

# **Scholar+ Online Learning Academy Newsletter**

Volume 2 September 2018

## Principal's Message

Dr. Pauline S. Garcia

We had a great start of the new school year. We held our Back to School Night on august 22, 2018. It was well attended by the board, cabinet members, parents, students, and staff. Three local community based organizations were also present to provide information regarding their programs. We will continue to work with these organizations to provide support to all students and their families.

Students and staff at Scholar+ are encouraged to demonstrate *G.R.I.T:* embrace a growth mindset, remain resilient, demonstrate integrity, and exhibit tenacity! The staff at Scholar+ is here to assist students in their academic pursuits and

school activities. **Scholar+** will assist students in gaining knowledge, developing social and relational skills, and creating positive attitudes that will enable the students to return to the comprehensive school setting at the end of the prescribed time.

Each month we will focus on our Schoolwide Learner Outcomes in depth. During the month of September, we will focus on the G - Growth Mindset.

This newsletter has been prepared to serve as a source of information to assist the parent/guardian. Parents are an integral part of the education process because of their support, concern, and understandings are needed if the best is to be realized for their student. Together, the students, parents, and

staff of **Scholar**+ can make this a successful year for all.





# Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset

According to *Develop Good Habits*, "Dweck, when a student has a fixed mindset, they believe that their basic abilities, intelligence, and talents are fixed traits. They think that you are born with a certain amount and that's all you have.

People with a **fixed mindset** is to always want to appear intelligent, because they believe that they were born with a **fixed level of intelligence** that cannot be modified. These people have a fear of looking dumb to people because they do not believe that they can redeem themselves once other people look at them as being unintelligent".

In a **growth mindset**, however, students believe their abilities and **intelligence can be developed** with effort, learning, and persistence. Their basic abilities are simply a starting point for their potential. They don't believe everyone is the same, but they hold

onto the idea that everyone can become smarter if they try.

### Growth Mindset Youtube video

#### Fixed Mindset defined...

According to *Develop Good Habits*, "In a fixed mindset, people believe their qualities are fixed traits and therefore cannot change. These people document their intelligence and talents rather than working to develop and improve them". They also believe that talent alone leads to success, and effort is not required.

### **Growth Mindset defined...**

According to *Develop Good Habits*, "people have an underlying belief that their learning and intelligence can grow with time and experience. When people believe they can get smarter, they realize that their effort has an effect on their success, so they put in extra time, leading to higher achievement".

Growth Mindset and...



There is a difference between not knowing and not knowing...YET.

## The Power of Yet

Dweck's concept is based on the premise that we are all on a learning journey, and that just because you haven't accomplished a task yet, does not mean that you cannot or should not try and certainly that you should not give up. Your "yet" is coming, your "yet" is not yet here. It's a type of hope that is instilled in us to not give up. Carol Dweck's "The Power of Believing that You can Improve" video and its content was amazing. I was so taken aback by her concepts, and was so thrilled to see things from a perspective that I've always held near and dear to my heart but was never able to express; the power of yet or not yet. The creators of TED TV were so impressed with Dweck, that they invited her to speak on the subject. The makers at Sesame Street were so impressed with the concept they made a song about it. If you think about it, it is the power of hope, the power of believing, the power of the Growth Mindset, that says, "I believe in you, give it a try, encourage one another." The power of yet!

How can	parents	support	a
growth m	indset?		

One way that parents can really help their children is by carefully choosing the words that are used when they praise them. Every word parents say and action they perform sends a message to their children. Those words and actions tell children how to think about themselves. Parents should always praise their child's effort instead of praising accomplishments. The following table includes some examples.

Don't Say	Do Say
You are really athletic!	You really work hard and pay attention when you are on that field!
You are so smart!	You work hard in school and it shows!
Your drawing is wonderful!	I see you have been practicing. It shows.
You are a great athlete!	Keep practicing and you'll see great results.
You always get good grades!	When you put effort, it really shows in your grades. You should be proud of yourself. We are proud of you!



Students earn attendance credit based on the work completed during the week. It is critical that students complete 20-30 hours a week in their course of study at home. In addition, students are required to attend weekly, one hour per core class at the site.

Students who do not demonstrate adequate weekly progress will meet with administration and counseling to complete an evaluation and may be placed on academic probation.

Special Programs

Mental Health First Aid Awareness



Our Mental Health First Aid Awareness is scheduled for September 18, 2018 at the school site. The purpose of the event is to equip our youth and parents at SOLA/PLHS with competencies to lead productive and healthy lives. Students will participate in a series of mini workshops that focus on yoga, meditation, boundaries, makerspace, kindness, and healthy habits to deal with life's stresses.

### **Awards Assemblies**



Students are acknowledged for their efforts in academics, good citizenships, and attendance during the award assemblies scheduled every six weeks.

Please contact Mr. Rudy Lima, Counselor at <u>rudy.lima@puhsd.org</u>, or (951) 657-7357 x 30104 should you have questions regarding your academics, career, or social needs.



## **Parent Meetings**

Coffee with the Principal Coffee with the Principal is in the library. All parents and family members are invited to attend. It is an opportunity to engage in informal conversations about our school. Information is shared by the Principal regarding upcoming events and activities. It is also an opportunity to ask questions and share ideas about improving student achievement in our school. The best part about the meeting is the coffee! Meetings will be held once a month on the first Monday of the month from 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

AAPAC The African American Parent Advisory Council. The council has been developed in efforts to address excellence through equity. Monthly meetings will be held the 1st Monday of the month in the library from 2:30-3:30.

**PELI** The Parent Engagement Leadership Initiative has been established to increase parent participation. Monthly meetings will be held the 1st Monday of the month in the library from 2:30-3:30 with AAPAC.

WASC The Accrediting Commission for Schools Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Scholar+ has recently been designated as a school. WASC has granted SOLA Initial Accreditation through June 2021. Parent participation and input is needed to continue our work in improving our school. Monthly meetings will be held the 2nd Monday of the month in the library from 2:30-3:30



## **Important Dates to Remember**

AAPAC/PELI Meeting - 1st Monday of the Month

WASC Meeting - 2nd Monday of the Month 6 week grading period ends - 9-21-18 12 week grading period ends - 11/2/18 Semester ends - 12/20/18

# Scholar+OLA and PUHSD Site Goals



The Local Control and Accountability Plan or LCAP is a critical part of California's new Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). It is a three-year, district-level plan that is updated annually.

Goal #1: All students will attain proficiency in all academic areas.

Goal #2: All students will graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary and career options.

Goal #3: All departments and sites will provide a safe and positive learning environment for all students and staff.

Goal #4: Secure and strengthen home-school-community connections and communications.

# Meet Our Amazing Staff!



**Contact Information** 

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