

## **WHY YOU SHOULD OPT OUT YOUR CHILD FROM THE UPCOMING TESTS STARTING APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>**

- High stakes testing uses our children as tools to evaluate school districts, schools, and teachers. And for our children, the score on these tests determines promotion to the next grade and what middle school or high school they will attend.
- High Stakes testing takes away approximately 25% of our children's academic school year (including test prep, interim assessments, days of testing and grading)
- High Stakes testing forces teachers to "teach to the test" instead of nurturing higher order thinking skills.
- High stakes testing and the Common Core curriculum are developmentally destructive. Parents are told, "the tests are harder and that is why 70% of our children citywide failed them last year", however, the truth is that the tests are asking our children to know material they should not yet know or be taught.
- High stakes testing teaches children that there is only one right answer in academics and in life.
- High stakes testing costs millions of dollars of taxpayer money to produce and thousands of dollars of our school district's money to implement.
- High stakes testing takes the joy out of school/learning for children and teaches them to resent school.
- High stakes testing encourages our best teachers to seek other careers where their expertise is valued. We are losing our best and brightest teachers.
- High stakes testing forces teachers to care more about their teacher evaluation than their children. This is because for the first time this year, 40% of the teachers' evaluations will be based on our child's test score. Teachers want to teach and we must support this.

**IT IS TIME FOR PARENTS TO PUT AN END TO THE EXCESSIVE AND HIGH STAKES TESTS. WE MUST REPLACE THE TESTING CURRICULUM WITH REAL LEARNING AND MULTIPLE ASSESSMENTS WHICH REFLECT WHAT OUR CHILDREN ARE LEARNING.**

**JOIN THE OPT-OUT MOVEMENT BY SIGNING THE PARENT LETTER AND HANDING IT IN TO YOUR PRINCIPAL NOW!!**