

These days kids in school generally believe that you can either have it, or you don't. This goes with everything, from athletic abilities, charm, and especially how smart or challenged a child is. From elementary school to high school, the common belief is that the road is already drawn out for you through your curricular career, and there is no changing that. Even though so many students are subjected to these toxic thoughts, the simple fact is that anything can be achieved through how hard you work, and how high you set your goals. "The Secret to Raising Smart Kids" enforces the idea of how a student's work ethic is the tool to a brighter future through rigorous studies, and statistics.

Without strong work ethic, nothing can be achieved no matter what special talent you have. In the passage, the author describes a bright young student named Jonathan, and he was able to get done with school work very quickly and easily. He shined in his early years of school, but once the work got harder, he got lazy, and his grades plummeted. Now this may be obvious, since you make the connection of laziness with not doing work, and not doing work leads to bad grades, but what was explained throughout the study was that most kids have two mindsets, a fixed-mindset and a mastery-oriented one. Jonathan was described to have a fixed-mindset. This means that whenever Jonathan understood something, everything was fine, but he would not even try and temper with anything outside of comfort zone, believing that he was too "dumb" to even try, and that it would be useless. A fixed-mindset does not allow a student to experience anything new, or take in any new colorful ideas. These students usually ignore new information that may seem a bit tedious to learn, or too scary to solve. A fixed-mindset could be the downfall of any student, especially ones who exhibit high amounts of potential in and outside of the classroom.

To contrast, students with a master oriented mindset want to learn and master any idea presented to them. This was tested in a study when psychologists asked "Your intelligence is something very basic about you that you can't really change". The students that disagreed with this statement were put into the category of "growth minded" and even though that there scores were about the same with the fix-minded students in the beginning of the year, throughout the year, these growth minded students showed major improvements in their grades, as where the fix-minded students stayed the same. These "master-oriented" students want to learn, and believe that anything is in their reach as long as they put the time and effort, into doing something they want to accomplish.

For a brighter future students must drop the "fixed-mindset" and adopt this "master-oriented" mindset. Anybody can achieve anything if they put their mindset to it. Making your dreams come true involve an immeasurable work ethic, and a strong mind that won't tremble in the wake of a challenge.