

Growth Mindset Thinkers

Video: Applying the TRU Framework

(ALAN SCHOENFELD:) So the virtues of TRU are that it contains a small number of things that really make a difference. And they're actionable. And you can get your head around them fairly fast. The other thing I didn't mention is a negative. It doesn't have any magic bullets. It doesn't make any promises. And in fact what it says is, you know all the things in TRU. If you listen to all the dimensions, they resonate. So what TRU does is it helps organize the things you know so that you can use what you know more effectively and build on that as a base.

It's not something new and exciting. It's a way to take what you know and have experienced, and help you focus on the things that count.

Before you go into a classroom, you ask yourself, "How am I thinking about the mathematics? What are the big ideas? How are they going to emerge as the class goes through what it's supposed to do?" That's the math dimension.

"How am I thinking about the opportunities my students will have for sense-making? What am I presenting them? What are they supposed to do? What are they going to grapple with the math so that the big ideas come to life in their interaction with the mathematics? How am I thinking and are opening up the math so that everybody gets a chance to sink their teeth into it? Where am I providing the opportunities for kids to talk mathematics, to build on what they know, to explain mathematics, to develop productive math identities?" And, "How am I going to know in a reasonable way where the kids are so I can react to it and adapt accordingly?"

If that becomes a language and a perspective that teachers use, that shapes everything. That shapes the way they go into classrooms. That shapes the commentaries that you have afterwards.