

Guy Lawson, Parent

Common Core has been a blight on our school and the education of our children. The system seems to be designed to give politicians talking points about improved results--which obviously haven't occurred--with little if any thought given to the impact on kids and their families. It is a terrible message to send to children--that politicians and bureaucrats matter more than their teachers and their education. The homework is inevitably filled with jargon that seems designed to fool children, not teach them--and the documents are poorly written and appear to be hastily constructed by committee. Again, this is a disgraceful way to treat children. Top-down education systems are doomed to fail. I understand the desire to improve the tests results for kids in the global economy--but these tests are badly done and measured against the wrong outcomes. Empowering teachers, looking for best practices in the real world, instead of abstractions, and allowing local communities and families to contribute are essential to changing the system. So is humility. Watching the state experiment with the lives our of eleven year old twins has been truly awful. We believe in public education--but Common Core had badly shaken that faith. How about looking for what works, instead of what sounds good or serves the political interests of the Governor? How about increasing funding for schools, instead of capping taxes. How about respecting teachers--many of the best teachers in Rhinebeck have retired rather than put up with a broken system that forces them to teach to the test. It is time for serious and systemic reflection.