

JUST FOR TEACHERS UPDATES



Dr. Brian Dassler

March 29, 2017

It is with the greatest sadness that I share with you the loss of a colleague, friend and mentor, Dr. Brian Dassler, Deputy Chancellor for Educator Quality, who passed away last Tuesday.

Brian was a champion for students, teachers and leaders and he will be missed beyond measure. He was the kindest soul and a tremendous force for good.

Brian's greatest vision was for every single student, every single day to be taught by a teacher that was as good as the best any of us ever had. That vision has guided my work for the past three years and will continue to drive the work we do here at the Department. We will do our best to honor this vision he believed in so fiercely.

As you may remember, I shared last year that Brian introduced me to the concept of growth mindset. My personal work around developing a growth mindset in areas that I did not always have one has helped me to be a better mom, learner and co-worker. It is one of the greatest gifts he shared with me.

He believed growth mindset to be the foundation of his vision – that teachers and students alike would know that with hard work and the right strategies, ability can be developed; that skill is cultivated through practice; that the possibilities for growth and improvement are abundant. As he said often, **“smart is not what you are; it’s what you do.”**

I encourage you to take a few minutes to watch or re-watch Brian’s TEDx Talk, [Why We Persist at Some Things but Quit at Others](#), and to share it with your fellow teachers, your school leaders and, most importantly, your students. The continuation of the #FloridaMindset is one small way we can honor Brian.



The family requests that lieu of flowers, donations be made to [The Brian Dassler Memorial Scholarship](#) established by the Broward Education Foundation, and [The Brian Dassler Transformational Leader Memorial Fund](#) set up by The UF College of Education.

Best,

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#FLORIDAMINDSET

Featured Tweets

 **Brian Dassler**
@brian_dassler Following

My iconoclastic advice, (and I don't give advice):

'Bite off more than you can chew.'

That is where the learning & growth is found.

RETWEETS 42 LIKES 109

8:03 PM - 18 Mar 2017

3 42 109

 **Brian Dassler**
@brian_dassler Following

Love this! No thing as a math gene - all of us can be "math people" with effective instruction and [#FloridaMindset](#)

Walt Griffin, Ed.D. @walt_griffin
How to Integrate Growth Mindset Messages Into Every Part of Math Class | MindShift | KQED News www.kqed.org/mindshift/2016...

RETWEETS 4 LIKES 8

4:45 AM - 6 Dec 2016

4 8 8

 **Brian Dassler**
@brian_dassler Following

Good intentions and good deeds only count if they lead to equitable outcomes.

RETWEETS 3 LIKES 15

10:16 AM - 26 Feb 2017

3 15 15

 **Brian Dassler**
@brian_dassler Following

What if the default class for all students was the most rigorous class available, and students had to get permission NOT to take it?!

RETWEETS 5 LIKES 28

8:11 PM - 8 Mar 2017

5 28 28

Hot Teaching Topics

St. Johns County Superintendent Honored for Data-Driven Success

At the March 22 State Board of Education meeting, Commissioner Stewart named former St. Johns County Schools Superintendent Dr. Joseph G. Joyner as the 2016 Lavan Dukes District Data Leader of the Year. During Dr. Joyner's tenure, St. Johns has been one of only two districts to achieve an "A" grade every year since district grades were implemented in 2004, and in 2016, St. Johns was the highest performing school district in Florida.



The Lavan Dukes District Data Leader of the Year Program highlights the critical role district superintendents play in supporting and encouraging the use of data to improve students' college and career readiness. The award is named after Lavan Dukes to honor longtime Department of Education employee Garnet Lavan Dukes for his numerous contributions to public education on both the state and national levels.

For more information about the award, visit [District Data Leader](#).