**Elizabeth Haymson, Parent**

There is so much more to a proper American education than common core test scores can access. My sons first grade teacher is great at teaching kids meaning of our national holidays and making learning fun. My son and his classmates are having a great year and learning tons. Unfortunately many of them are not strong test takers. To rely on a standardized test to judge their teachers skill set is like judging a pilot on how quickly the passengers got their bags back. Too many variables that the teacher can't and shouldn't try to control. The teacher needs to fly the plane and the school should be held accountable for testing overall but this direct link is putting strain on teachers and shifting the focus away from learning and putting more emphasis on how to take a test vs what you know and how to use that knowledge to build new knowledge. As a result kids spend more time practicing how to take a test and less time learning. Let's change that! Please de-link common core and teacher evaluations. Put kids and teachers back in learning mode. Best, Elizaveth Haymson