

New Heights  
Educational  
Group, Inc.

### Monthly Points of Interest

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On  
Pamela's  
Mind

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Mother's  
Day  
Tribute

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What Do  
You Know?

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Six Tips to  
Parent  
Teens Bet-  
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... Violets are 26  
Blue

Parents Opt  
Out of 30  
Common Core  
in Force



New Heights Educational Group  
Educational Resources to Help You Reach Your Goals

## Monthly Newsletter

Volume.3 Issue 4

MAY 2015

New Heights Educational Group Inc.

Pamela S. Clark  
Founder/Director  
(419) 786-0247



[www.NewHeightsEducation.org](http://www.NewHeightsEducation.org)

Editor: Bill Naugle

Proofreader: Molly Woods-Jordan

### Our Mission Statement

The New Heights Educational Group Inc. supports literacy for children and adults by offering a range of educational support services. Such services include assisting families in their selection of schools, organization of educational activities, and acquisition of materials. We promote a healthy learning environment and offer Enrichment programs for families of preschool and school age children, including children with special needs.

New Heights Educational Group, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization located in Defiance, Ohio. We provide educational support services beginning 2006 for families in Ohio to bridge the gap from inadequacies in home school, charter school, and public school systems.

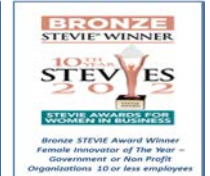
MAY 2015

Following through with what you say your going to do is one of the keys to success.



ON MY MIND

Pamela Clark



# What's Up With Common Core?



Article written by  
[Christel Swasey](#)

## H.R. 5 The Student Success Act Worse than the Redcoats: Invasion of Home School

The push for centralized control over what every child should learn has never had more momentum. The Obama Administration has pressured states to adopt the Common Core State Standards Initiative, conditioning more than \$4 billion in Race to the Top grants on its adoption. The Administration's blueprint for the rewrite of No Child Left Behind also called for Title I dollars to be contingent on states' adoption of the nationalized standards.

Some state leaders have jumped on the bandwagon to nationalize the standards and content taught in local schools. With little public notice, many states have agreed to adopt the Common Core national standards.

This movement is a challenge to educational freedom in America and is costly in terms of liberty, not to mention dollars. State leaders who believe in limited government and liberty should resist this imposition of centralized standards. Adopting national standards and tests through the Common Core State Standards Initiative surrenders control of standard-setting to distant national organizations and Washington bureaucrats.

Education reform should give control over education to those closest to students. Conservatives have the opportunity to reverse course and reject this latest centralizing overreach. It is time for states to reject the nationalization of standards, tests, and ultimately, curricula, and instead work to strengthen and improve excellence in their local schools through state and local policy.

### Exiting the Common Core National Standards

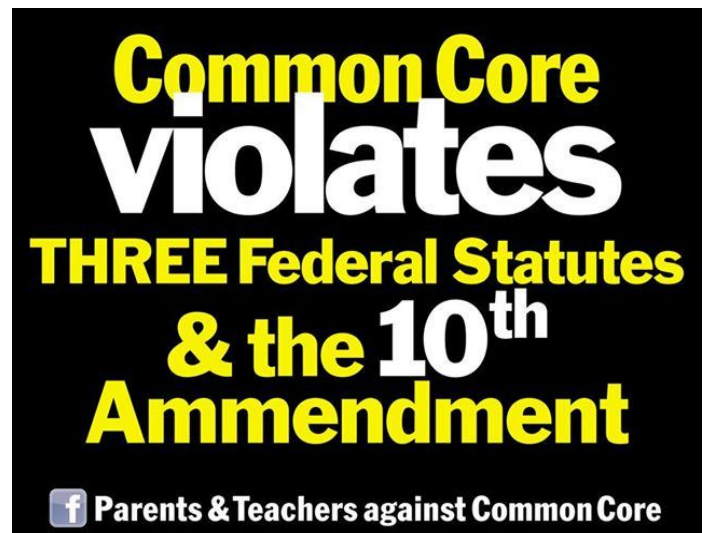
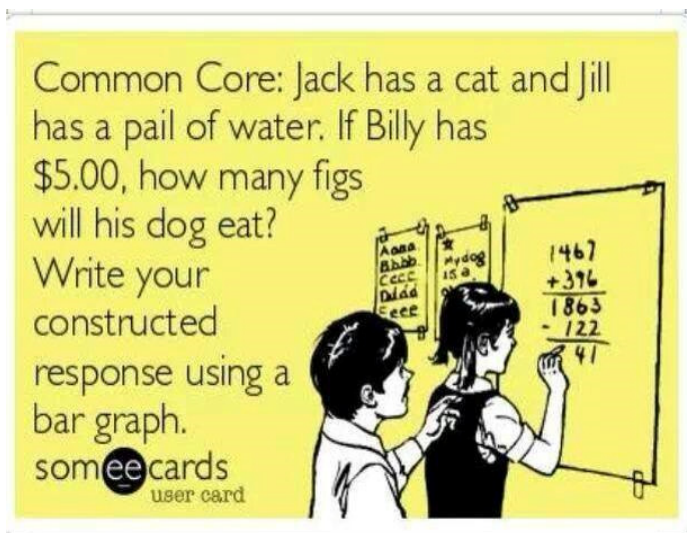
State policymakers should reclaim control over the content taught in their local schools by resisting the imposition of national standards and tests and preventing their implementation. States should consider the following three strategies:

1. Determine how the decision was made to cede the state's standard-setting authority.

States can exit from the national standards overreach by first determining which state entity agreed to adopt the Common Core State Standards. For most states, the state board of education is the body that made the decision.

2. Prohibit new spending for standards implementation.

Adoption of nationalized standards means overhauling existing state standards and assessments, which will be a costly endeavor for states. State and local taxpayers expended significant amounts of money in most states to implement and maintain existing state standards and tests. Making pedagogical and curricular changes, revamping professional development, and aligning textbooks and assessments to adhere to the Common Core will burden already-strained state budgets.





## [A National Education Standards Exit Strategy for States](#)

By Lindsey Burke

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#### [3. Determine how to reverse course.](#)

The rushed adoption of the Common Core in many cases preceded the election of 2010, which brought in new governors, legislators, and board members. Newly elected conservative leaders should be concerned about the authority handed to centralizers by their predecessors and investigate how to bring standards and curriculum control back into the hands of state leaders.

### [A Better Path Forward](#)

It is, as state constitutions and statutes demonstrate, the responsibility of states and local school districts to define and implement standards, assessments, and curricula. Although many states moved to adopt the Common Core national standards and tests prior to the last election—an unprecedented surrender of state educational control to Washington—conservative leaders can reclaim control over the content taught in their local schools by resisting the imposition of national standards and tests and preventing their implementation.

A half-century of ever-increasing federal involvement in education has failed to increase academic achievement. Relinquishing control of state educational autonomy to distant bureaucrats in Washington will fail to improve outcomes for children and will further remove parents from the decision-making process. National standards would strengthen federal control over education while weakening schools' direct accountability to parents and taxpayers.

*Lindsey M. Burke is Senior Education Policy Analyst in Domestic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation..*



## VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

Kevin Adusei

Charlotte McGuire

Savneet Singh

Vasudha Bist

Renee Miles

Cuyler Spangler

Khrista Cendana

Bill Naugle

Julie Suffel

Briana Dincher

Phuong Nguyen

Chriselle Tiu

Anusha Hariharan

Yiren Qu (Ramon)

Kathy Woodring

Rajeana Harris

Heather Ruggiero

Molly Woods-Jordan

Asha Kumar

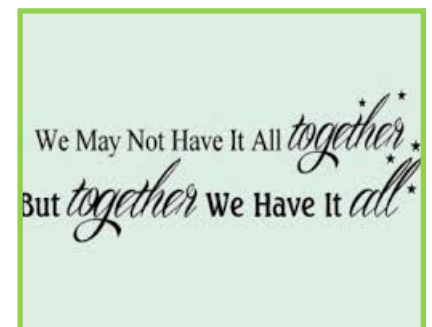
Lisa Schroeder

Geetha Lingasmy

Sue Sidaway

Tejaswi Materla

Daniela Silva



### A Mother's Love

There are times when only a mother's love  
Can understand our tears,  
Can soothe our disappoints  
And calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a mother's love  
Can share the joy we feel  
When something we've dreamed about  
Quite suddenly is real.

There are times when only a mother's faith  
Can help us on life's way  
And inspire in us the confidence  
We need from day to day.

For a mother's heart and a mother's faith  
And a mother's steadfast love  
Were fashioned by the angels  
And sent from God above.

--Author Unknown

### 9th annual Stevie Awards for Sales & Customer Service.

Nomination: Customer Service Leader/Pamela Clark

Category: Customer Service Leader of the Year Status: Bronze Stevie Winner



# Month of May

1. Beltane Celtic Festival
2. Education Day- (Indonesia)
3. Hug Your Cat Day
4. International Firefighters Day
5. Cinco De Mayo
6. International No Diet Day
7. International Tuba Day
8. Have a Coke Day
9. Buddha Day
10. Trust your Intuition Day
11. Eat What you want day
12. International Nurses Day
13. I just called to say, "I Love You" Day
14. Birthday of Marshmallow Fluff
15. National Teacher's Day- (South Korea)
16. National Sea Monkey Day
17. Kid's Helping Kid's Day
18. International Museum Day
19. Peace Day
20. Blue Jeans Birthday 1873
21. Sheep Festival (Cameroon)
22. National Day (Yemen)
23. International Jazz Day
24. Culture Day: Enlightenment Day ( Bulgaria)
25. Prayer for Peace Memorial Day
26. Dracula's Birthday 1897
27. Mother's Day- (Bolivia)
28. International Day of UN Peacekeepers
29. Ancestor Honor Day
30. St. Joan of Arc Feast Day
31. World No Tobacco Day



## Celebrate The Day

### Month:

- Date Your Mate Month
- Foster Care Month
- National Barbecue Month
- National Bike Month
- National Blood Pressure Month
- National Hamburger Month
- National Photograph Month
- National Recommitment Month
- National Salad Month
- Older Americans Month

### Weekly Celebrations:

- Nurse's Week  
first week of month
- Wildflower Week  
week two
- National Bike Week  
third week
- National Police Week  
third week of month
- Emergency Medical Services Week  
fourth week of month





211 Sutter Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108

1-800-US YOUTH / 1-800-879-6884



## Bring the World Home to Your Family

### *(City) Host Families Sought for International Students*

#### *For Immediate Release*

Now more than ever, it is important to understand the world beyond our borders. Families in Wauseon and the surrounding area can do just that, by becoming involved in a global cultural exchange through the Aspect Foundation.

Interested families can participate by volunteering to host an Aspect Foundation international high school student for a semester or academic year.

Aspect Foundation students hail from nearly 30 different countries but all share the same dream – to experience the American way of life. These students, who would arrive in August, are aged 15 to 18 and have a wide variety of interests and abilities. They are chosen on the basis of maturity, grades, and language skills. *The sooner you apply the better.*

Host families can be married or single, with or without children. Host families are responsible for providing room, board and a loving home environment for the student. In return, host families and exchange students learn about another culture firsthand, and gain a second family for life! Potential host families can choose their own student by viewing student profiles on Aspect Foundation's website at [www.aspectfoundation.org](http://www.aspectfoundation.org).

Aspect Foundation is a non-profit organization that was founded in 1985 and is dedicated to excellence in youth exchange. For more information about Aspect Foundation and how your family can have the cultural adventure of a lifetime, contact KATHI WESENBERG at 419-531-5887, the **Aspect Foundation national office** at 1-800-US-YOUTH, or visit [www.aspectfoundation.org](http://www.aspectfoundation.org).

*Please consider this very wonderful experience!*



Local Contact:  
Kathi Wesenberg,  
International Coordinator  
419-531-5887  
Aspect Foundation



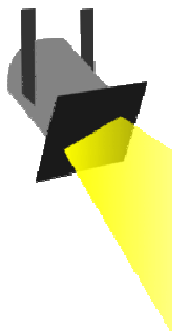


# Reach for the Stars!

*Do You have what it takes to become an astronaut?*

The NHEG capital fund raising campaign for 2015 kicked off on April 15th. We are asking the Defiance business community for support. **Please** give generously.





## WORLD-WIDE BOOK RELEASE

8th great week



### ***One Nonprofit's Journey To Success***

*The life of a local Nonprofit and its Founder/Directors  
Journey to Success.*

<http://www.newheightseducation.org/one-nonprofits-journey-to-success.html>

One Nonprofit's Journey to Success, written by Savneet Singh, is an inspiring story of the New Heights Educational Group, a nonprofit, and its founder/director Ms. Pamela Clark. Singh chronicles a woman's amazing journey who stepped out of her home to help families unhappy and disappointed with the traditional school system. The bullying incidents and lack of IEP assistance at local and charter schools made her sons feel uncomfortable and unsafe. So, she decided to home-school them and to fight for the families looking for an alternative way to educate their children. Despite all the road-blocks, she kept moving forward and devoted her life to helping parents in a unique way, by establishing a nonprofit. Ms. Clark's humility and good work ethic shine through New Heights Educational Group today. She gives ample credit to current and former volunteers for the success of the organization and all the awards and recognition it has achieved over the past nine years. Singh also details the wide range of educational services offered by New Heights Educational Group and wonderful tips to manage a nonprofit organization. If you are a parent, a nonprofit stakeholder or just someone who wants to learn more about educational services and opportunities, you will find this book helpful. Many readers will find Ms. Clark's good work, perseverance and Christian faith inspirational.



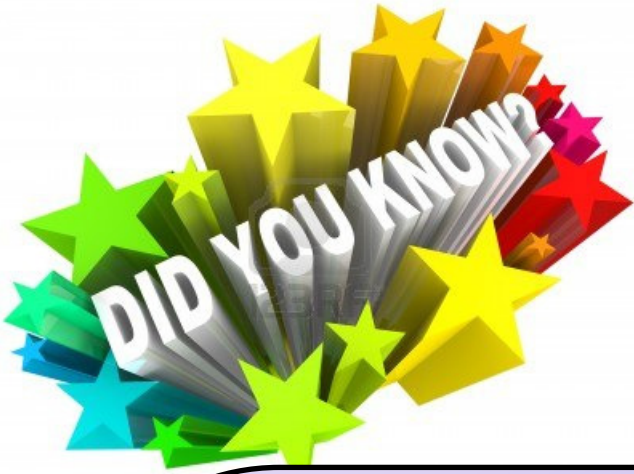
Pamela Clark



Savneet Singh

Every volunteer should  
own a copy....

YOU are part of the  
history of this great  
organization.



Did you know 11% of people are left handed?  
Did you know August has the highest percentage of births?  
Did you know, unless food is mixed with saliva you can't taste it?  
Did you know the average person falls asleep in 7 minutes?  
Did you know a bear has 42 teeth?  
Did you know an ostrich's eye is bigger than it's brain?  
Did you know most lipsticks contain fish scales?  
Did you know, no two corn flakes look the same?  
Did you know lemons contain more sugar than strawberries?  
Did you know 8% of people have an extra rib?  
Did you know 85% of plant life is found in the ocean?  
Did you know Ralph Lauren's original name was Ralph Lifshitz?  
Did you know rabbits like licorice?  
Did you know the Hawaiian alphabet has 12 letters?  
Did you know 'Topolino' is the name for Mickey Mouse in Italy?  
Did you know, a lobsters blood is colorless but when exposed to oxygen it turns blue?  
Did you know armadillos have four babies at a time and are all the same sex?  
Did you know reindeer like bananas?  
Did you know the longest recorded flight of a chicken was 13 seconds?  
Did you know birds need gravity to swallow?



## ADHD and Homeschooling

by Shannon Schultz

This week we have a guest post by Shannon Stoltz, of Living Life at Home.

"You should just put them in school. It's a lot less work for you," a well meaning friend told me years ago, after I shared a few of the challenges I was trying to work through with my older two children, who at the time were seven and five.

I just looked at her like she was crazy. I still shake my head when I think about it.

You see, we made the choice to homeschool before we even have kids, but as our four kids have grown, I am so glad we made that decision. Every time I even start getting tired and weary, I think of all the work that would be involved advocating and seeing to their needs in a school setting and know that we made the right choice.

And if you have kids in school right now, you know what I mean. I get a glimpse of it every year when I go in with my younger son for his ARD meetings for the after school speech therapy services he receives. The meetings, the paperwork, the continual communication with all the individuals involved to make sure he has the right services and adaptations – oh my.

As a homeschooler I'm freed up from all that time and energy spent advocating for my kids in the school system, and can simply focus on parenting and educating my kids to adulthood.

Don't get me wrong: Homeschooling is not a magic bullet. It doesn't lessen the coaching, facilitating, or parenting responsibility involved with raising kids. And it certainly doesn't take away ADHD and other special needs.

Homeschooling just allows us to bypass

the bureaucracy, and work with the kids at their pace, and coach them through the situation and equip them for the situations that they encounter in daily life.

My older son, J, is now 11 and just as distracted as he was when he was five. But, he now knows that if he can't concentrate to go seek out an environment where he can. In fact, just before I was writing this, I found him at the top of the stairs writing. When I asked why he was sitting there, he said it was a comfortable quiet spot where he could concentrate. Okay, that works for me.



J is also the one who can and will lose just about anything. Don't even get me started on shoes... So I am thankful that we don't have to worry about getting homework to and from school, much less done. Instead we have created a system that he uses to keep track of his materials – most of the time.

Homeschooling allows him to finish up the work of school, and focus on things he wants to focus on. We've found that given the time and freedom, he is able to focus for long periods of time on things that interest him. And that we want to encourage, as it will help him find his place in the adult world when the time comes. And that's just J.

Z, my 9 year old son, is so active that while doing speech impairment testing at the local public school, the school officials just handed me a handful of information on ADHD. But because we can incorporate movement into his

learning and give him huge amounts of time outdoors, we don't have "classroom" issues with him needing to move and be active. Instead we just incorporate it into his day.

Now I know there's an argument that children need to learn to sit still. And yes, there is a time and a place for that. But the reality is that not all jobs are desk jobs, and more than likely my boys in particular aren't going to be attracted or be the best for desk jobs. They like being outdoors and active. So, encouraging them to find their gifts and skills within works for me. They are still learning and growing, and becoming functional people.

I admire those of you who are navigating the school system, and advocating for your children. But if you are considering homeschooling, please know it is not only a viable educational option, it is also one that is an amazing journey and one that lets you get to know your kids on a level that's just not possible when they are gone for hours each day.

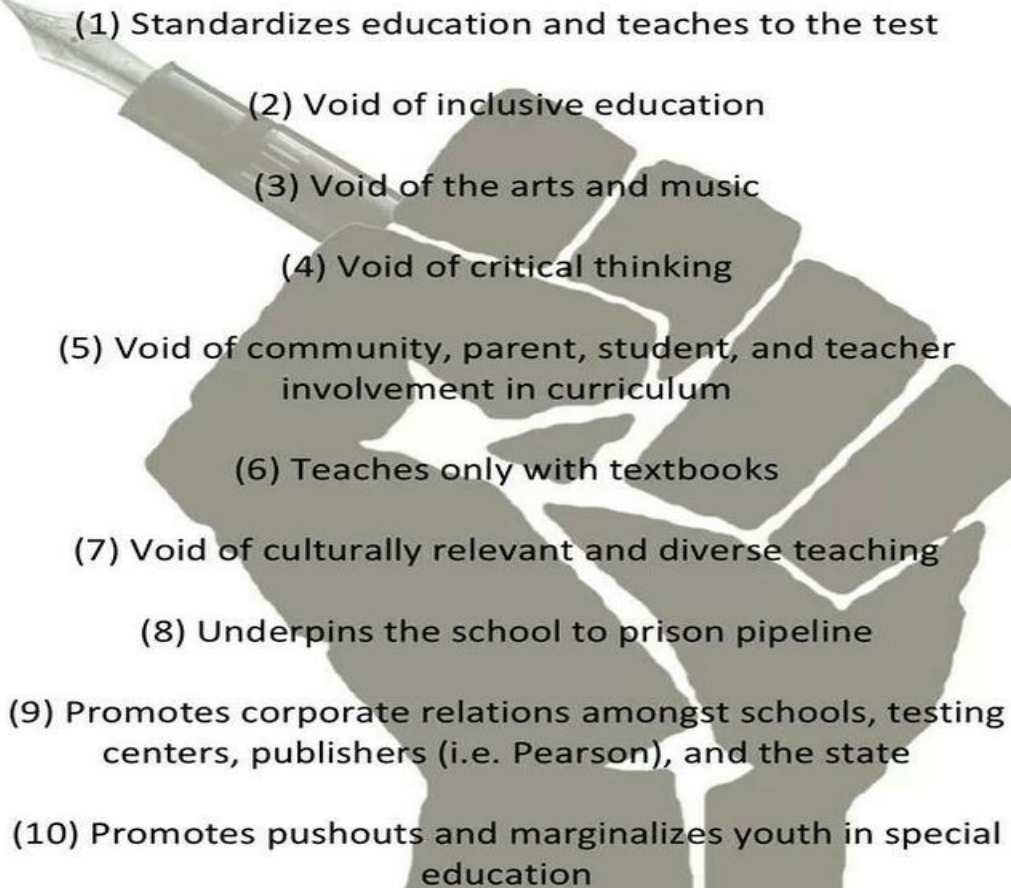
If you'd like to learn more about homeschooling and see if it is a good option for you and your family, feel free to contact NHEG or check out some of my Considering Homeschooling links on Living Life at Home

# Memorial Day

We walked among the crosses  
Where our fallen soldiers lay.  
And listened to the bugle  
As Taps began to play.  
The Chaplain led a prayer  
We stood with heads bowed low.  
And I thought of fallen comrades  
I had known so long ago.  
They came from every city  
Across this fertile land.  
That we might live in freedom.  
They lie here 'neath the sand.  
I felt a little guilty  
My sacrifice was small.  
I only lost a little time  
But these men lost their all.  
Now the services are over  
For this Memorial Day.  
To the names upon these crosses  
I just want to say,  
Thanks for what you've given  
No one could ask for more.  
May you rest with God in heaven  
From now through evermore.

---

## VALUES OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:

- 
- (1) Standardizes education and teaches to the test
  - (2) Void of inclusive education
  - (3) Void of the arts and music
  - (4) Void of critical thinking
  - (5) Void of community, parent, student, and teacher involvement in curriculum
  - (6) Teaches only with textbooks
  - (7) Void of culturally relevant and diverse teaching
  - (8) Underpins the school to prison pipeline
  - (9) Promotes corporate relations amongst schools, testing centers, publishers (i.e. Pearson), and the state
  - (10) Promotes pushouts and marginalizes youth in special education

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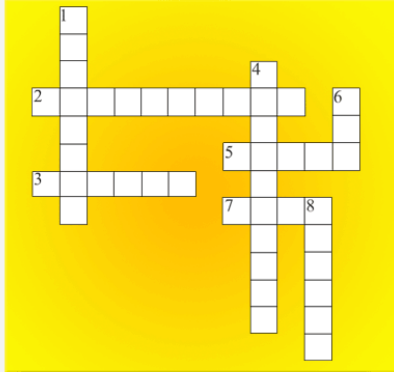
## BOYCOTT COMMON CORE & CORPORATE EDUCATION REFORM

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# Memorial Day Crossword



## Across

2. Many people visit these on Memorial Day.
3. Memorial Day is observed on this day of the week.
5. An agricultural weed that symbolizes fallen soldiers.
7. A famous musical piece played at ceremonies on Memorial Day.

## Up/Down

1. Memorial Day originated in this place.
4. Memorial Day was formerly known as \_\_\_\_\_ Day.
6. The month in which Memorial Day is observed.
8. Memorial Day is often regarded as the unofficial beginning of \_\_\_\_\_.

@TheHolidaySpot.com



## Memorial Day- Word Jumble

Can you unscramble these Memorial Day words?  
(Find the solution on the next page.)

1. Risesodl \_\_\_\_\_
2. Setrepc \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rymtecee \_\_\_\_\_
4. Roonh \_\_\_\_\_
5. Drfeemo \_\_\_\_\_
6. Loavr \_\_\_\_\_
7. Tatlenunei \_\_\_\_\_
8. Diavinsi \_\_\_\_\_
9. Sixsoplepe \_\_\_\_\_
10. Bettla \_\_\_\_\_



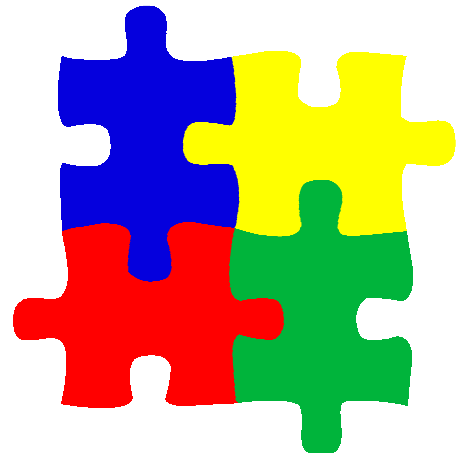
## Memorial Day Observance

Many traditions surround the origination of Memorial Day but regardless of how it got started, it is a time to remember those who died protecting our country and our freedom. Take a moment to honor the brave military men and women who have given their all.

Y N Y S L A I R O M E M M T F  
V W R E A T H S J Q V H L K L  
R T E Y R O M E M N I P A M A  
J L T M C I V I L W A R S B G  
M R E H M G T K H S M M T C E  
K Q M B K E Z K T R J W M L T  
L G E D N N M M E E H R O W I  
T X C E B E K A I I B P N M Q  
N D L C D R C R T D Q R D I U  
L A A O F A G C R L S A A N E  
D E N R E L L H I O N Y Y U T  
E D O A D J C I H S A E I T T  
C E I T E O O N T N R R N E E  
O H T E R H E G Y E S M O Y  
R T A D A N E B A L T T A F N  
A G N G L L R A M L E V Y S O  
T N N R H O H N B A V K E I O  
I I O A O G T D V F L I P L L  
O R T V L A Q S H P R M F E R  
N O G E I N F R E A K L K N E  
D N N S D K T L T D O F D C T  
A O I R A D S E A W A K N E A  
Y H L R Y P M N E G J R H N W  
T W R H A E J R F J S N A Q F  
Z N A T C L S E I P P O P B

ARLINGTON NATIONAL  
CEMETERY  
COMBATANTS  
CIVIL WAR  
DECORATED GRAVES  
DECORATION DAY  
FALLEN SOLDIERS  
FEDERAL HOLIDAY  
FLAG ETIQUETTE  
FLAGS  
FLOWERS  
GENERAL JOHN LOGAN  
HONORING THE DEAD  
IN MEMORY  
LAST MONDAY IN MAY  
MARCHING BANDS  
MAY THIRTIETH  
MEMORIALS  
MINUTE OF SILENCE  
PARADES  
POPPIES  
PRAYERS  
TAPS  
THREE O'CLOCK  
VETERANS  
WATERLOO NY  
WREATHS

Come visit [www.WordJumble.com](http://www.WordJumble.com) for more free word puzzles!  
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## Six Tips to Parenting Teens Better

By Paul Anthony Beard | Submitted On March 17, 2015



The truth is that when teens start developing they tend to struggle for control with their parents. Independence is a great factor that can help your teens become productive adults. Are you pondering on the tips to parenting teens better? With the tips below, you are sure to establish your presence as a parent and help your teens grow effectively.

**Talk Directly with Your Teen and Not at Him:** It is often a good idea to prevent arguing with your teens. It will lead to complicating the issue and may not work out well. Whenever you are upset, it is a wise decision to take a break. You can always come back later to address the issue perfectly.

**Be Aware Teens Are Watching:** Most parents expect their teens to be caring, trustworthy and responsible. It is important to know that teens are watching to see if you have those features. On this note, it is a wise idea to remain a good role model. In this case, you must lead by example.

**Be Factual About Your Expectations:** Studies have shown that it is often wise to hold your teenagers accountable for regulations established perfectly in advance. If rules are broken, be clear to state the consequences. It is good to establish an accountability contract with your teenager. Go ahead to make him or her sign it. Any break to what you have established will lead to punishment. Through this method, your teens will be able to pick the right choice.

**Be Real:** The fact that you are a parent does not mean perfection. On this note, admitting your mistakes will help your teens to learn better. It will help your teen to know that you are also human. However, your teen will easily learn from the mistakes she or he sees. Whenever you handled a situation wrongly, it is better to immediately apologize. This is another great tip that can help you develop your teens better.

**Keep Your Conversations Secret/Confidential:** It is often a good idea to give your teens the privilege of discussing confidential issues with you. It is not a good idea to share with everyone in the family what you discussed with your teens. When your teen communicates with you openly, it is expedient to make them feel safe. Even when you are angry, never bring up the private matter.

**Establish an Open Door Policy:** It is a good idea to make your teens know that they are free to talk to you anytime about anything. If you really want your teens to grow up becoming better people, then be sure to establish an open door policy. Whenever your teen comes to you for something, it is important to stop and listen. Take your time and connect with your teen perfectly. It requires effort, energy and time to get the best results.

With the points explained in this article, you are sure to establish a great relationship with your teens effectively. In fact, it will help your teens to grow better than expected.



*The New Heights Show on Education*

*LIVE Internet radio program*

**Join Host Charlotte McGuire**

**Thursday 5:00 pm-5:30 pm EST**

**As she explores new COMMON CORE topics each week**

## Ever Dream of having you own Radio Show . . . . .

New Heights Educational Group is a Resource and Literacy Center based in Defiance, Ohio. We share a concern with families having access to information for those with special needs, including the topic of Autism.

We offer live internet radio shows to discuss various educational topics and we are looking for a VOLUNTEER to host a half-hour radio show on special needs once a week. We would give the necessary training and the volunteer can choose the time of the show on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday. This show would keep all listeners up to date on anything to do with Autism and other special needs. This will include discoveries in medical fields. Anyone interested in applying please email us at [NewHeightsEducation@yahoo.com](mailto:NewHeightsEducation@yahoo.com) or call **419-786-0247** for more info.

You can learn more about us by visiting our website  
[www.NewHeightsEducation.org](http://www.NewHeightsEducation.org)



Tutors and/or teachers are needed. We are in desperate need of volunteer and paid tutors and/or teachers in Defiance County. Anyone that would like to volunteer should contact us directly. We currently need reading tutors and a volunteer speech therapist; however you can apply to teach or tutor in any Subject, or grade level.

**HELP  
WANTED**



**JUMPSTART** Memorial Day Activities

## New Volunteers

**Heather Ruggiero**  
4/1/15  
Tutor –any subject grades 3-8

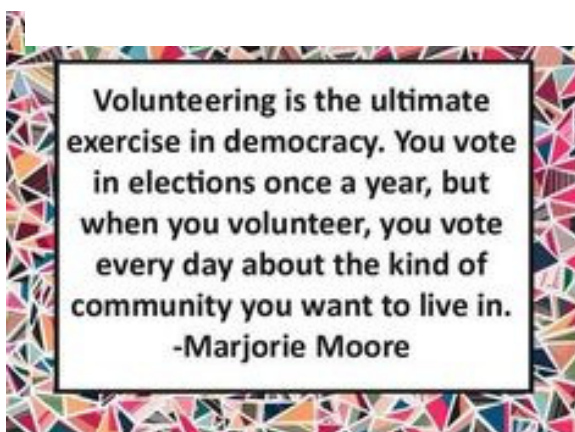
**Chriselle Tiu**  
4/4/15  
Research Coordinator

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**Wendy Swalls**  
4/15/15  
Photographer/Graphic Design

**Marsha A. Herron**  
4/15/15  
Program Developer  
Planning ceremonies  
Creating documents and excel documents (spreadsheets)  
Research  
Secretarial duties

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## *10 Days of Fun, Frugal Summer Activities for Kids*

**Day 1.** See a “one dollar” movie at the theater. Many theater chains around the country offer summer movie programs for kids where they offer a “one dollar” movie every day for a week, or on a particular day of the week all summer. Alternative: Have a movie day at home by streaming a classic from Netflix or pick one up from Red Box.



**Day 2.** Sprinkler day. Delay your sprinklers for one day so they come a little later in the morning. This way everyone can get on their bathing suits and have fun jumping through the sprinklers on a hot day. But not for too long! This is a good time to teach them about conserving water, reducing utility costs, etc.

**Day 3.** Attend Story Time at your local library. My kids love to check out books on all kinds of subjects. My son currently has three library books on swimming, pirates and going to the dentist (quite a diverse reader, huh?). Many libraries also have a story time to encourage a summer reading program. Stories are read out loud and the kids have a chance to interact with the story-teller and answer questions about the book.

**Day 4.** Set up a lemonade stand. This is probably my favorite idea because of the lessons in entrepreneurship involved. Loan your kids \$10 as “seed money” for supplies, or better yet, let them use their own money from savings. This way they don’t get used to the idea that borrowing leads to prosperity. Take the kids along to the grocery store one morning and let them pick up the lemons, sugar, cups, and a couple bags of ice to keep in a cooler.

**Day 5.** Teach your kids to fly a kite. Check your 10-day forecast and look for a windy day in the coming week. Pick up an expensive kite for the kids. I even recommend springing for the extra spool of kite string on a roller because the string and handles that come with the kites are lousy.

**Day 6.** Make homemade play-dough. I haven’t run a cost analysis on this recipe to determine it’s “frugality,” but I can tell you it is a lot of fun! I suppose the next best option would be to pick up some commercial Play-Doh on sale, but what fun would that be?

**Day 7.** Bake a cake. I remember having a ball helping my mom bake something when I was young. And not all the fun came at the end when I got to lick the icing from the bowl! Let your kids help bake a cake, and surprise mom or dad when they arrive home that afternoon.

**Day 8.** Build a fort in the living room. A living room fort could be as simple as a few kitchen chairs gathered in a circle with a large bed sheet thrown across and draped to the floor. The kids can hide from mom and dad, read books, or pretend they are camping out.

**Day 9.** Go bowling. My grandfather and I spent many hot, summer afternoons bowling a couple games at the local bowling alley. These days, bowling can be an expensive activity. Call the lanes ahead of time and ask if they have any summer specials (certain days may be cheaper). Also check those coupon mailer packs for coupons for free games. To keep costs down, just let the kids bowl – you can work on your game another time.

**Day 10.** Declare a “bored” game day. I learned to play chess, checkers, backgammon, and poker one summer while staying with my grandparents. Few kids today don’t realize you can play games without a computer.



# Laugh Out Loud

**B.Z. Toons**

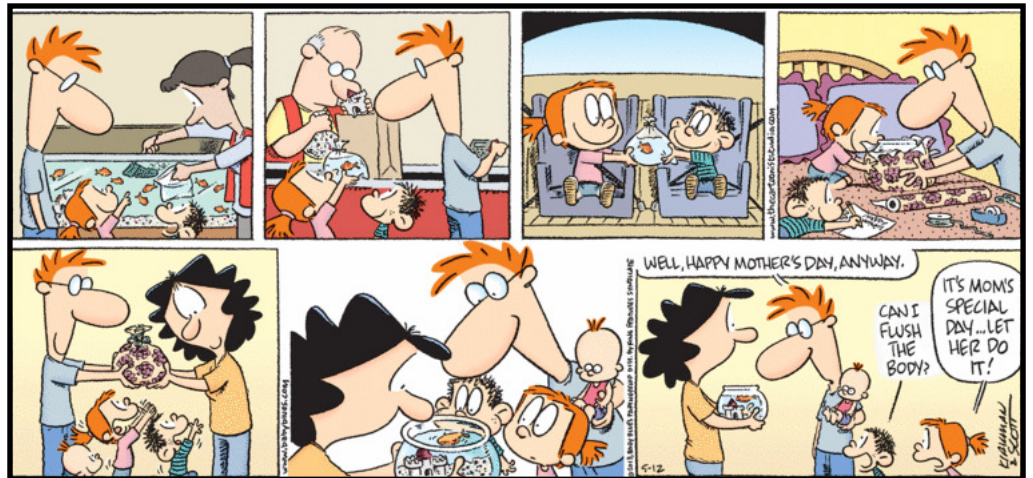
by Brian Zaikowski

www.bztoons.com



Sir, I think there is a mistake.  
I ordered "Crab-Rangoon."

R  
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# The New Heights Show on Education

LIVE Internet radio program

Join Host Kathy Woodring

Sundays 11pm - 11:30pm



*As she explores a new topic on education every week*

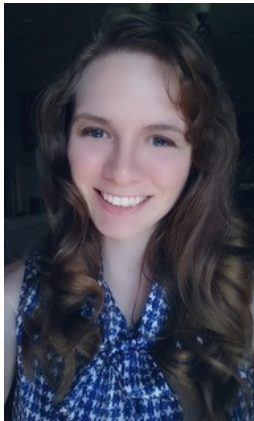
We're sorry to say goodbye to Asha Kumar.



*"May you have warm words on a cool evening, a full moon on a dark night, and a smooth road all the way to your door."*



## Heather Ruggiero Welcomed by NHEG

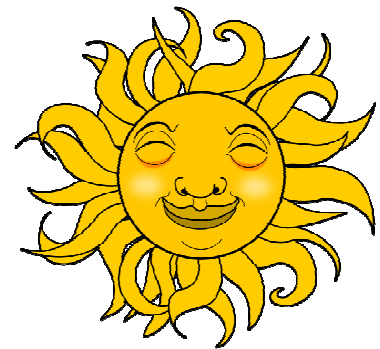
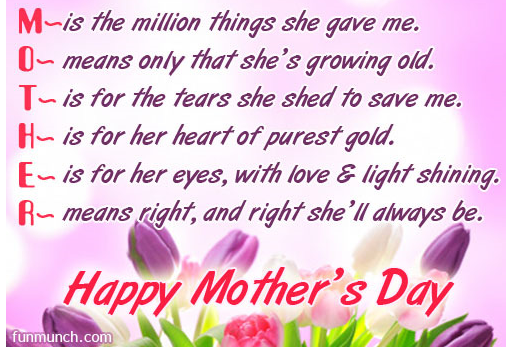


Heather Ruggiero is currently a graduate student working towards a Master of Arts degree in Teaching Elementary Education (K-8). She also holds a B.A. in Business Management.

Heather has experience in finance, where she reconciled bank accounts for a large payroll and HR outsourcing company. For six years, Heather worked for a nonprofit organization in central Florida. She developed training programs and coached associates on Kennedy Space Center contracts. She has been an assistant in a classroom that focused on teaching adults with disabilities (subjects such as: elementary level reading, writing, math, and general life skills).

While Heather has spent much of her time working with adults, she has also worked with teens and children. She has been a guest speaker at high schools, teaching students interview and vocational skills. As a volunteer tutor for Big Brothers Big Sisters, she helped a struggling fifth-grade student advance to the sixth grade. She has also volunteered as a Curriculum Developer with Student Body of America, where she created K-12 lesson plans. As the eldest of three, Heather has tutored both of her younger brothers throughout their K-12 years.

Heather and her husband Frank currently reside in Oklahoma with their Chihuahua, Jester. Heather enjoys nutritious cooking, reading, writing, swimming, and practicing yoga.





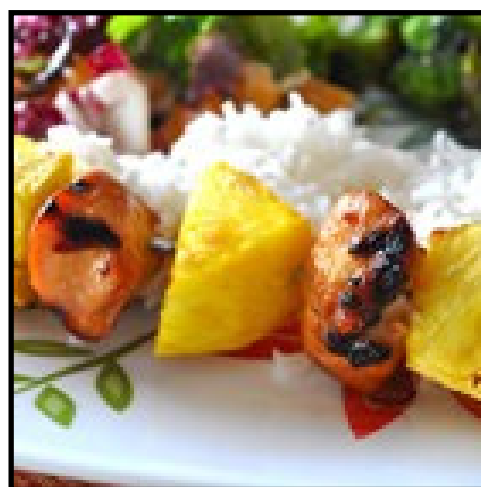
"A light marinade of soy sauce, brown sugar, and sherry with sesame and spices tenderizes these chicken pineapple kabobs into an aloha grilled dream of a dish!"

## Hawaiian Chicken Kabobs

Prep Time: 10 Minutes  
Cook Time: 20 Minutes  
Ready In: 2 Hours 30 Minutes  
Servings: 8

### Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons sherry
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 8 skinless, boneless chicken breasts cut into 2 inch pieces
- 1 (20 ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained
- skewers



### Directions

- 1) In a shallow glass dish, mix the soy sauce, brown sugar, sherry, sesame oil, ginger, and garlic powder. Stir the chicken pieces and pineapple into the marinade until well coated. Cover, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 2 hours.
- 2) Preheat grill to medium-high heat.
- 3) Lightly oil the grill grate. Thread chicken and pineapple alternately onto skewers. Grill 15 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally, or until chicken juices run clear.



## Garden Pasta Salad

### Dressing:

2 cups Greek yogurt  
2/3 cup mayonnaise  
2 none garlic cloves, minced  
2 teaspoons honey  
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar  
Salt and pepper  
1/3 cup chopped chives

### Salad:

1 pound bow-tie pasta  
1 cup frozen peas  
2 none tomatoes, seeded and chopped  
2 none yellow bell peppers, seeded and thinly sliced



### Preparation

Make dressing: Whisk yogurt, mayonnaise, garlic, honey, vinegar, salt, pepper and chives together in a bowl; chill.

Make salad: Cook pasta according to package label directions, adding peas for the last minute. Drain and rinse under cold water to cool.

In a large bowl toss dressing, pasta, peas and remaining ingredients together until well combined. Season with



# The New Heights Show on Education

LIVE Internet radio program

Join Host Briana Dincher

Friday 4:30 pm - 5:00pm



*As she explores a new topic on education every week*



The NHEG family is sending prayers and good wishes to new volunteer and radio host in training Maria Ortiz who is recovering from surgery. We wish you a speedy recovery!



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**On the GOOD NHEG does!**





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All of our radio shows can be  
found on iTunes. Be sure to check  
us out!





How better to celebrate National Poetry Month this April than by giving your children a creative incentive to write a poem of their own!

HSLDA's annual spring Poetry Contest offers all homeschooled students ages 7–19 a place to have fun practicing their poetic techniques in a creative response to one of three classic poems.

Open to HSLDA members and non-members alike and offering cash prizes upwards of \$200, this contest promises to be a fun, educational experience for all!

### **Contest Info & Guidelines**

This year, our themes for the three age categories focus on the whimsical, even zany, side of poetry:

#### **Category 1 (ages 7–10): *Green Eggs and Ham* (excerpt) by Dr. Seuss**

Dr. Seuss's poem *Green Eggs and Ham* has become an American favorite, beloved for its humorous repetition and wacky illustrations. Your assignment is to read the excerpt and write a new, creative continuation of this zany poem, picking up right from where the excerpt leaves off! Keep the original rhyme scheme of AABB and keep your poem's length to no more than 6 quatrains.

#### **Category 2 (ages 11–14): *Jabberwocky* by Lewis Carroll**

In 1871, Lewis Carroll published one of the best known English nonsense poems in his fanciful sequel to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. Titled *Jabberwocky*, the poem uses nonsensical words and whimsical language to transport Alice and all of its readers to a mythical land where strange creatures dwell. Carroll paints an unreal world using unreal words, but in doing so, he leaves a very real impression of mystery and mythology that brings the story vividly to life in the imagination! Your assignment is to be creative in a similar way: write a poem of similar length (5-7 quatrains) and rhyme pattern (ABAB or ABCB) that takes place in a fun, perhaps mysterious, new world! Incorporate some of the techniques Carroll used, including made-up vocabulary, neologisms, words with strong visual impact, and rich creativity of expression and idea.

#### **Category 3 (ages 15–19): *To My Valentine* by Ogden Nash**


With his characteristic humorous flair, American poet Ogden Nash uses unexpected metaphors and atypical expressions to convey his nonetheless powerful love in his poem *To My Valentine*. Your assignment is to think outside the box to do the same: defy clichés and write a modern-sounding poem that expresses a positive emotion in an uncharacteristic way. Let your choice of vocabulary, metaphors, examples, theme, or the very emotion expressed be laced with originality. Follow Nash's rhyme pattern (ABAB or ABCB) and keep your poem's length between 5 and 7 quatrains.

To get a sense of what to look for or avoid when writing a poem, you can view the judges' comments or read the winning poems from previous years! Guidelines and entry forms can be found on our website, as well as information about our other annual contests for art, photography, and essay. We look forward to reading your creative rhymes!

*Poetry is language at its most distilled and most powerful. ~Rita Dove*

Mark Your Calendars!

Recognition Day we are in the planning process for this event for July 25th. If you can help create award certificates, plan and set up event, to find out about your children performing at the event please contact us ASAP.

July 2015 						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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# Awareness

## Sports for Kids with Autism:

What's the best sport for a child with autism? As with every child, the best sport is the one your child enjoys and excels at. That said, though, autism does impair social and communication skills and may have a negative impact on gross motor coordination. That means "typical" team sports such as soccer, basketball and hockey may be particularly tough. Individual sports, however, may be just the ticket.

### Autism and Swimming:

Swimming is a wonderful sport for most people, including children with autism. Children who have a tough time with ball-handling skills can do well with basic strokes and typical water play. What's more, there is no reason why a child with autism can't take part in a swim team especially since swim team members compete individually.

### Autism and Horseback Riding:

Horseback riding is pricey. That aside, it's a terrific sport for kids with autism. In fact, many autistic children ride horses as a therapeutic activity (as such it's termed "hippotherapy"). It's not unusual for autistic kids to find it easier to communicate with animals than with people—and many autistic children excel at horsemanship.

### Autism and Track:

Strangely, Americans teach their youngest children to play complex team sports like soccer while only high schoolers seem to compete in running and jumping! For kids with autism, track and field may be a terrific outlet. Track events require fewer non verbal communication skills than most team sports, yet kids who excel at track are valued team members.

### Autism and Bowling:

Even though it's loud, bowling seems to be a natural sport for many children with autism. Perhaps it's the repetition—bowl twice, sit down. Or maybe it's the satisfaction of seeing the pins come crashing down. Whatever the reasons, bowling is a great sport for social events that include kids on the autism spectrum.

### Autism and Hiking:

For many people with autism, the peace and quiet of the natural world is a great stress reliever. Hiking, which can be an individual or group activity, is an easy way to get exercise and enjoy nature without the pressure of intense social communication. Fishing is another sport that may be of interest to an autistic individual who enjoys the natural world.

### Autism and Biking:

Bike riding can be tough for autistic children, since balance may not come naturally. Once the basic skills are mastered, cycling can be a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors. Like most of the sports described above, cycling can be enjoyed alone or in a group, just for fun or competitively.

### Autism and Martial Arts:

While martial arts aren't sports in the typical sense, they are physical outlets. They also combine the elements of predictability and structure with the challenges of physical interaction with other people. For many children with autism, the martial arts are a wonderful way to build physical skills along with self-esteem.

### Autism and Just-for-Fun Sports:

If you're hoping to get your child with autism involved with team sports, a good way to get started is by playing together just for fun. Whether you're shooting baskets, tossing the ball back and forth, or learning to skate, you'll be building both physical and social skills if you do it together. In the long run, it's experiences like shooting hoops with dad (even when the hoop is lowered) that help build parent-child connections.





# Parents opt out of Common Core in force

By [Aaron Short](#), [Reuven Fenton](#) and [Jennifer Bain](#)

Parents across the city and state drew a thick line in the sand Tuesday, boycotting high-stakes standardized tests that they blame for unnecessary student anxiety and unfair teacher evaluations.

Vowing to shatter last year's opt-out numbers, [Common Core test](#) opponents organized a social media campaign and got the backing of the state teachers union to encourage students to put down their pencils.

Anecdotal evidence suggests they succeeded.

The number of students statewide who balked at taking Tuesday's English exam for third- to eighth- graders will likely surpass last year's 60,000.

At the Institute for Collaborative Education on the Lower East Side, 85 percent of the students opted out, according to parents.

At PS 321 in Brooklyn's Park Slope, parents said 35 percent of the students refused, up from 30 percent last year.

And at PS 29 in nearby Cobble Hill, the opt-out jumped from 20 to 25 percent.

Organizers set a goal of 250,000 boycotters, but official numbers won't be available for weeks.

One parent said he pulled his kid on the advice of teachers.

"I am not opposed to tests," said Danny Katch, 40, whose fourth-grade daughter, Lila, did not take the test at PS 69 in Jackson Heights, Queens.

"I certainly want my kids to respect their teachers and do what the school encourages them to do. But these tests aren't coming from the teachers and their tests aren't coming from the school. In fact, almost every teacher I talked to doesn't believe these tests are effective at all."

The math exams will be given next week.

The state Education Department has repeatedly said there would be financial consequences in the form of reduced federal aid if participation on the tests drops below 95 percent.

"Those who call for opting out really want New York to opt out of information that can help parents and teachers understand how well their students are doing," said Jeanne Beattie, a state Education Department spokeswoman. "We can't go back to ignoring the needs of our children."

Pablo Reyes, 40, of East Harlem had his son Shiloh, a third-grader, in an after-school program two days a week to study for the tests.

"I do feel the tests stress the kids out," Reyes said.

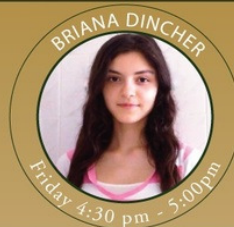
"But he's confident and thriving, so I think the tests are a good thing."

(cont. on next page)



# The New Heights Show on Education

LIVE Internet radio program & EST Hours



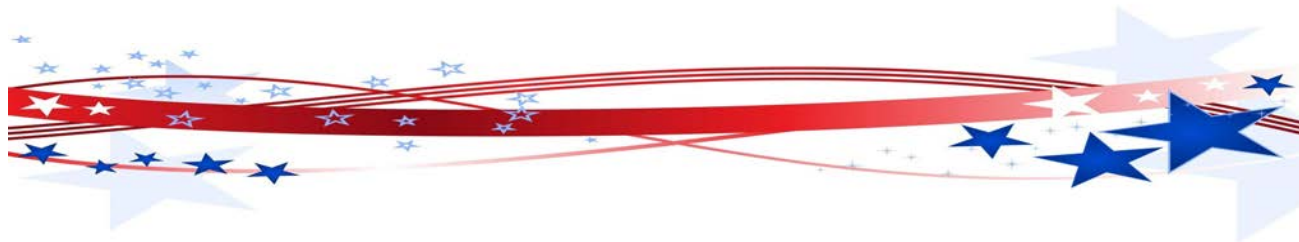
*As they explore a new topic on education every week*

Missed a show? Check out past shows here:

<http://www.newheightseducation.org/briana-dincher.html>

<http://www.newheightseducation.org/kathy-woodring.html>

*As they explore a new topic on education every week. . .*



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**What are you waiting  
for... *GO and VOTE!***



# Parents opt out of Common Core in force (CONT)

By [Aaron Short](#), [Reuven Fenton](#) and [Jennifer Bain](#)

## Took the Test

Instead of playing video games or hanging outside with his friends, 8-year-old Furqan Shabazz spent every Saturday this year in school, of all places, studying for an exam.

Furqan was one of hundreds of thousands of students across the state who sat down Tuesday for a Common Core test designed to determine student progress.

"I've studied for these tests for years, since first grade. I was a little nervous because there were a lot of questions . . . but we talked earlier about the best way to finish the test."

"I'm happy to have my son take the test," said Furqan's mother, Brenda Rodriguez, of East Harlem.

*Jennifer Bain*



Furqan Shabazz with his mom Brenda Rodriguez

## Opted Out

Brooklyn parent Liza Ezbiensky said she wouldn't mind the statewide English and comprehension tests if they were actually about English or comprehension.

"It sounds like what they're testing is really more about executing and functioning, how well the kids can stay organized and actually complete the paperwork of the test versus actually understanding anything about English or comprehension," Ezbiensky said.

Ezbiensky's daughter Elli, 8, is a student at Park Slope's PS 321, where parents strongly back the opt-out movement.

About 35 percent of the students at the elementary school declined to take Common Core tests Tuesday.

*Reuven Fenton*



Liza Ezbiensky with her daughter, Elli.

## Mixed Feelings

Philosophically, Gia Sharp is opposed to the controversial standardized tests that have divided parents in school districts across the state.

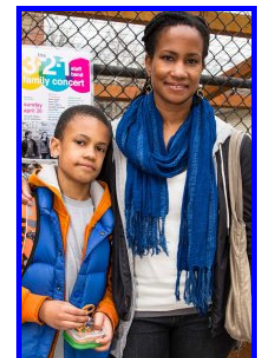
But her son took it anyway. "I was not happy about him having to take it, but he's going to middle school, so I wasn't sure what the stakes were for him personally as far as opting out," said Sharp, whose son, Ryan, 11, is a student at PS 321 in Park Slope.

After Day One, it didn't take long for them to have regrets.

"He finished in less than half the time, and he had to sit there for an hour and 45 minutes extra," Sharp said.

"I was tired and bored while I waited," Ryan said.

*Reuven Fenton*



Gia Sharp with her son, Ryan.



## Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund

### **Northwest Ohio Scholarship Fund K-8 Tuition Assistance Information**

We provide scholarships to needy families throughout northwest Ohio. Students who receive this tuition assistance attend the area private K-8 schools of their choice—there are even homeschooling options available.

Each scholarship is based on individual family size and income, with a maximum scholarship of \$1,500 per child for elementary students. Income information is re-evaluated each year with the scholarship amount adjusted accordingly. The average scholarship for 2014-2015 school year is \$1,121.

Scholarships are available to students who will be in kindergarten through eighth grade for the 2015-2016 school year. These recipients must reside in Allen, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Huron, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams or Wood counties. The guidelines for eligibility generally follow the federal free or reduced school lunch program. Parents are required to pay a minimum of \$500 toward the student's tuition each year.

Go to website: <http://nosf.org/scholarships>

“When I  
grow up  
I want  
to be a  
genius!”

—Malcolm, Age 5



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**CONVENIENT**— we'll pick-up your car from wherever it is (home, work, auto shop)

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE**— your donation is tax deductible to the full extent of the law

**SAVE TIME**— save yourself the time and hassle of trying to sell it

**FEEL GREAT**— knowing that your car will help further our mission

We work with a reputable car donation processor, Car Program, who will make all the arrangements at no cost to you. They handle the title transfer requirements and will provide you with a tax deductible donation receipt when they pick-up your car.

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