

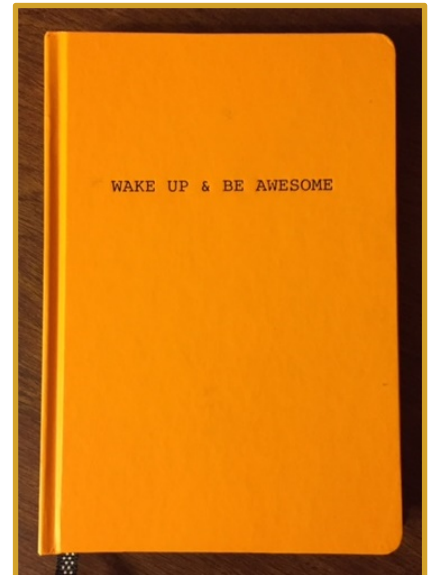
Learning happens when things are hard.

November 16, 2016

Jeanna Norman, the 2016 Union County District Teacher of the Year, introduced growth mindset in her classroom at the start of the school year. She is excited to share the positive impact it has had on her students and her classroom.

After learning about mindsets in Orlando this summer at the Teacher of the Year Roundtable, I knew that I wanted to begin explicitly teaching my students about them and the importance of a growth mindset. I couldn't help feeling like "this is what we've been missing." Developing a growth mindset began to change my life and I knew that my first graders could benefit from it as well.

Armed with a red bar from Florida's 2016 Teacher of the Year, Diane McKee, and a copy of Carol Dweck's book, *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, I hatched a plan to transform my classroom and my methods. We have "Mindset Monday" every week and we spend that time delving deeper into what it means to have a growth mindset and how to develop one. Whenever we read a book, see a video or hear a song that has evidence of a growth mindset, we add it to our mindset wall. To keep track of our personal progress, we've been keeping a "book of awesomeness." Inside it, we record triumphs of all sizes; learning from a mistake, persevering when we wanted to quit, embracing a challenge, learning something new, etc. This book has been a wonderful way to highlight ALL students and their abilities. Anytime there's a new entry, it's shared with the class so that we can celebrate each other and be reminded that **learning happens when things are hard.**



"BOOK OF AWESOMENESS"

Growth mindset has begun to set my students and me free - free from competition, free from stress, free from frustration. We love finding evidence of it in our classroom and in the world around us. We're working every day to become more comfortable with challenges and learning from our mistakes.

Please continue sharing through email or on Twitter at @abbeystewartas1, and remember to include #FLORIDAMINDSET.

All the Best,

Abbey Stewart
Teacher Liaison

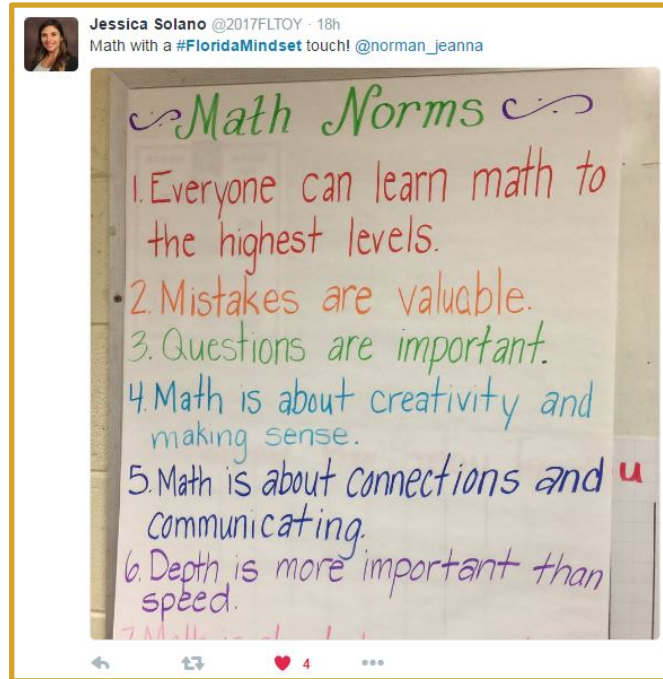
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Hot Topics in Tallahassee

2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! Reminder

The *2017 Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* Literacy-Civics Contest deadline is quickly approaching. Keep in mind that your submission must be postmarked by December 12, 2016 in order to be considered. Winning schools will receive \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second and \$250 for third place. Don't delay in making your submission and having an opportunity to impact your school and community. This year's theme is *Literacy Changes Our World!*

Complete contest details are available on the [CLW website](#).

