



Solving for Why

January 18, 2017

I am excited to share that our 2017 Florida Teacher of the Year, Jessica Solano, recently launched her website, [Solving for Why](#).

Jessica will use this space to chronicle her experiences throughout the year, share tips that can support educators, parents and guardians and post blog entries as she goes on the “Road to 74.” Her goal is to visit all 74 Florida school districts which encompass Florida’s 67 counties, our four developmental research schools, Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, the Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Virtual School.

To kick-off the new year, Jessica is sharing a series of articles that focus on her own experiences with growth mindset and how to implement effective strategies in your classrooms. I love this highlight from Jessica’s first *New Year, New Mindset* article:

“A mother of one of my students told me once how she witnessed her daughter struggling through a challenging math problem at home. As she tried to calm her instinctual motherly nature to swoop in and rescue her daughter from possible failure, she was shocked to see not one ounce of discouragement on her daughter’s face. Instead, she watched as her daughter smiled and reminded herself that challenges help her grow and making mistakes is part of the process. She welcomed the chance to struggle, because it meant more to her than immediately reaching the correct answer.”

You may read the complete article and access Jessica’s website [here](#).

Please continue to share through email and Twitter.

All the best,

Abbey Stewart

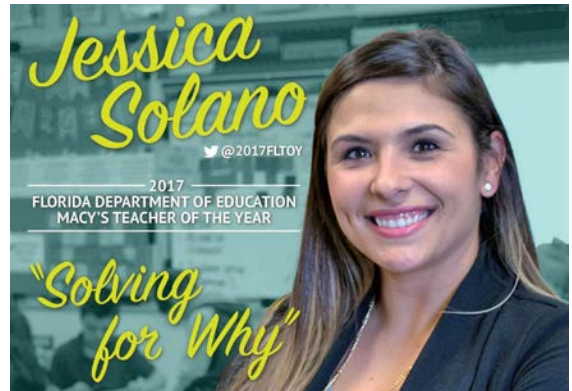
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#FLORIDAMINDSET



Featured Tweet

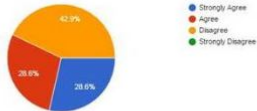
 **Abbey Stewart**
@abbeystewartas1

Over 50 #FloridaMindset micro-credential submissions received! Excited to share a reflection from a @FLVS teacher.
@BloomBoard @EducationFL

I believe that coaching teachers and students on growth mindset has been one of the most valuable projects that I have completed as a leader. Students now believe that they can be successful instead of thinking that algebra is “too hard to do well.”

Before our Growth Mindset introduction, students often got angry when they got low grades or perceived “negative feedback”:


I often get angry when I get negative feedback about my work. (7 responses)



Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	28.6%
Agree	42.9%
Disagree	28.6%
Strongly Disagree	0%

After explicit instruction on Growth Mindset and the brain, students now feel that the “negative feedback” was not a bad thing:

I often get angry when I get negative feedback about my work. (7 responses)



Response	Percentage
Strongly Agree	14.3%
Agree	42.9%
Disagree	42.9%
Strongly Disagree	0%

RETWEETS 3 LIKES 13

6:39 AM - 5 Jan 2017

Hot Topics in Tallahassee

2017 Black History Month Student and Educator Contests Reminder

The 2017 Black History Month student contests and educator awards will be centered on the theme, “*A Recognition of the Role of African-Americans in Shaping Florida Today.*”

Each February, as Florida celebrates Black History Month, many of you incorporate into your lesson plans information about the significant contributions that African Americans have made to our great state. Once again, Governor Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott have invited all Florida students to participate in the Black History Month art and essay contests. Students in grades K-3 have a chance to win a cash prize by submitting artwork and students in grades 4-12 can earn a **four-year Florida Prepaid Scholarship** through the essay contest.

Additionally, students, parents, teachers and principals are invited to nominate full-time educators in elementary, middle and high schools for the Black History Month Excellence in Education Award.


The deadline for all submissions is January 20, 2017.

To learn more about Florida’s Black History Month celebration and contests, visit www.floridablackhistory.com.

External Opportunities

Pro Bowl Discount for Florida Educators

The National Football League is excited to extend an exclusive discounted ticket offer for the 2017 Pro Bowl in Orlando. The biggest names in the NFL will be coming to Central Florida for the first time ever on Sunday, January 29th at Camping World Stadium. Florida educators purchasing through the link below can save \$15-\$20 off the individual ticket price.

A promotional graphic for Pro Bowl 17. The background is blue with a subtle pattern of white lines. At the top, the text "PRO BOWL 17" is displayed in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below this, a horizontal line separates the title from the event details. The text "GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!" is written in white, italicized font. Underneath, the location "Camping World Stadium / Orlando, FL" is listed in white. The date and time "January 29, 2017 @ 8PM" are prominently displayed in white, bold font. A yellow rectangular button with the text "CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE" and the promo code "PROMOCODEPROBOWL8" below it is centered. At the bottom, in small white text, it says "For more information please contact: Brian Travers at 305-943-6662 or BTravers@dolphins.com".

PRO BOWL 17

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