# How I create a POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT and effectively use HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS for FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT

Katerina Nicolaou
Secondary Mathematics Teacher
CYPRUS

# The FORMAS PROGRAM

- An opportunity to:
  - ✓ Help students shift their attention from grades to the learning process
  - ✓ Improve my teaching methods
  - ✓ Improve my assessment methods

# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- **GROWTH MINDSET**

  In a growth mindset, people believe that their **most basic abilities can be developed** through **dedication and hard work** - brains and talent are just the starting point. This view creates a **love of learning** and a **resilience** that is essential for great accomplishment." (Dweck, 2015)

# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Teaching
  - ✓ PERSEVERANCE
  - ✓ POWER of MISTAKES

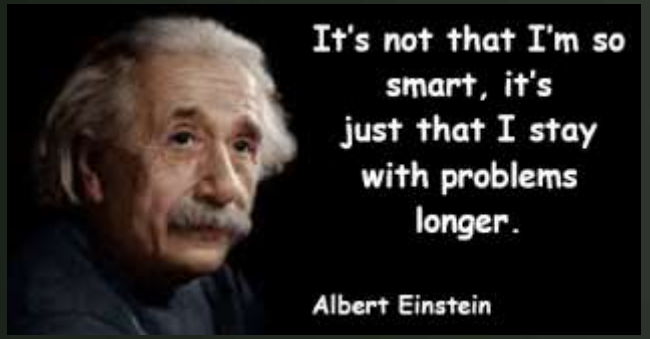
# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- Lesson using:
  - ✓Quotes
  - ✓Video
  - ✓Examples of Famous People
  - ✓Discussion

# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## Teaching PERSEVERANCE

- The GOAL is to LEARN.
- Learning takes TIME and EFFORT.



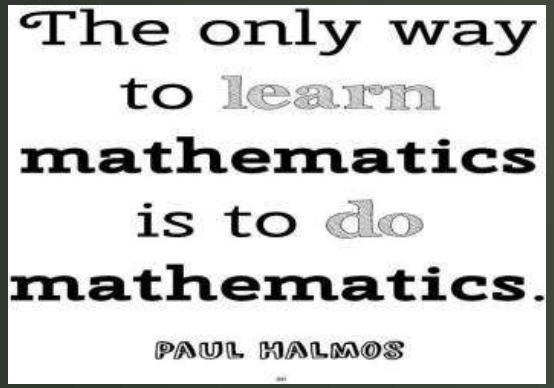

- POSITIVE ATTITUDE and to NOT GIVE UP when things get hard

infobells
infobells

# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## Teaching PERSEVERANCE

- Learning is a PROCESS.
- It's normal not to understand everything right away
- PRACTICE



# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

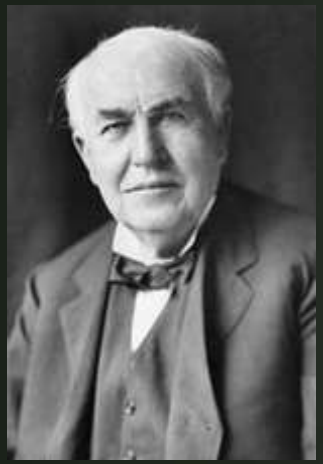
## The POWER of MISTAKES

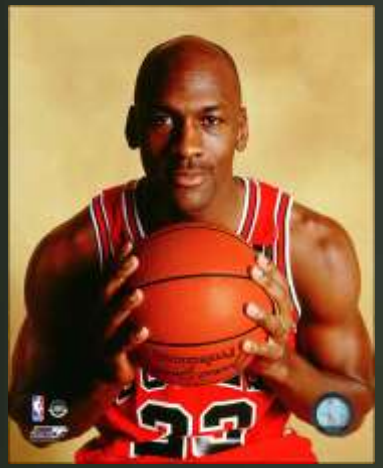
- An integral part of the learning process.

# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## The POWER of MISTAKES

Examples of famous people who experienced massive failure at one point in their lives.

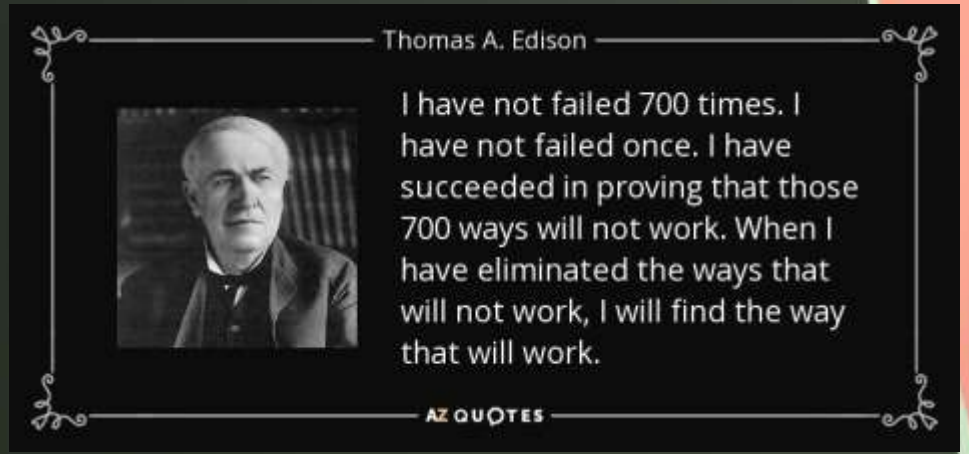




# POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

## The POWER of MISTAKES

- Use them to learn.
- Stepping stones to SUCCESS.



# HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

- Explain to the students the IMPORTANCE of homework:
  - ✓ Means to achieving their GOAL to LEARN
  - ✓ PRACTICE
  - ✓ Improves UNDERSTANDING
  - ✓ Helps to RETAIN understanding

# HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

- I do NOT grade homework assignments
- I only give CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK
- Remember to PRAISE THE EFFORT

# HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

- TIMELY feedback
- Turn in daily assignments ELECTRONICALLY

  → I take a look at most of students' work BEFORE going over it in class
- Do not only ask students who solved an exercise correctly to present the solution in class, but also students who had difficulty with that exercise.

# RESULTS

- Students more interested in LEARNING
- More students turning in their OWN WORK
- Students more willing to participate even if they didn't know the answer
- More students were not afraid of making mistakes or asking questions

# DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

- Not all students submitted the homework assignments
- Assessing daily assignments is quite time-consuming

# CONCLUSION

The FORMAS PROGRAM gave me a chance to:

- Reflect on my teaching and assessment methods
- Make my teaching more effective
- Help students become more interested in learning
- Improve the learning outcomes

# Thank you for your attention!!!