO YOU WANT KIDS TO DO WITH TECHNOLOGY?

WRONG ANSWERS
- Make Prezis
- Start blogs
- Create wordles
- Publish Animotos
- Design flipcharts
- Produce videos
- Post to Edmodo
- Use whiteboard
- Develop apps

RIGHT ANSWERS
- Raise awareness
- Start conversations
- Find answers (to their questions)
- Join partners
- Change minds
- Make a difference
- Take action
- Drive change

Technology is a tool, not a learning outcome.

Source: Couros, G. (2015). The Innovator’s Mindset
WHAT DO YOU WANT LEADERS TO DO WITH TECHNOLOGY?

GOOD ANSWERS
- Tweet
- Use Google Apps (or Office 365!)
- Write a blog post
- Use a Learning Management System
- Publish a video
- Send text reminders home
- Develop a website
- Make a presentation
- Create a spreadsheet

BEETTER ANSWERS
- Build Relationships
- Connect with communities - in multiple ways
- Flatten organizations
- Collaborate locally and globally
- Change cultures
- Learn from everyone (and everyone!)
- Openly reflect
- Tell powerful stories
- Develop personal learning opportunities
- Drive change and LEAD!

Technology is a tool, not a leadership outcome.

Ideas by @GCouros | Art by @PlugoSIN

Source: Couros, G. (2015). The Innovator's Mindset
A pep talk from Kid President
Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing there is a field. I'll meet you there.

- Rumi
Image sources

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