

## **Dan Campbell, Teacher, South Huntington Schools**

Prior to the implementation of the Common Core, Long Island schools had a 94% proficiency rate in grade four reading. Our schools were considered the best in the country-period. Since the implementation of the Common Core and the manufactured education crisis known as hurricane Bill and Melinda, I'm certain that the only thing we lead the nation in is the creation of anxiety in children. Anxiety levels in children are steadily rising and for many young students self esteem is rapidly dropping . It's not a stretch to say it correlates directly with the implementation of the Common Core.

Common Core Learning practices are often developmentally inappropriate. The Core is destroying the dignity of the learning process. The other day I was approached by a parent who told me his 10 year old son cries at the bus stop because he doesn't understand the math module. I wanted to fill out a DASA form and tell the parent that his son is being bullied as we all are. The state is bullying school districts, parents, teachers and students alike. The Common Core has stolen the dignity from learning, robbed children of their self esteem and careers from people who deserve better.

I used to think of my job as that of a reflective practitioner. I would deliver content to students in eclectic ways in an attempt to meet my students unique and varied learning styles. I would then reflect upon those practices. A little more sunlight a little more water so to speak. Teaching was an art form.

Perhaps that's why it's treated with such disdain by the state. Perhaps that's why it's seen as without value or merit. I am here to say as loud and clear- We want our schools back. We want our children's dignity and self esteem back and We want the art of teaching restored.