



# Musketeer Minute

## Greenup County Schools

### Growth Mindset: Motivation

Every teacher dreams of highly motivated students, right? But, **how** do we motivate students?

Carol Dweck notes that the **right kind** of praise motivates students to learn. Focusing praise on **Strategy, Effort, or Attitude** creates a culture of motivation.

Todd Whitaker (2004) notes that effective teachers understand the power of praise and look for opportunities to find students that deserve that praise.

So let's look at ways that praise can lead to motivation in the classroom:

1. Intrinsic Motivation—students want praise from each other to make them feel competent, accepted, and successful.
2. Self-Esteem—when a student receives that intrinsic motivation, it makes them proud of themselves.
3. Positive Classroom Atmosphere—with the intrinsic motivation and improved self-esteem, the classroom culture changes.
4. Pro-Academic Peer Norms—if our classroom is structured so that teammates praise

each other, it promotes achievement.

5. Positive Emotion and Retrograde Memory—emotion plays an important role in memory. Positive emotions make the content memorable.

For more ideas on making your curriculum more motivating check out what Dr. Kagan has to say in Chapter 16 (page 8) of your Cooperative Learning book.

Motivation is a key trait in maintaining a Growth Mindset in ourselves as well as our students.

KASC Growth Mindset Toolkit, 2016

Todd Whitaker, What Great Teachers Do Differently, Eye on Education, Inc. 2004

Spencer Kagan, Kagan Cooperative Learning, Kagan Publishing, 2009

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Extended Thought

[Motivate Student Learning Through Praise](#)

[Wilma Unlimited - elementary read](#)

[Praise that Motivates Students](#)

[The Perils and Promises of Praise](#)



#GCMusketeerMindset

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time. - Thomas Edison

People who say it cannot be done should not interrupt those who are doing it. - Chinese Proverb

Motivation is the art of getting people to do what you want them to do because they want to do it. - Dwight D. Eisenhower

