

Good morning,

I am writing to express my thanks for all that you do each and every day in your classrooms. I know how tirelessly you work to create a positive learning environment in your class. Your efforts and success do not go unnoticed. My children are extremely fortunate to have had such dedicated teachers in Mount Sinai, and this year is no different.

I also want you to know that I am fighting mad. I am fighting mad about our educational system. A system that isn't "broken". A system that isn't "failing". I am fighting mad that our teachers and schools are called "ineffective". I am fighting mad that the state's fundamental rights to control the education in their counties and cities has been overridden by corporations who are greedy, whose motives are questionable and by politicians who have chosen (without voter consent) to ignore the 10th amendment and who align themselves with those who seek to tie the hands of our teachers.

I want you to be aware that parents are not just fighting mad, but are fighting. We are fighting in grassroots organizations such as P-TACC (parents and teachers against the common core) and Stop Common Core in New York State. (links to their websites are attached) We have mobilized and are in action. We are petitioning our federal and state governments for repeal of CCS and to be released from RTT. We have been in contact with assemblymen and congressmen, and are awaiting the drafting of a bill by assemblyman Graf. We are in favor of authentic assessments and classrooms that encourage teacher collaboration, student curiosity, with the hopes that our children become global thinkers, but not globalized....which would infringe upon the independence and innovation that has made the U.S. great.

Once again, thank you for being the best teachers that you can be. Remember, we, the parents, are behind you 100%

Warmest Regards,

Candace Donin

<http://www.stopccssinnys.com/> STOP COMMON CORE IN NYS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=eSher9XzK0s (Assemblyman Al Graf questions NYS Education Commissioner during January 2012 Education Hearing)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/549231011767025/> (P-TACC, parents and teachers against the common core facebook page)