A little bit about me

- Gifted Teacher since 2013 K-8
- Certification Standard School Counselor, PreK-12
- Standard Professional Elementary Education, K-8
- Standard Adult Education
- Gifted Endorsement, PreK-12
- English as a Second Language Endorsement, PreK-12

“Teachers who love teaching, teach children to love learning.”

Enthusiastic elementary and middle school gifted educator, with the goal of sharing creative lessons and engaging classroom instruction to promote the goals of mathematical, reading, scientific, historical, and financial literacy with real world connections and the 21st Century 4Cs- Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Creativity, and Communication.
The Problem

Gifted students often get mislabeled as having a fixed mindsets because of their talents.

- Perfectionists think they did something wrong.
- Underachievers figure it doesn’t matter if they have already been labeled- why try.

Gifted students often get overlooked in the core classroom, “they already got it”...

- They don’t have the same opportunities to practice failure. Is that equity?
The Possible Solution

- Address the “Fixed Mindsets”
- Practice Failure

Where does this occur? Often in the GT classroom...

- Hmm...open up gifted more with universal testing?

But how do GT classrooms actually help fix the problem? How do they address the “Fixed Mindsets”? 
What I will cover in this presentation:

- What is Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure?
- Why does Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure matter?
- How do YOU teach growth mindset in the Power of Productive Failure?
- How do I teach growth mindset in the Power of Productive Failure? Examples, lots of ideas!

What you should REALLY remember.
What is Growth Mindset?

“In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work—brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.” (Dweck, 2015)

VS.

“In a fixed mindset, people believe their basic qualities, like their intelligence or talent, are simply fixed traits. They spend their time documenting their intelligence or talent instead of developing them. They also believe that talent alone creates success—without effort.” (Dweck, 2015)
Growth Mindset, don’t get it twisted.

GROWTH MINDSET IS NOT A character trait rather it is a situation-specific approach to problem-solving.
What is productive failure?

IN TERMS I CAN UNDERSTAND:

Productive Failure Does not maximize your performance in the short term, but maximizes your learning in the long term. what matters is that you know how to turn that failure into success. Productive failure requires three key elements: reflection, growth mindset and reaching out for help when needed.

Example: You do poorly on your test, so you go to a tutor for help. You make sure that you learn from your mistakes and understand the material before moving on.
Why Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure?

Productive Failure further pushes for growth mindset in education:
- Includes the idea that intelligence is learned
- Self-directed research (teaching autonomy, relatedness, connection)
- Self-learning (Autonomy, builds self-confidence)
- Teaches students to deal with the inevitable - Failure, but it can be productive.
- Growth mindset helps deter the drive of perfection.

Perfection is Stagnation
Why Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure for GIFTED STUDENTS?

Gifted children generally know they are different, ask them. **Providing a clear, age-appropriate explanation with growth mindset in the power of productive failure helps them understand giftedness**, is essential and validates what they know.
Why Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure for GIFTED STUDENTS?

Grow Beyond Your Talent
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure Builds Resilience

Six Skills of Resilience

● Principle 1: Cultivate a Belief in Your Ability to Cope.
● Principle 2: Stay Connected With Sources of Support.
● Principle 4: Be Helpful to Others.
● Principle 6: Seek Meaning.

All six skills are taught with Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Building Grit

Skills of Grit

- **Courage.**
- **Conscientiousness**: Achievement Oriented vs. Dependable.
- Long-Term Goals and Endurance: Follow Through.
- **Resilience**: Optimism, Confidence, and Creativity.
- Excellence vs. Perfection.

All skills of grit are taught with Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Why Does it Matter?

- How we interact and encourage students affects their attitudes toward learning.
- How WE act affects students attitudes toward learning.
- A positive mindset is the difference between a student giving up because they’re “not good at it” and a productive struggle that yields growth.
- Learning the Power of Productive Failure helps social emotional growth, builds grit, and resilience.
- Growth mindset isn’t just about effort.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Why Does it REALLY Matter?

Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure helps make long term learning effective!

- Gifted students (ALL students, but remember gifted students are often left out in the core classroom) need material that really challenges them in order for them to learn efficiently.

- Normalize Productive Failure to change the way students learn. Everyone is learning in a challenging situation. Gifted students, special education students, all are learning and thriving with challenge, we just need to make sure they have the opportunity to practice challenge.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure

How Do I teach it?

- Project Based Learning
- Gamification- Game Based Learning
- SEL activities and Lessons- learn directly about Growth Mindset
- The Power of Yet
- Use Solution Focused Language
- Choice Boards!
- Focus on Student Interests- Make time to hear/ learn about student self-guided projects.
- Share student achievements on progress not just product.
- Make sure students feel safe in the environment to fail productively.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
How Do I teach it? The Modified Research.

Modified Kapur & Bielaczyc, 2011- (Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Learning Sciences Laboratory, National Institute of Education researchers in productive failure related to math)

Implementation of productive failure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DESIGN PHASES</th>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>PARTICIPATION STRUCTURES</th>
<th>SOCIAL SURROUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Generate and explore multiple representations and solutions methods (RSMs)</td>
<td>Design tasks that are adequately complex, engaging, and draw on students’</td>
<td>Enable collaboration to allow students to elaborate, critique, explain, and evaluate shared work, thereby further enriching the shared representation and solution spaces</td>
<td>Create a safe space for students to explore and generate by setting appropriate socio-classroom norms &amp; providing affective support for persistence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Organization and Knowledge Assembly</td>
<td>Compare and contrast student-generated and canonical ideas</td>
<td>Enable student engagement through group presentations and students’ participation; teachers act as facilitators, paraphrasing student explanations, and drawing attention to critical features</td>
<td>Create a safe space to explore the affordances and constraints of student-generated RSMs with a view of improving upon them, and not assessing them as correct or incorrect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Choice Boards are great for this.
Rubrics and classroom agreed criteria help so much!
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
How Do I teach it? I need some specific examples

● Feel like you need to learn more? Take a class.
  ○ Learners Edge- Mindsets Matter
    [https://courses.learnersedge.com/courses/dl/all/Mindsets-Matter/](https://courses.learnersedge.com/courses/dl/all/Mindsets-Matter/)

● Need some specific Lessons?
  ○ Check out Teachers Pay Teachers. There are tons of FREE Growth Mindset lessons.
    ■ WestenWerks- grab your Free Reward Tags. Yes We want learning to be intrinsic but sometimes your whole class needs an extrinsic reminder to celebrate.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure

Solution Focused Language

Problem Focused vs Solution Focused

Problem Talk vs Solution Talk

From WholeHearted School Counseling TPT
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
How Do I teach it? The Power of Yet

Read:
1. Not Yet by Lisa Cox (ages 4-8)
2. Flight School by Lita Judge (ages 4-8)

Watch:
1. Janelle Monae “The Power of Yet” (Sesame Street, 2015, 2.5 minutes).
2. C.J. Lukey- The Power of Yet by Andre Kahmeyer (4 minutes)
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
How Do I teach it? Lesson Ideas for ALL YEAR Implementation.

Fill My Bucket
Digital or Real World buckets.
Check out TPT and your Dollar Store

Journals or Learning Portfolios
Digital or Real World journals and portfolios

Read, Watch, and Learn about Failures from the famous/successful and Discuss perseverance.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Example of how I teach it with Digital Notebooks.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Example of how I teach it with Games.

**Winning The White House**

The Martin Luther King Jr. Weekly Challenge was fun! The game “Win the White House” was hard on my first try, especially at the start. My opponent had 100 more votes than ME. That is a LOT. And in case you didn't know, I lost.

Nadia Westen
9:46 AM Jan 19

It is ok that you lost, what matters is that you tried and learned something from the game. I'm glad this was a fun challenge and remember you can always play and try again.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Example of how I teach it with Games.

Don’t Flood The Fidgits!

I didn’t do so good on my first try. I did the whole island with grass and sewers and houses with stilts and grass apartments, and I still lost! But I had fun which is the best!

Nadia Westen
2:18 PM Feb 22

I'm glad you are having fun! this is a difficult challenge and you will get better with practice!
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Example of how I teach it with Project Based Learning.

- Examine **real world problems/situations** - Which is better a tiny home or a “regular” size home?
- **Set criteria** with class. What is a tiny home, what is a “regular” size home?
- Include **supporting materials** - articles, videos, direct instruction, debates, etc.
- **Go over standards** - STEAM and rubrics

Main Focus on the Progress NOT the Product!
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Example of how I teach it with Student Choice and Voice.

Take the End of the Year Survey. Let me know how you liked Imagination Zone and How WE can IMPROVE
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Example of how I Share Process Not just Product and provide an audience.

I ask, is it your best work for today? What can you learn to make it better?
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
How I make sure the environment is safe for productive failure.

Save Fred or Saving Sam

Get Your Mind Right!

Growth Mindset
The Force
Because you are
eager to learn, you
are happy to:
• Embrace
  Challenges
• Keep Going, Even
  When It Is Hard
• See Effort As The
  Journey to Success
• Learn From
  Constructive
  Criticism
• Are Inspired By The
  Success Of Others

Fixed Mindset
The Darkside
Because you are
afraid of looking silly
and getting things
wrong, you:
• Avoid Challenges
• Give Up, Especially
  When It’s Hard
• See Effort As A
  Waste Of Your Time
• Ignore Useful
  Feedback
• Feel Threatened By
  Other People’s
  Success

By Nadia Westen
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure With a Digital Makerspace.

Digital Creativity with Mrs. Westen

Make sure to check out Mrs. Westen's Class Hub for SUMMER PLAN IDEAS! Meet the Teacher. News. Digital Cheat Sheets, and more! The HUB is Regularly Updated!
Testimonials from students—Why is having a gifted program important? In person or online.

Having a gifted program is important because it can exercise gifted students' brains more effectively than regular assignments, and can provide interesting activities and challenges for gifted students to be immersed in.

Having a gifted program is important because it allows students with a passion to learn and be creative a chance to use their strengths for the better...

P.S. in person was better.

Because it gives kids that are not being challenged enough in a regular class a chance to be challenged.

I think it is important because it helps our minds think and keep on running.

It gives me a break from normal classes and helps exercise my mind.
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure

What YOU Should Really Remember

- Gifted students need the resources and the time to practice growth mindset in the power of productive failure.

Assuring their is an effective and funded gifted program helps provide the time and resources needed for gifted student progression.

- Practice Makes Progress (for you and the students)
- The Main focus should be on the process not the product
- Make sure students feel safe to fail productively
- Normalize Productive Failure
Want to research Growth Mindset in Depth?

Check out Professor Carol Dweck, an American psychologist, found that we all have different beliefs about the underlying nature of ability. Children (and adults!) with a growth mindset believe that intelligence and abilities can be developed through effort, persistence, trying different strategies and learning from mistakes.

https://www.ted.com/speakers/carol_dweck
Growth Mindset in the Power of Productive Failure
Need MORE resources?

- **Rushton Hurley Rushton** is the founder and executive director of Next Vista for Learning, which houses a **free library of videos** by and for teachers and students at **NextVista.org**

- **Mindset works**- Need growth mindset lesson plans to use remotely while your students are learning from home? We've got you covered. [https://www.mindsetworks.com/free-resources/#TeachersDiv](https://www.mindsetworks.com/free-resources/#TeachersDiv)

- **WestenWerks** [https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Westenwerks](https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Westenwerks)
THE ONLY PERSON YOU NEED TO COMPARE YOURSELF WITH IS WHO YOU WERE YESTERDAY.

-Rushton Hurley
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https://presented.co.uk/how-much-do-people-remember-from-a-presentation/#:~:text=There%20have%20been%20various%20studies%2C%20the%20audience%20remembered%2025%25