

The Roxbury Township  
Board of Education



*proudly presents  
a spring installment of the  
Roxbury Education Seminar*

# *Rethinking Grades and Homework*

*an evening program*

*featuring  
Alfie Kohn*



*March 25, 2010*

at the  
Flanders Valley  
80 Pleasant Hill Road  
Flanders, NJ 07836

Purchase orders and checks may cover multiple attendees,  
however each attendee **must** complete an individual registration form.  
Additional registration forms can be found at [www.roxbury.org](http://www.roxbury.org).

For more information, contact the Roxbury Superintendent's Office at:  
973-584-6867 or 973-584-6799 / [arhodes@roxbury.org](mailto:arhodes@roxbury.org) or [mmustachio@roxbury.org](mailto:mmustachio@roxbury.org).

**Make check or purchase order payable to:**

Roxbury Township School District  
42 North Hillside Avenue  
Succasunna, NJ 07876

Payment is required in advance.

Cancellations must be made 48 hours prior to presentation day for full reimbursement.  
Registration forms can also be accepted via fax (973-252-1434) and/or email ([arhodes@roxbury.org](mailto:arhodes@roxbury.org))

**Directions:**

<http://www.flandersvalleyweddings.com/directions.asp>

---

## Alfie Kohn Registration Form

**\$85 per person**

**Registration Deadline: March 8, 2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

School Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State

Zip

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check

Purchase Order

Check/PO #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Confirmation will only be sent via email to each participant.**

## Alfie Kohn Seminar



**When:** Thursday, March 25, 2010

**Where:** Flanders Valley  
80 Pleasant Hill Road  
Flanders, NJ 07836

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
5 PD Hours

**Cost:** \$85

*(includes buffet dinner and seminar)*



## SCHEDULE

3:00 - 4:00	Registration
4:00 - 6:00	Session I: Grading
6:00 - 7:00	Buffet Dinner
7:00 - 8:30	Session II: Homework

**Presenter:**  
**Alfie Kohn**  
[www.alfiekohn.org](http://www.alfiekohn.org)



Alfie Kohn writes and speaks widely on human behavior, education, and parenting. The author of eleven books and scores of articles, he lectures at education conferences and universities as well as to parent groups and corporations.

Kohn's criticisms of competition and rewards have been widely discussed and debated, and he has been described in *Time* magazine as "perhaps the country's most outspoken critic of education's fixation on grades [and] test scores." He has helped to shape the thinking of educators -- as well as parents and managers -- across the country and abroad.

Most recently, he has authored the following books:

- *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*
- *Unconditional Parenting: Moving from Rewards and Punishments to Love and Reason*
- *The Schools Our Children Deserve: Moving Beyond Traditional Classrooms and "Tougher Standards"*

## Rethinking Grades and Homework

To do what's best for students, we have to begin by questioning practices that continue more because we've always done them than because they really make sense. In this presentation, Alfie Kohn first explains that research has found three consistent effects of giving students traditional letter or number grades: they tend to think less creatively, lose interest in what they're learning, and try to avoid challenging tasks. Second, Kohn asks why we assume that, once the school day is over, students must work a second shift at home, particularly when the best research fails to find much benefit to homework. If we're interested in creating lifelong learners and deep thinkers -- as opposed to just good test-takers -- then it may be time to rethink the very ideas of grades and homework rather than just adjusting the way we implement these practices.



## ~A Note about the Seminar Series and Presenter~

This is a continuation of a series of seminars dedicated to providing teachers, administrators, staff and educational officials an opportunity to gather to discuss issues of current concern in teaching and learning. Each time we seek to bring an influential figure in education to Roxbury to share his or her knowledge about instructional pedagogy, assessment, standards, differentiation, gifted programs, special education and/or other topics of interest.

Michael A. Rossi, Jr., Ph.D.  
Seminar Series Chair

**Roxbury Township School District**  
42 North Hillside Avenue  
Succasunna, NJ 07876  
[www.roxbury.org](http://www.roxbury.org)