



NORTH TORONTO REGION PD DAY

Date: FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2015
Registration: 8:30 AM
Welcome & Devotions: 9:00 AM

Location: Toronto District Christian High School
377 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge, ON L4L 2V7

Cost: \$50 for Edifide Members / \$80 for non-members

PRESENTING – JUSTIN COOK

After teaching in British Columbia, Toronto, and at his alma mater Hamilton District Christian High School, Justin has recently joined the Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools as the Director of Learning, where he is excited to partner with schools in a vision of learning for flourishing communities. At home, Justin and his wife Rachel (and their three beautiful children!) love trying to live intentionally in their neighborhood: sharing and restoring a multi-unit house, practicing hospitality, buying and growing food locally, walking to church with their children, feasting with friends. Justin attended Redeemer University College and Calvin College, and is currently an M.A. candidate at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto, ON.

Growth Mindsets for Learning

Research in education has clearly shown the importance of focussing intentionally on students' mindsets—their sense of belonging, engagement, and commitment to growth in learning through effort. Social/emotional learning and the ethos of our classrooms has as much impact on learning as our curriculum, and the more we understand the internal perceptions of our students, the more effective we can be in empowering their growth mindsets both academically and behaviourally. Perhaps our mindsets as teachers are as important as the mindsets of our students. Working collaboratively, we'll clarify our beliefs about learning and apply those beliefs concretely to our classrooms and our schools:

- What are our beliefs and mindsets about student learning (who the student is), professional learning (who the teacher is) and what type of learning designs are best suited to these beliefs?
- How do we engage students in a way that helps us understand their mindsets: their beliefs about themselves, their own effort and abilities, their level of engagement with their own learning, and the strategies they can implement to succeed?

Many of our schools intentionally shape their ethos for learning through structures like The Leader in Me, Restorative Practices, TRIBES, and other approaches. How effective are these approaches in empowering students to excel in their learning? How do we embed them in our ethos as a core aspect of our Christian identities and learning designs and not just as something added on? How else do we help our students believe that their learning is meaningful, that they are each "fearfully and wonderfully made," and that their effort will lead to growth?

In collaborative groups we'll share our best practices together—what we already do and what we want to commit to in the future—to foster growth mindsets that empower our students and each other as lead learners in our communities.