

**Lisa Agdern, Parent**

My daughter is a hard-working , grade-level student and had a wonderful teacher last year. However, much of the year was spent preparing for the state tests which my daughter found both stressful and boring. She loved school until 3rd grade, where it became too focused on testing and little room for creativity. There are no social studies and science projects anymore which is when kids learn to be creative and work in groups. The state tests cause anxiety for students, teachers and parents and strip away the school's ability to do anything fun and interesting for children which would inspire them to want to learn. The tests should be de-emphasized to enhance the quality of our children's education.