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My principal once said MCAS matters because we matter, but if we truly matter then a test shouldn't shape our whole education. If we matter then we should be more to the state than just a number.

The test shouldn't be how we judge all of our students. Children learn differently and giving them a test doesn't assess all children's skills. Some students don't do well on their test, not because they aren't smart enough but because they get so flustered when they see the test.

Our whole education is based around testing. So much hype is built around it that children get scared or nervous and they make mistakes. The time we spend preparing for the test we could use doing hands on activities that are more fun and help us to learn. My class spends a month preparing for MCAS and I am in honors classes.

The material we need to know for MCAS has almost no use or effect on our future life and work. High stakes testing is meant to help our students but it's only hurting them. All in all, high stakes testing has done no good for our students and serves no true purpose. If you don't believe me then you are choosing not to believe me because it's coming straight from the horse's mouth.

In conclusion, anyone for all this high stakes testing, I would like to invite you to spend some time in my middle school classes.