Fostering an Inclusive Classroom

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What does inclusive teaching mean to you?

Think, individually, of classrooms you may have been in that were particularly inclusive or not.

• If you had to pick one word to describe inclusive teaching, what would that be?

Now introduce yourself and share with the person next to you.
Over the next hour we will:

✓ reflect on what it means to teach inclusively
✓ name different aspects of diversity
✓ define growth mindset and identify ways to foster this in a math classroom
Students will enter your classroom with a variety of identities

- Gender
- Race
- Class
- Learning preferences (NOT styles)
- Motivation for learning
- Approach to teaching

- Mindset (fixed or growth)
- Major
- Year
- Nationality
- Ethnicity
- Prior knowledge
- Age
- Gender identity
- Etc...
As an instructor, you have control of the classroom environment

Course design including how students are grouped

Instructor assumptions and awareness of multicultural issues

Instructor knowledge of your students' backgrounds

Your decisions, comments, and behaviors
How can you get to know your students’ backgrounds?

• Survey
• Autobiography
• Class blog/discussion board
• Tests
Growth mindset is the belief that qualities can change and that we can develop our intelligence and abilities. Fixed Mindset: People with a fixed mindset believe that they have a certain amount of intelligence, and nothing can change that. Growth Mindset: People with a growth mindset see their qualities as things that can be developed through their dedication and effort. Many of us are a mix of fixed and growth mindsets. It’s important to acknowledge and be aware of when we take a fixed approach. Carol Dweck’s Website: [www.mindsetonline.com](http://www.mindsetonline.com)
Growth mindset helps students thrive on challenges and setbacks and unlock learning and it fosters inclusion.

• It’s not just about effort. Working hard involves thinking hard, reflecting and changing strategies. Encourage students to push through challenges.

• Rethink assessments
  • Reward growth
  • Credit for returning to problems students got wrong
  • Let assessment drive learning – only happens if you go back, look at what you did, and learn from it

• Provide helpful feedback

• Prepare everyone – treat students as individuals
  • Give high achievers opportunities to struggle and persevere

• Model lifelong learning

“How to Integrate Growth Mindset Messages into Every Part of Math Class”
https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2016/12/05/how-to-integrate-growth-mindset-messages-into-every-part-of-math-class/
What does it mean to “think like a mathematician”?

How can you help your students develop these skills?
Inclusive classrooms are ones in which:

• A variety of teaching methods are used
• A range of opportunities for participation are used - from group discussion, to individual reflection - to allow all students to demonstrate their abilities
• Thoughtfulness, respect and academic excellence are valued and promoted
• Multiple perspectives and experiences are considered
• Everyone feels safe, supported and encouraged. *Students are treated as individuals*
WHAT DOES INCLUSIVE TEACHING MEAN TO YOU?

https://youtu.be/-akUss3uj0M
Inclusive teaching IS excellent teaching

Questions?
References

Research-based resources:


Additional online resources:


• “How to Integrate Growth Mindset Messages into Every Part of Math Class” https://ww2.kqed.org/mindshift/2016/12/05/how-to-integrate-growth-mindset-messages-into-every-part-of-math-class/