

Michele Favaro-Campbell, Parent

I am the mother of 2 children, age 9 and 12. I am a PTA President, Girl Scout Leader and involved in my community. I am educated. I am a full time working professional. I am not writing you because I don't want my children to "not be perfect students" or get false grades because tests are easy. I am writing you because Common Core and the high stakes testing in NY coupled with decrease in funding for our district (Sachem) by the Governor is destroying my children's education. School used to be a place where teachers were able to be creative, bring lessons to life and change lessons based on their student's interests. My favorite teacher as a child used music to teach us about many subjects include geography. He played a piano in our classroom nearly every day. I still remember the lessons he taught us- because they made an impact. Now school work is a chore. Teachers are forced to speed through math lessons even when the majority of their class cannot keep up. Why? Because they MUST get through a workbook in a certain amount of days leading up to an ill-written, age inappropriate test that will deem them "effective" enough to continue teaching. What a sad way to use children. My children deserve better. I understand WHY Common Core was created. But it was NOT intended for what NY has turned it into. You want me to take a survey that disagrees that a K student should learn their numbers. You know full well that parents do think that is important. But HOW they learn them is just as important if not more important. They should be playing outside. Learning to share. Learning to count on a Hop Scotch Board. Now, they are sitting like little soliders for hours at a time. There is an increase in anxiety, ADHD, learning difficulties. Because there is a decrease in PLAY, art, music, fun. There are no test points for the teacher that sings anymore. There are no tests points to a teacher who hugs a child every morning because their mother is sick with cancer. So teachers fear for their jobs which support their families. Children hate school because they feel dumb and are bored to death by workbooks. And a few very rich people get richer. That is the NY Common Core. And parents will fight and continue to fight for control of our education system back.