The East Rock Record

NEW EAST ROCK PRINCIPAL
SABRINA BRELAND SHares VISION
Recalls fun as former East Rock School student

EAST ROCK SCHOOL PRINCIPAL SABRINA BRELAND HOLDS HER FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE WITH EAST ROCK RECORD REPORTERS

BY EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School has a new principal – and when she was a kid, she went to East Rock School!
Principal Sabrina Breland said that as a student, “I don’t think I had one bad memory – ever – of being in this school.”
Ms. Breland spoke with East Rock Record reporters during a press conference, which she was “my first public engagement.” She shared ideas for learning, including more projects and hands-on work, and told reporters that she wanted to make East Rock “a school like the one I experienced.”
The school, she said, was full of activities like basketball, soccer, band and open gym time. “Anything you can name, we had at East Rock,” she said. Students “didn’t fuss at touchers” and were kind to one another.

Fourth grader Keyeriah Williams said Ms. Breland has been a great principal so far. “When I get into arguments, Ms. Breland settles it. I like her. She’s nice. She cares about everybody.”

Tyronne Grear, in 4th grade, said Ms. Breland “is fun but she is serious at the same time.” Mr. Grear said that he was “impressed” when he learned that Ms. Breland played basketball and that it “helps her relate to kids because they like basketball.”

Sixth grader Melvin Ramos said Ms. Breland has started a basketball team in the school. “I am looking forward to joining,” he said. “She seems really fun.”

The school, she said, was full of activities like basketball, soccer, band and open gym time. “Anything you can name, we had at East Rock.”

EAST ROCK COMMUNITY & CULTURAL STUDIES MAGNET SCHOOL

The Cost of Video Games (not just dollars and cents)

BY NORAH MATZ, SAHIL LEMAR AND ALEC SAMSEL
EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF
EDITED BY ANY DEPPO

Did you ever feel like you were about to win a game and you just needed another minute to play Fortnite – and then four hours went by?

People are playing video games everywhere you look: On phones, computers, Xbox and PlayStation 4. Students at East Rock Community & Cultural Magnet School like Minecraft, Fortnite and ROBLOX and many others!

Yes, video games are fun. But are they too fun? Could they be a problem?

Adham Dweck, third grader, doesn’t think so. He said, “I love video games and I don’t think I play enough.”

According to the Fall 2018 East Rock Record Survey, more than half of students – 53 percent – said that it is hard to stop playing a video game and move away from the screen.

When students are not in school, they are not just doing homework or playing video games. They might be at work —with their parents.

Last summer Dave Cruz, a 7th grader, went with his dad as he delivered pizzas. “I wanted to see how he works. And I wanted to get out of the house,” said Mr. Cruz.

Mr. Cruz has only gone to work with his dad during the summer. But some students go with parents during the school year to jobs at places including Dunkin’ Donuts, Dollar Tree and Yale-New Haven Hospital.

East Rock Record reporters interviewed students and some adults about going to work with parents.

Students don’t usually talk very much about going to work.
Visit the Whitney-Audubon Retail & Arts District

Hunt for antiques, gifts, jewelry or home furnishings, treat yourself to a tasty cookie or cupcake, or just relax at one of the district’s many restaurants and cafés.

**ARTS, CULTURE & MUSEUMS**

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<td>185 Whalley Ave</td>
<td>(203) 772-2788</td>
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<td>Creative Arts Workshop</td>
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<td>(203) 562-4927</td>
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<td>(203) 641-7998</td>
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<td>New Haven Ballet</td>
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<td>New Haven Museum</td>
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<td>Walker-Loden</td>
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**DINING**

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<td>(475) 441-7998</td>
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**SITE MAP**

- Located on Whitney Ave
- Located on Audubon St
- Located on Church St
- Located on Grove St
- Located on Temple St
- Located on Orange St
- Located on Bradley St
- Located on Truman St
- Located on Hillhouse Ave
- Located on Temple St
- Located on Orange St
- Located on Audubon St
- Located on Church St

**WHITNEY AUDUBON**

- Retail & Arts District
- WhitneyAudubon.com
Students play, learn at workplaces

One-third of students regularly go to work with their parents

One of the people her mom works with often comes to work with her mother who juggles three jobs. As a child, principal Sabrina Breland often went to work with her mother who juggled three jobs.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey

Many students, including Dweck, said they did not have a choice about going to work with parents because parents did not want to leave them home alone.

Jaylani Sanchez, a 4th grader, said going to Dollar Tree with her mom almost every day after school last year. She got to be friends with the daughter of one of the people her mom works with. They played together at their mom's work.

It turns out that kids have been going to work with their parents for a long time.

Sabrina Breland, principal of East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School, told reporters during a press conference that when she was a child she sometimes went to work with her mom. Her mom had three jobs: crossing guard, nurse's assistant and house cleaner.

Ms. Breland most often went when she cleared houses and to the Veteran's Administration Hospital where she was a nurse's aide.

"I learned a lot while I was there. I really loved it," said Ms. Wimmer. She said her own daughter, who is seven, no longer asks, "Mommy can I go to work with you instead of going to school?"

Many students said they like the idea of bringing kids to work. Mr. Cruz said if he has children, he would "definitely" bring them to work to "show them different option." It is "always good to have options," he said.

Keyseriah Williams, who is in fourth grade, would bring her kids to work as a learning experience. "They'll want to see what it's like when you're older and have to go to work and pay the bills," she said.

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We’ve got classes, camps & theatre for young audi-

E D U C A T I O N

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BY JAYLEEN RAEZ, N’AYRIE WILLIAMS, NATALLA PENNA, JAYLAŃA GASKINS
EDITED BY KIMBERLY CRUZ

Everyone talks about it and asks: Is your teacher nice?
People care a lot about it, but why? Does it matter if your teacher is nice? And, what does “nice” even mean?

“Teachers have to be nice to connect with their students,” said 6th grade Norton Poll. “Being nice is important because you don’t want students to feel like you are trying to give them a hard time. I like teachers who are nice because they make learning fun.”

The East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey showed that 87 percent of students said they learned better if their teacher was nice. 82 percent said most teachers at East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School are “nice.” How much does “nice” matter?

A pre-k teacher, Denise Kimson said, “It matters how we talk to each other. This is important because Pre-k teachers are the first exposure to adults outside of their household. “Nice means to value the person you are talking to,” she said. When students are exposed to niceness, they can reciprocate it. Another pre-k teacher, Verita Rudd, said being nice means doing “kind things to people. An example is sharing.”

This is important to teach students in school. Classrooms are where we learn how to be citizens. One reason students focus so much on ‘nice’ teachers is maybe because the country doesn’t feel very nice these days.

But in a country filled with people from different backgrounds, people have to be open to each other. This can prevent hate crimes because if people learn how important it is to be a nice and kind person, then people won’t harm each other. Can being nice catch on?

One of the nicest teachers at East Rock, Norine Polio, who teaches ESL, had a nice teacher herself. She said her teacher “used to give us fake passports to different places around the world” so that they could “travel” as they learned.

Do you learn better when teachers are nice? Some students say they do. “I like nice teachers. When they are telling stories, you are excited,” said Jarelis Calderon, 6th grade, said, “My favorite teacher is Ms. [Amy] Binkowski, Ms. [Nicole] Racio and Ms. [Erika] Koch because they make it easy to comprehend my work. And they give a lot of work!”

Some students say that when teachers joke in class, it shows that learning can be fun. But some students say it doesn’t matter if a teacher is nice. “My favorite teacher is Ms. Koch because she is strict and gives hard math,” said Jarelis Calderon, 6th grade. “In class, I find that it’s easier to work with a strict teacher because when the teacher jokes it is distracting. Teachers also have different ways of being strict. Don’t worry if you slip up or do something bad. Some people like strict teachers because they push them to be better.”

“I like strict teachers because they make you learn better,” said Mozart Ward. Students don’t like strict teachers who yell or tell you to “do your work or you will get an F!” Or tell you to be quiet. Some people want to get an A and not be yelled at.

“I like strict teachers because the more you get instructions the better you will get at school and better grades you will get,” said Jasper Lamboy, 3rd grade. “If they give you rules all the time you won’t forget to follow them.”

Jaylani Sanchez, 4th grade, said she doesn’t like it when teachers scream. She said most teachers at East Rock School are nice and especially likes Angela Maiocco.

Even though a lot of kids like nice teachers, but being too nice is a problem. Sixth-grader Melvin Ramos said most nice teachers let their students do what they want. “They let them slide,” he said.

Sixth grade teacher Garrett Griffin said, “Students do take advantage when teachers are nice.” But can you learn better when your teacher is nice? Typhanie Jackson, director of student services for New Haven Public Schools, said it depends. She said students will learn with different types of teachers for different reasons. Some kids will learn with strict teachers because they like to follow orders and when their peers make jokes with teachers it distracts them. Some kids enjoy nice teachers. It makes them feel more comfortable in the classroom, she said.

“Teachers have their own thoughts about being nice.” Ms. Maiocco said it’s important “to think about how other people feel before you act.” But being too nice can be a problem, said Mr. Griffin. “I am strict with my students,” he said, “because life is hard and I want to make it in the real world.”

Principal Breland wants school full of activity, learning

SIXTH-SGRADE TEACHER GARETT GRIFFIN: “I AM STRICT!”

Principal Garren-Breland and Billie Press Conference principal. She also worked at Career High School and at Hillhouse High School, where she also coached the girl’s basketball team.

Ms. Breland said her proudest moment in education was being in charge of the Class of 2009 at Career High School, “and all of my students graduated and 95 percent of them went to college.”

“When I was a kid, I think that was about the furthest thing from my mind,” she said. “I wanted to be an actress and a singer, but what held me back was that I couldn’t sing and I couldn’t act.”

Ms. Breland grew up in New Haven. She has two brothers and three sisters. Her mom worked at three different jobs. “She was a single parent and she actually owned a house,” she said. “In order for us to stay in that house — 499 East Street — she worked as a crossing guard, a nurse’s assistant and also as a housekeeper.”

Ms. Breland said she really wants to improve teaching and learning in the school. She also wants students to focus on learning so does not want students bringing toys or slime to school.

“Especially slime,” she said. “I have seen students get really upset that someone grabbed their slime. But she does not object to student passing notes—even as long as it’s about schoolwork. “If you were working on a project with someone and you passed a note about the project, I think that would be great.”
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WebsterBank.com
Every month there is a chance that you could win.

You can get pencils, and erasers, maybe candy and maybe slime. But the biggest prize is getting called up in front of the whole school and being announced as “Student of the Month.”

Birthdays are way better than student of the month because you get presents and you spend time with your family. But Student of the Month is a very great award.

Getting picked and getting to tell your parents, is “pretty epic,” said Norah Matz, a 3rd grader who earned the award in K and grades 1 and 2. “I like being congratulated and I get a lot of hugs. And I like hugs.”

Student of the Month is when your teacher chooses a person who has been good and who is following the dream. The D.R.E.A.M. stands for Dedicated Respectful Ethical Accepting Motivated, which is the goal for every student at East Rock Community and Cultural Studies Magnet School.

Homeroom teachers choose one student from their class and give the name to Ms. Leslie DiPrisit, the assistant principal who is in charge of the program. It is her 11th year of leading the program. She said Student of the Month recognizes those who are “following the dream” and motivating other students. “We want them to know we see them, we appreciate their work and we recognize them,” said Ms. DiPrisit. “It is not just students with the best grades! It is about hard work and improvement.”

Students can turn into Student of the Month for improving or even just for helping out other people.

In an interview with reporters, Typhani-Jackson, the director of student services for The New Haven Public Schools, said the award is an example of “positive behavior intervention supports” which means it celebrates good behavior. She said “it incentivizes kids to work harder.”

Clay Selmont, the music teacher, does not have a homeroom so he cannot pick a Student of the Month. Sometimes he wishes he could. “I would love to have a homeroom,” he said. Sometimes, teachers do ask for his opinion. Student of the Month is a big deal because you get a lot of attention. Do students get upset if they are not picked? The East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey showed that 30 percent do—but 70 percent said they don’t.

Hector Cruz, in 6th grade, has gotten Student of the Month each year from K to fifth grade. “And I’m trying to work on it again,” he said. “You just got to do good in class.”

Sixth grader Omar Dweck got the award twice in fourth and fifth grade and hopefully this year! He likes it because, “you get honored. They appreciate your work.”

Mr. Dweck said even though you try to get picked, you should not make it obvious.

“You have to play it cool, like you don’t know what’s going on. If you do know, the teacher won’t give it to you,” he said.

Mr. Dweck said the best way to get picked is to “try to focus on yourself and not on other people. If you talk with other people, it ruins your chances.”

He thinks most students miss out of being Student of the Month “because they talk too much in class.”

Even though most students are not and if they don’t get picked, Ms. Matz said people always comment. “People say, ‘Oh this person got Student of the Month.’”

Sahil Lemar, also in third grade, said people do say, “Why don’t you choose me?” He also said that as a result of getting picked that, “some of the kids in my class call me a nerd.”

Mr. Dweck said that happens to him, too. And he doesn’t mind. “I like it when people call me nerd because it means I’m smart,” he said. “I like school. It’s fun.”

Do you D.R.E.A.M. of being Student of the Month?

Madison Poole
The Candy Conflict: Problem — or Perfect Prize?

BY ADELINE ELLIS, JARELIS CALDERON, JAYLANI SANCHEZ, KEYLIN MONTOYA

FOOD & HEALTH

PAGE 8

The East Rock Record

Sweet, chewy, sour, crunchy, melts, even spicy! There are so many ways to describe candies, but one thing is for sure: they're all delicious!

Yes, kids love candy and want to eat it whenever they can. In the East Rock Record Fall 2018 survey, 68 percent of students said candy and sweets should be allowed at school.

Fourth grader Ty’Kneisha Thomas shared that feeling in a poem: “Roses are red, violets are blue, candy should definitely be allowed in school.”

Many teachers said that sweets are a problem, especially at school.

Teachers at East Rock School are not allowed to give out candy in classrooms and students are not allowed to eat candy in classrooms. Tami Wells, a social worker at East Rock School, said that is because candy changes people’s behavior when they eat it. In addition, Wells says, when kids eat a lot of candy, “they get full on it” and, since they don’t get full on healthy foods, they “don’t have enough nutrients to learn.”

Mr. John Kennedy, who teaches 7th grade math, said when students eat sugar “they have way more energy than can be used in the classroom.” Mr. Kennedy reminds East Rock Record reporters: “and what are we here for? To learn!”

Sue Peters, Director of School Health Centers and Dental Clinics at New Haven Public Schools, said you can get a “sugar rush” when you eat some kinds of foods with sugar. When you eat sugar, she said, it enters your bloodstream and turns into something called “glucose,” which gives your body energy. It can help you focus.

But different types of sugars enter the bloodstream faster than others. When sugar goes into your bloodstream too fast — like when you eat candy or soda — you can feel a burst of energy which we call a “sugar rush,” she said.

“When kids get those bursts of energy, they may have a hard time focusing in the classroom,” she said. “It would be nice to have a treat once in a while.”

Third grader Sahil Lemar agrees that candy should not be allowed because some contain peanut butter. “I can have peanut butter, but I can’t have dairy, so I know that kids have allergies,” he said. “Candy is also a problem because when people see it, they want it. He said, “You would open a bag of Skittles, and you’d only be able to eat three, because your friends would take the rest.”

During a press conference with reporters from The East Rock Record, Principal Sabrina Breland said selling candy at school makes it hard for students to focus.

“Selling candy itself is not a criminal offense,” she said. “But if we are talking about subject-verb agreement and Omar wants to buy a candy, wants a Snickers bar, that is a distraction.”

In the East Rock Record Fall 2018 survey, 68 percent of East Rock students said candy should be allowed in school.

Some teachers said they do not allow any food at all and only water in their classrooms. Many kids think of candy as a treat for doing something good. But teachers give out other prizes other than food rewards.

Some teachers said they do not think that they are affected by candy and sweets. According to the East Rock Record survey, 56 percent of students said sugar does not make them too crazy or full of energy. But there are other reasons that candy is not allowed in classrooms: Allergies. Candy often contains peanuts or dairy, which is a serious problem for some students.

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FORTNITE COULD BE YOUR TEAM SPORT

ESPORTS FROM PAGE 1

Once students make it on the team, they practice for 26 hours a week. New York University’s Gaming Center, located in Brooklyn, N.Y., also gives out scholarships for video game studies. They give out $24,000 on scholarships for esports.

Teachers are teaching students how to make and sell games. There are scholarships to study game design. At some colleges like N.Y.U. students can focus on video game studies. University of California, Irvine also has an esports program. It started in the summer 2015 and it is connected to the Computer Game Science Major.

One problem is that competitive gaming costs a lot of money. If you want to play Fortnite on the Xbox it will cost $200 for the console and the skins in Fortnite cost $20 per skin. A skin is a cosmetic item that gives your video game character a certain look. Sometime you can get skins at a discounted price, but only if you buy the battle pass that costs more than $30.

Elm City esports

In New Haven, Elm City Sports is a new esports organization founded by Aaron Rathbun to bring together kids for education and competitive video gaming. Mr. Rathbun moved to New Haven when he started at Yale Divinity School. After becoming involved with his church community and realizing kids in New Haven were interested in video games, he created a social organization to play games and host events for kids.

During an interview with East Rock Record reporters, Mr. Rathbun, Connecticut is one of the best states for eSports. There are video game leagues in high schools, such as Notre Dame High School in West Haven.

Mr. Rathbun also had warnings about video games. He said players must be aware of how video games are designed. He said images in video games can be inappropriate or can change how people view other people.

He also warned about scams. Scams are common in video game culture when people offer free items or prizes for fake contest entries. Mr. Rathbun had a reminder: “Video games are fun, as long as you moderate your play.”

Garrett Griffin, a 6th grade teacher at East Rock School, said he enjoys playing video games, but also thinks there are better things to do with your time. “I play SimCity,” he said, adding that, “I love sports games. I was a Madden champion. But I still think video games are a waste of time.”

Video game competitions — like other sports — can stir up a lot of emotion. There is something in video game playing called “raging.” When players are in competitions and they lose, they can start to rage. Raging is when you get mad and you start to go crazy because you have lost. A lot of players are starting to rage because of games like Fortnite, especially as it is a multiplayer game that requires teamwork.

A shocking example of raging took place on August 27, 2018. Somebody lost a computerized football tournament and killed two people and hurt 11 and afterwards killed himself. The shooting happened in a Jacksonville, Florida restaurant.

Are video games sports?

But are video games real sports? That is a big debate. In an interview with East Rock Record reporters Mr. Rathbun said they are “not really” actual sports, “unless they’re virtual reality video games, in which you are actually walking or doing other physical activity.”

Amy Binkowski, 6th grade teacher at East Rock School agreed. “I personally don’t see physical benefits of sitting in front of a computer and playing games,” she said. “But I can see the mental benefits from practicing decision making.”

Will eSports get more popular? Will students play eSports teams instead of soccer or basketball?

Jayleen Baez, in 6th grade, said she “would want to, but my mom wants me to play sports” that are traditional.

But Natalia Penna, also in 6th grade, said her parents would approve. “My dad would be proud of me,” she said. “He plays League of Legends.” Sahil Lumar, in third grade, prefers “sports over video games. Sports are more fun and my mom is okay with me playing sports.”

Your fingers might get a workout in gaming. But third grader Norah Matz said eSports do not help your whole body.

“It started in the summer 2015 and it is connected to the Computer Game Science Major.”

Still, students at East Rock School would like a chance to play on an eSports team. According to the East Rock Record 2018 Fall Survey, 64 percent of students said the school should have an eSports team — and 63 percent said they would like to join it.

“I think kids would love an after-school video game club,” Principal Sabrina Breland said during a press conference with East Rock Record reporters. “When students get together and work together and collaborate, it’s great.”

Still, Ms. Breland sees some trouble: “I think kids spend far too much time on video games.”

Video game playing and eSports may seem fun, but some people worry about problems it can cause. “People need human interaction,” said Mr. Griffin. “Sitting behind a screen and not interacting with actual people can lead to certain social issues.”

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Technology has become part of life—and school. At most schools, when a teacher says “open your books,” they are talking about textbook or workbooks. But at the East Rock Community & Cultural Magnet School, that “book” might be a Chromebook, not a textbook.

Students really like technology and feel comfortable using it. But some grownups think technology gets used too much. In surveys and interviews, students and teachers had some different views about technology.

Nearly all students who answered the East Rock Record Fall 2018 Survey—92 percent of respondents—love using it in class. Teachers let students use online learning programs, such as Reflex Math and Lexia, a literacy development program, to do their work in class. Teachers agree that technology can be fun and useful in the classroom. But many also worry that it can be distracting to other students.

Laura Generoso, who teaches 7th and 8th grade social studies, said technology helps her teach. “It makes the lesson more interesting,” she said. “Sometimes they have access to a greater variety of information.” It can also get students more involved. “They are more interested in using technology.”

But too much computer use, she said, can be distracting for some. This issue has come up a lot recently. Last school year, the East Rock Rock reported on students using their phones in school. The East Rock Record Spring 2018 survey found that in 5 students use their cell phone every hour. A Pew Research April 2015 survey also found that 70 percent of adults think their kids are distracted by cell phones during conversations.

Many people also worry about how much time students spend playing video games. And many parents want to limit that time. According to the new East Rock Record Fall 2018 survey, 34 percent of students said their parents set limits on how long they can play video games. But many parents don’t.

“My parents don’t care too much about video games,” or how long he plays, said Xavier Jones, a 6th grader. But, he said, “they want me to go outside more.”

With students using so much technology on their own, should they take a break from it at school? Jones says it is useful.

The new East Rock Record survey found that most students—82 percent—want teachers to use even more of it in class. Students said that more computers could keep them from using phones in class.

“We should use more computers in class, because they are better than phones,” said 4th grade student Morgan Prasad, in 4th grade. “One problem with new technology is that it can be hard to use if you don’t know how it works. Most students don’t have that problem.”

The survey found that even if a technology is new to them, 83 percent of students said it is never “scary” to figure out. But one-third said grownups know seem nervous around technology.

Students and adults interviewed had mixed opinions about the future of technology in school. Some think it will make learning better.

“If a teacher uses technology well, it can give kids better learning,” said Laura Pappano, who writes about education for The New York Times and other publications.

Some students, on the other hand, think increased technology may be bad for learning. Third grader Sahil Lemar said learning should be fun. Sometimes, Mr. Lemar said, they play math games like “Sparkle” and “Around the World.” “You don’t have to have a computer. You don’t need it to have fun,” he said.

Video games making students angry and sleepy

By Jaden J. Martinez, Jonmar Lambey, Victor Rodriquez, Tyrese Grear, Kayson Machel-Andrews, Dave John Cruz, and Hayden Liss-Jones

East Rock Record Staff

Edited by Nick Taribo and Stephen Martinez-Garibay

DECEMBER 2018

TECHNOLOGY

Tech is part of life—and a bigger part of school lessons

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EAST ROCK RECORD STAFF

EDITED BY NICK TARBIO

AND STEPHEN MARTINEZ-GARIBAY

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Video games making students angry and sleepy

Playing is also affecting some student’s emotions. The survey found that 39 percent feel angry after losing or doing badly in a video game.

Only about one-third of students surveyed said that they have a limit on how long they can play video games.

Ms. Erin Salzano, who teaches third grade, has concerns about how much time students spend with video games. “Students are tired and fall asleep at school sometimes,” she said. She also thinks video game playing is affecting student’s attention for school.

“Students are used to fast pace of video games, and are quick to give up on written work that is sometimes not very exciting,” she said. Ms. Salzano said parents should be limiting their child’s video-game playing time.

As a parent, Ms. Salzano said it is hard. “I battle my own kids, trying to take them off video games,” she said. Ms. Salzano uses an app to control her kids’ phones so they cannot play video games after 9 p.m.

Typhanie Jackson, director of student services at New Haven Public Schools, plays the game “Just Dance” with her son. She said that “it is a lot of kids are into technology because of video games” which can be good. But she also thinks that more students should put away technology and play board games. “With board games you just have to take turns and talk to each other,” she said.

Ms. Amy Hinkowski, 6th grade teacher, worries about students staying up until 4 a.m. playing new video games when they first come out. “They can be beneficial to some children but can become an addiction, become a problem,” too, she said. She said her own son and daughter play video games. “My son gets mad if he doesn’t win,” she said. “I hear him yelling at the people he is playing with.”

Mr. Garrett Griffin, who teaches sixth grade, also sees video games affecting students in his class. “It becomes a concern when kids stay up really late to play. That’s when I get worried,” he said. Mr. Griffin said that he did play video games when he was younger. But he said that they “were different video games back then.”

Video games have teachers and parents worried. But are they really a problem?

That depends on how much you are playing. For example, fifth graders should get eight to 10 hours of sleep per night. If video games keep you up, you will get cranky and have trouble focusing in school.

Teachers are not the only ones concerned about the effect of video games. Jonmar Lambey, third grader, said, “It’s fun playing video games, but it can be too much. You can’t stop playing and when you need to do something you won’t do it. You become addicted.”

But, she said, don’t play too much. Doctors recommend a total of 3 hours of screen time per day—and that includes TV, computers, and phones.

How can you tell if you are playing too much? Ms. Peters said you are addicted when “it interferes with your life so much that it is a problem.”

Not getting enough sleep is serious, she said.

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Michael Sloan is an illustrator that works at The New York Times. Sloan realized he liked drawing when he was very young. The Chronicles of Narnia helped spark a dormant fire resting in his mind that set off a sequence of events that led to him winning the Pulitzer Prize.

Michael Sloan’s art style includes sketches that have minimal colors. He likes to capture moments by making quick sketches; he did this since he lived in Hong Kong. He said to me to keep loving what I draw or write. He was in China for one year. I have never seen an artist in real life. He started his relationship to The New York Times with the help of this friend, Dave, who went to the same art school as he did. Dave helped encourage Mr. Sloan to submit his drawings to The New York Times as well as talk to Mr. Sloan about his own experiences in The New York Times as an illustrator.

Holding Mr. Sloan’s drawings felt authentic and beautiful. Mr. Sloan enjoys working for The New York Times because he likes seeing his work published and printed over and over. He likes to see his hard work appreciated. Mr. Sloan is happy with his work and always looks forward to it. He likes being his own supervisor by setting his own times and assignments. He wants his children to follow their dreams like he did.

It was nice to meet a person that draws cartoons. I liked the cartoon made with Jake Halpern about a immigrant family that moved from Syria to New Haven. There was drama when their pajamas got burnt and the lady was crying. He was in China for a whole year, and he started his career in New York. He must changed his style in China. I wonder if the pen he passed around is the one that he uses to draw cartoons?

By Dave John Cruz
East Rock Record Staff

After the talk with Michael Sloan, I felt inspired. When I was starting to just color, I started to like art. I was really liking art class. We were learning how to shade and how to do shapes, but when I heard that Michael Sloan was a cartoonist and an artist, I was so excited for this talk. He went to art class when he was a kid. I was so shocked that he went to art class. I’ve always wished to go to art class. He also published a lot of pictures in The New York Times. Can this dude get more exciting? Yes! He also said that he was inspired by the book called The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis. Wow! I can’t believe that he, (Michael Sloan) is in The New York Times! Wow. I really wish that he can be an art teacher in an art class that’s in a school that is near me that is also near New Haven. He went to China for a year. China, What, China? It’s a good thing that when he made cartoons, nobody got mad at him.

By Mohamed Prescod
East Rock Record Staff

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By Ketsia Montoya
East Rock Record Staff

Today in newspaper we listened to an artist. He started drawing when he was older. He should have started when he was younger, because then he could have learned more. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, but I don’t think I should start now, because I might mess it up.

By Hector Cruz
East Rock Record Staff

Mr. Sloan is inspiring and a very good artist. I liked it when he let us draw with his pen and when we saw his art. After that, I thought about being an artist with all that nice drawing.

By Albanele Mkaela Sequeira
East Rock Record Staff

He started drawing at the same age as I started dancing, two years old. Or so his mom says. He didn’t feel like he was an artist until he was 25. He uses what’s around him to decide on what to draw or sketch. I think that’s a very smart idea especially for a famous artist even though he doesn’t feel that famous. He got his love for drawing city scenes while living in New York for 10 years. His drawings made me think about how important it is to vote. He is an amazing artist. I didn’t really like the colors black and white, but he does, and I’m glad that he works with what he likes. I just love colorful colors. I have thought about being an artist but changed my mind and decided to be a chef. Now, at 56, Sloan likes working with The New York Times and several other newspapers. I’m most going to remember his advice: do what you love and surround yourself with people who appreciate what you do, not people who hate it. I have friends who are supportive of me: Ayleen, Luna, Shekinah and many more!

By Isabel Faustino
East Rock Record Staff

Have you seen a cartoon called “Welcome to the New World?” Well, this was a cartoon that had given Michael Sloan and Jake Halpern The Pulitzer Prize. He had talked to us about his art and what he did. Can you imagine your first publicized drawing was published in The New York Times? Well, if you think that is an impossible statement. I want to say that Mr. Sloan did this. He gave four years of his lifetime to go to a school for his artwork and it really did pay off.

By Jaylani Sanchez
East Rock Record Staff

Michael Sloan showed us his drawings. I thought they would be big paintings, but they were small and on regular paper. I didn’t know art could be that small. It kind of looked like a doodle. I think it’s cool when people draw things to tell people what they want. People are more likely to look at drawings than read long articles. Instead of seeing it written, you can see it in a drawing. I didn’t know you could have an argument through art.
The famous Michael Sloan visited The East Rock Record that is in East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School. Sloan introduced himself to The East Rock Record showed them his artwork one of his favorite pictures is an elephant with a top hat. It’s very interesting how Michael Sloan became a cartoonist.

Michael Sloan came to talk with me and the rest of The East Rock Record. I was so happy. My favorite part was seeing his sketchbook. They were very good. There was one with a pool party that was my favorite. It surprised me when he said he went to China because I never knew that artists went China. It was so much fun to see Michael Sloan. I want to see him again.

I interviewed Michael Sloan, who is an artist. He makes a lot of nice portfolios. A portfolio is like a group of paintings. He showed us a little bit of his paintings and he let some people use his marker that he draws his paintings with. I asked him about this big prize he won, the Pulitzer Prize. Someone named Jake helped him draw the painting that won the prize. They're working on a new painting now. That's cool, because then there will be more of their paintings coming out. I would love to have a job where I get to draw with my best friend. I really liked the special marker he brought. It was like a paint brush, but in a marker. Maybe I want to be an artist when I grow up, but I don’t think so. But he didn’t want to be an artist either, but he wound up being one anyway. He kept working harder and harder. It’s kind of cool, because there’s maybe something I really good at that I don’t know yet.

Michael Sloan didn’t consider himself famous, which to me is surprising. If I was in The New York Times I would consider myself famous, which I have to admit might be a little selfish. I even got to write with his pen. Michael Sloan’s pen felt like a paint brush, and was very, very smooth and relaxing. Our time with him was fun, but went by real quick. I just wish there was a time machine. It would be useful!

Michael Sloan is an illustrator who works for the one and only New York Times. He came to East Rock School on Thursday, November 8, 2018. He and his friend Jake Halpern won an award. He brought his drawings and let us see, feel and smell them (I was kidding on the last one). He let use the pen he draws with for his work. We all got a turn. So, I’m guessing this is a little personal, but he has three kids. They love to draw. He says his youngest (an 11 yr old) loves to draw more than his siblings. Sloan said his youngest doesn’t draw like him. He’s his own man.

Today in newspaper I met a famous artist by C.S. Lewis. I was so happy because I love his art work. I also think it probably took a lot of work. I want to get my sister was in preschool. He became an artist more than his siblings. Sloan said his youngest (an 11 yr old) loves to draw more than his siblings. Sloan said his youngest doesn’t draw like him. He’s his own man.

My reaction about Michael Sloan is that I’m surprised about what kind of drawings and comic strips he can make. For example, when he was 10 he read the Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis and it impacted his childhood. When he was 25 he was an illustrator in New York. When he was young he dreamt of being a race car driver, a truck driver, and a musician (which he is). He drew about how Syrian refugees came to the U.S. One thing I like about him is that he can draw things that are amazing and they’ve been in The New York Times. He also once moved to China with his family. Something I can relate to him is his passion to draw. Any spare time, I’ll spend drawing or reading. It could be the same with him. I think this because he said around 2:00 p.m. he usually takes a nap to have the energy to draw late at night. His drawings of dinosaurs look amazing. One of his best drawing is a man in a circle of fire almost as if it meant the man was trying to burn away his pain. His art looks as if it were made from magic, even the comic strips.

I like drawing because it keeps me calm and I like to do it. I mostly draw people. I like drawing people because there are more details on humans than there are on other things. I also like to draw flowers. They have very pretty colors. I think that flowers have very bright, vibrant colors.

Michael Sloan is an amazing artist, cartoonist, musician and prize winner in comics and cartoons. I like how he said that we need to have a nice environment with people who support us and our drawings and don’t bully us about our drawings.

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Letter from Principal Breland

Greetings East Rock Record Readers,

My name is Sabrina Breland and I am super proud to be the principal of East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School, which is home to The East Rock Record.

During my first month as principal, I was asked to attend a press conference sponsored by The Record. I was completely blown away. The event was truly first-rate. All of The Record reporters were professional and incredibly inquisitive. Our students are acquiring so many valuable skills as a direct result of their participation in the program. They are learning how to work as a group to reach a common goal. They are becoming better writers, editors and communicators.

Our student reporters with help from their Yale mentors and Ms. Laura Pappano, a well-known journalist, have proven to be excellent fact gatherers and they are very motivated to create pieces for all to enjoy. Students are also learning to accept constructive feedback and they are very motivated to create pieces for all to enjoy. Our Record reporters are conscientious, hard working and determined to get things right. Just the other week, a few reporters reached out to staff to check some facts that they wanted to include in their pieces. The professionalism being exercised by so many of our students is extraordinary.

Our student reporters with help from their Yale mentors and Ms. Laura Pappano, a well-known journalist, have proven to be excellent fact gatherers who organize their information to tell wonderful stories.

I really hope that you enjoy all the articles included in this issue, which is the first with me as the building leader. Onward!!!

Sabrina Breland, Principal
East Rock Community & Cultural Studies Magnet School

Fake News Sows Confusion

Fake news makes me feel confused. Real news is important because we all need to know if stuff is about to happen, like if the United States is about to get bombed or if there is going to be a natural disaster, like a hurricane or a flood. I feel like the government should ban fake news from United States. Stop fake news.

— Melvin Ramos, East Rock Record Opinion

For me, fake news is bad. I think that because whenever the news says something that’s very horrible like when a crash happened in the highway and you’re like, “Oh no! What will I do? I will be late for my work!” But when you go to work at the perfect time you’re like, “Wow, that news was fake. I was so nervous that I was gonna be fired from my job! That made me so nervous!” Another example is when you elect a president like Bob Handsome, he says, “I will give you more schools, more freedom, more jobs, and more houses to live in!” But after two years, the president Bob Handsome, didn’t do all those things he said, and you’re like, “Why did I even elect him?! He is a horrible president!”

— Victor Rodriguez, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is pointless because if you’re not going to have real facts then there’s no point in writing. When I found out that the article that I read was fake I felt dumb. I also feel like it was a waste of time because we had to do all that work and the people they named weren’t even real. The amount of money was too much. Not even CT can afford $491 million. The clue that I found that made me think it was not real was that it took a month to complete the bike lane.

— Nyarie Williams, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is not good because if you tell people that there is a killer coming to your neighborhood, but two hours later the killer did not even come it is considered fake. And they insult the people who said the fake news. That’s how it affects them. I think it is bad because somebody could have been killed.

— Mohammed Khan, East Rock Record Opinion

Sharing fake news is bad because it makes people think something is real but it’s not. News organizations shouldn’t lie because it’s bad for people that look at the news. I wish that fake news was never invented. Hopefully people stop believing it soon.

— Erieron Jyshay Williams, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news can hurt people. When you publish fake news it misleads people like, “IT’S THE END OF THE WORLD!!!!” When you publish something like that people. Go, CRAZY? OK! I think fake news is HORRIBLE!!

— Luna Flores Kelly, East Rock Record Opinion

I think that fake news is amazing because the stories are interesting and it makes people read it.

— Daisy Canales, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is bad because it makes me feel sad and when people lie to me. Like if they say there are thunderstorms and you were planning to go to the movies but there’s no storm. Then they say we are not having thunderstorms.

— Keylin Montoya Soto, East Rock Record Opinion
Focus: Fake News

December 2018

East Rock Record reporters studied examples of real and fake news stories. They discussed sourcing, fact-checking—and trouble that happens when fake stories go viral. Here they share views and concerns about fake news.

I’m worried about fake news. Fake news makes people believe in things that aren’t real. Fake news really concerns me, and I would like to stop fake news. Fake news can be on Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, and even Snapchat! Fake news is like a scam. Sometimes, fake news and scams have quotes with no sources. — Norah Matz, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is bad because social media’s lets lies about things spread quickly. It’s not bad to believe in lies—I believe some lies. Lies start drama, and drama starts bad news, and bad news starts conflict. Fake news lies about stuff and news organizations lying to people is bad. That’s why people shouldn’t believe fake news because it starts conflict! It’s easy to produce fake news but it’s more important to produce real news because it helps inform people and tells the truth about real things. — Keyeriah Jamae Williams, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is bad because people are taking other people’s words. Fake news is a thing where people don’t write their own articles so they take other people’s articles to make money. Fake news is like The Boogieman. When people get lied to, people feel like other people can’t be trusted. Some people hated being lied to. Do you hate being lied to? I do. — Kamiya Marsh, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is confusing. My group was working on an article about bikes and we thought it was real news. We “cheated” and used Google which showed us that the article was by a made-up person. So when you see a news article don’t always think it’s real. It can keep people waiting for an event to happen. Or it can scare them. This is very disturbing. — Adam John Samsel, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news scares you when it doesn’t need to. That makes me mad and sad. — Jaylani Sanchez and Jarellis Calderon, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is REAL bad. Let’s say someone wrote fake news about a really dangerous animal that escaped from a zoo. People would hide in their houses and the bad guys would come and steal their cars. Then the bad guys would write in the news they trapped the dangerous animal. People would come out of their houses and realize their cars were gone. Then they wouldn’t know who took their cars. How would people go to work without their cars? You can’t walk to Massachusetts and you can’t take Uber every day. You would run out of money. As you can see, I think fake news is really bad. — Adeline Ellis, East Rock Record Opinion

There should not be fake news because when people lie to each other they hurt themselves. — Alma Hammond, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is not real. It does not tell the truth. That’s bad because those that make it lie to people. Sometimes people search it up on their Andride. They could make fun of people and people could get mad. Sometimes they think it is funny. The fake news people don’t care about others. They can hurt people. — Tyrease Grear, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is bad because even in just one day a rumor can get started and then everyone believes in it. That makes everyone believe in a lie. Like if you believe in something that isn’t true then it makes a lot of drama. You are supposed to keep away from drama, but it is very hard if you keep seeing stuff that can start drama. Social media makes lies spread quicker. If you look on the news you want to believe it is real. But then you find out it is fake. If you know there is fake news out there, then how can you trust what is true or not? — Isabela Faustino, East Rock Record Opinion

I felt tricked because the fake news we read used fake people and fake writers. It is not OK to write fake news. It makes people scared because maybe a person on the highway would crash into the bicycles. Fake news makes me scared because it is bad. — Adham DeWoeck, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is always a problem. But that differs from person to person. Have you ever made fake news? If you have, how big was the lie? Often fake news mocks or insults somebody or something. When fake news is made first people think, “Oh it’s real!” And if it’s on a big website or app, lots of people think it’s real, and then in a few hours or days people realize it’s fake, and some people get upset. — Victor Rodriguez Salguero and Kayson Maciel-Andrews, East Rock Record Opinion

Did you know that sometimes the news may not be actual news? That’s right, some news that blows up on social media may not be true. There could be fake sites. Fake news can spread emotions that people may find disturbing. I think Donald Trump supporters like fake news because they take no action on Donald Trump’s tweets. — Anshul Patel, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is dumb because people are lying to you saying things that are fake. It makes me feel I can’t believe the news if they are telling lies. Fake news is like the boy who cried wolf. — Hector Cruz, East Rock Record Opinion

If you spread fake news people might think that it is real and spread it. Then bad news spreads to states and countries. I think you should tell the truth. You won’t go wrong. — Morgan Presscod, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is really bad because it doesn’t let people know what’s really going on and that can freak people out. Like making people get embarrassed when they believe fake news is true. — Jaden Isaac Martinez, East Rock Record Opinion

Fake news is not real. Fake news makes me feel sad. — Sahil Lemar, East Rock Record Opinion
Putting college degrees, and New Haven’s future, in their hands.

Encouraging young people to attend college can help to ensure them a successful future for the vitality of New Haven. Through our support for New Haven Promise, Yale New Haven Hospital is helping city youth make the dream of college a reality.

The Promise program offers scholarships covering up to 100% of a student’s college tuition. The key to success is that Promise creates a culture of college readiness by requiring high-schoolers to maintain high grades and good attendance, while participating in a minimum of 40 hours of community service. This year alone, 359 New Haven students received scholarships to colleges throughout Connecticut.

Higher education makes for stronger communities and engaged citizens ready to tackle the future. At Yale New Haven Hospital, we believe in that future and the young people who will shape it. Which is why we’re proud to support Promise. It’s another example of our commitment to caring beyond the bedside.

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Breylin Jones, New Haven Promise scholarship recipient and talent acquisition source, Yale New Haven Health.

Yale New Haven Hospital was awarded the 2017 Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service from the American Hospital Association. The McGaw Prize is awarded annually to a single healthcare organization that provides innovative programs that significantly improve the health and well-being of its community.