Preston Tucci, Teacher, Middle Country Schools

"In short I think the Common Core Algebra course is BRILLIENT. I teach Comon Core Algebra in Middle Country Schools where ALL of our eight graders, regardless of ability, take the course; many of whom failed 7th grade math in their previous year. Essentially, all of our students, mathematically, go from 7th grade straight to 9th grade, effectively skipping a year, in many instances with little, or no, additional support. And even with those obsticals to overcome, I can't help but marvell at the construct of the Common Core Algebra course, and it's ability to foster oustsnding mathematical thinkers.

For anyone whose willing to listen I often testify that I've learned more mathematically preparing for and teaching the course over the past two years, than I had during my entire Ivey League undergraduate and mathematics masters years combined.

My last years students achieved 20% mastery (including a 100, two 98's, and several other outstanding scores) and the instruction they received was fair to moderate at best; I know I can delive the course much more efficiently and effectively. And, I'm absolutely certain that if there was more support for the Core and a greater commitment to its content and standards in earlier grades, I'd be working with more capable student coming into my classroom each year.

The fact of the matter is that my students went to high school last year with more mathematical ability and understanding as eighth graders, than I had leaving eleventh grade years ago. Which leads me to believe that many of them could have walked right into the old Algebra Two Trig class and been more successful as NINTH graders then the years of non core students before them (many of whom failed that class in eleventh grade).

That being said, I think it's boarder line criminal how much time and energy we've spent fighting the necessary changes in our instruction. It's embarrassing to look at some of the questions from the old algebra regents and try to suggest I was teaching student higher level thinking skills. I can only hope, and assume, that a great deal of disdain for the course is due to its association with the current teacher evaluation system, which is far too arbitrary and unfair in its ability to accurately quantify ANY instructors abilities, for countless reasons.

Lady's and gentlemen, I beg of you, for the benefit of our kids, who are growing up more intellectually capable then we ever were, in a world 1,000x more complex then ours ever was, please do your best to seperate the brilliance of Common Core instruction from the ignorance of our current evaluation system.

In the digitized wold we're evolving into, with a greater need for more capable problem solvers to create, monitor and protect our financial, power supply, medical, engeneering, and defense systems, try to embrace as much of the Core as possible, it has the potential to create better thinkers and problem solvers in this country than we've had for quite some time.

Thank you for your time and attention.

All the best, Preston Tucci"