



Warrens Elementary School

409 Main St. Warrens, WI 54666

Mr. Timothy A. Gnewikow, Principal

Phone (608) 374-7801 / timothygnewikow@tomah.education

www.tomah.education

If You Believe, You Will Achieve



January 2019

Growth Mindset in the New Year!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year to you and yours! I hope 2018 ended on a positive note for your family and 2019 has gotten off to a bright start. I am also hoping the recent winter break of the school year brought you many blessings and special time with loved ones. Thank you to the many families who attended our Warrens Winter Movie Showcase before we headed out for break! I heard many positive reviews of everyone having a choice of three movies rather than just "The Polar Express". This is something we will likely continue in the future. Please feel free to give me feedback on this event.

As we get to the halfway point of the school year, we will take time to reflect on our progress. In the coming weeks, all students will take part in mid-year district benchmarking assessments to look at the academic growth they have made. Some students will find that they already surpassed goals set in the Fall, while others may find they have fallen short of what they hoped to gain. Either way, we will encourage students to continue focusing on a Growth Mindset. Taking on a Growth Mindset means students believe in their own abilities and, with hard work, success will follow. It means having a willingness to learn from your mistakes and persevere through struggles, having a life motto of "I can do this" rather than "I can't do this". When you embrace challenges as a learning experience and feel like you succeed even if you fail because you gave the best effort, you are establishing a Growth Mindset.

I would encourage you to have discussions with your children about how they feel they are progressing at school. What are they feeling successful with? What is frustrating for them? Remind them that the most successful people in the world have failed hundreds and thousands of times, but continually push forward, learn from their mistakes, and come out better on the other side. Encourage your child to always give their best effort even if they come up short of their goal. We often want to step in and stop our children from failing, but we aren't teaching them the critical life lesson of **perseverance**. Praise your child's efforts and not necessarily their successes. Celebrate failure as long as it comes with hard work. Remind them, "You can't do it yet, but keep trying". We all fail, but what you do after you fail defines your mindset. Do you persevere or give up?

I have attached Warren's results and an explanation from last year's Forward Exam, which gives our school a grade of "Exceeds Expectations". In fact, we had **THE HIGHEST GRADE IN THE DISTRICT!** While we are happy that we have earned this grade, much like the students, we will continually look for ways to improve and display a Growth Mindset of continuous improvement as a staff.

Finally, a reminder that the official first half of our school year will wrap-up on Thursday, January 24th with no school on the 25th. This reminds us that we still have 2 more quarters of the school year to reach our goals and have a successful 2019. I wish you and your children the very best of luck in reaching your New Year's Resolutions and goals!

Sincerely,

Tim Gnewikow

The Tomah Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity) or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities. The Coordinator of the District's efforts to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is Dr. Paul Skofronick, 1310 Townline Road, Tomah, WI 54660 – phone: (608) 374-7011. Any inquiries regarding the application of the District's non-discrimination policy may be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

Si necesita Ud. ayuda en la traducción de este documento, por favor llama la especialista de ELL del distrito a 374-7014.