

GEF Summer School, Inc. ACTION PLAN 2

Goal 2 (Area of Improvement): Prepare students for life beyond high school, college and career, by promoting the use of critical thinking skills in the classroom and promoting a growth mindset in students.

Rationale: Critical Need: An identified area of critical need is to stay current regarding curriculum charges to assure that summer school prepares students to meet revised standards. The Common Core Standards include rigorous content and the application of knowledge through high-order skills. In an effort to prepare students for the increased expectations of the Common Core, teachers will provide students multiple opportunities to participate in high-order tasks. In order for students to persevere when faced with assignments that demand complex thinking, students must see struggle as an opportunity for growth and effort as the key to success. Thus, the importance of promoting a growth mindset in our students.

Supporting Information The Common Core were developed in collaboration with educators to provide “a clear consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.” A major emphasis of the Common Core is the “application of knowledge through high-order skills.” (<http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards>)

Growth Targets
2016-2019 A level of thinking section is included in the classroom observation form that the principal returns to teachers after daily classrooms visits. The principal will track the levels of thinking schoolwide, and over time, student will spend more time involved in high-order thinking. In addition, the principal will note examples of teachers promoting growth mindset thinking.

Monitor Progress Tools	Report Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily principal observations giving teachers feedback • Principal weekly Great Teaching emails citing examples of teachers promoting the use of critical thinking skills • Teacher Survey 	The principal will report progress on high-order thinking in weekly Great Teaching emails. Teachers, the academic coordinator, and the President of the Board will receive these emails. The emails will describe high-order classroom work and growth mindset implementation. Data will be collected and shared on the level of DOK observed.

TASKS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S) INVOLVED	PROFESSIONALDEVELOPMENT / RESOURCES	MEANS TO ASSESS IMPROVEMENT	TIMELINE	REPORTING TO
Provide staff development on DOK and growth mindset prior to the start of summer school to assure common definitions	Academic Coordinator/Principal Teachers	Information on the impact of high-order thinking, signs delineating the levels of thinking for each classroom, and an opportunity for teachers to share with colleagues how they incorporate high-order thinking. Introduce growth mindset concepts and discuss how the structure of the classroom can promote growth mindset.	Feedback from teachers Conversations with teachers	Staff Development Day prior to opening (Yearly)	Teachers
Provide a GEF Observation Form that includes level of thinking/DOK and a comment section to note	Principal/Academic Coordinator	Revised forms used in daily classroom visits	Track levels of thinking And include examples of growth mindset in weekly emails.	June-July (Yearly)	Teachers

growth mindset					
Daily classroom visits to record the level of thinking	Principal Teachers	Revised forms and the time to visit classes Forms placed in teacher boxes at the end of each day	Track levels of thinking	June/July (Yearly)	Teachers
Weekly Great Teaching emails	Principal	Principal shared high-order thinking opportunities observed in classrooms and high-order thinking data. Also comment on activities designed to promote growth mindset.	High order thinking data and examples of growth mindset observed.	June/July (Weekly)	Teachers Board of Directors
Survey teachers regarding the incorporation of high-order thinking and growth mindset	Principal Academic Coordinator Teachers	Revision of survey form Time to compile and report results	Survey results Next steps	July/August (Yearly)	Executive Director Board of Directors
Based on survey results and data determine next step to promote high-order thinking/DOK and growth mindset in year 2 and 3 of the plan	Academic Coordinator Principal	Time to outline appropriate next steps	Compare survey results on high-order thinking year-to year Compare student success data	August/September (Yearly)	Teachers Executive Director Board of Directors