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Dear Principal Brown,

I am the parent of Guillermo Santos, a sixth grader enrolled at Masterman. I am writing to state that standardized testing is against our religious and philosophical beliefs. We will be refusing all standardized tests for Guillermo during the upcoming school year. Our refusal includes but is not limited to the English, Math, Science, and Writing PSSA's, bench mark testing, CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Tools) testing, any test associated with PVAAS Teacher Evaluations; NAEP Testing, as well as field testing of standardized testing items.

I understand that I will be required to come and review the testing materials and reconfirm my decision to refuse the tests. Because of that, I am requesting that you contact me at least two weeks prior to the scheduled administration of the tests so that we can set time aside to review and complete this process. I can be reached either by telephone at (215) 869-4753 and by email at [cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com](mailto:cherihonkalappehrc@gmail.com). When the standardized tests are being administered or the standardized test preparation exercises are taking place, please allow Guillermo to pursue other educational activities such as independent reading, book reports, research projects, volunteering in the library, etc.

I know that Masterman and all of its teachers and staff are very committed to my son's education. It is because of our high regard for the teachers and other students that we are taking this position. We can no longer sit by and watch these tests and resulting scores be used in the discriminatory manner that they are. Standardized tests are used against children where English is not their primary language, to rate our teachers and to determine which schools should be closed. Tests like these discriminate against primarily low-income students and students of color, especially at a time when our schools are hurting from these draconian budget cuts where teachers do not even have the necessary supplies for classrooms.

As a parent and former high school teacher, I believe in a curriculum that supports the individual needs of all of our children and helps them become the critical thinkers and leaders for the next generations to come. I would appreciate it if you would provide written confirmation that you have received this letter. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Cheri Honkala