

Jacob Notermann is a staff writer for
Dakota Student.
He can be reached at
jacob.notermann@und.edu

America’s schooling system may be leaving some students behind.

Quinn Robinson-Duff
Dakota Student

The modern education system, designed to help kids create a future for themselves, is ultimately failing to do so. The system that we know today has changed very little since schooling became available to the masses during the 18th and 19th centuries. It was the rise of the industrial revolution and schools were designed to churn out kids like an assembly line; they even shared the same outline as factories.

Everybody becomes separated by class or age group. Facilities are all separate from each other and subjects are split into groups as well. The modern schooling model is based off an industrialized era to help produce factory workers during the 18th and 19th century. It was designed for kids to be obedient and to not question authority. Students have to follow instructions precisely and not talk or socialize with others. Each student was graded on their memo-

be based on how old we are but instead what we know. Learning is an individualized process for everyone and it happens at differ-

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Quinn Robinson-Duff, Opinion writer

ent rates. Some learn best in a quiet, stable environment while others thrive in chaos. It seems incredibly unfair to judge a person’s intellect based on the environment they are taught in.

Nations around the world are starting to implement schooling based on what the future economy may look like. The issue here is predicting the economic future of next week is hard, and to envision it years ahead becomes an even greater task.

Finland has consistently been the number one nation for education over the past few years, surpass-

relaxed and not as stressed. On the contrary, the structure for the United States schooling system has not changed drasti-

its population. Finland has a population of only 5.5 million whereas the United States has over 320 million. With fewer people it’s easi-

cally for generations. If the U.S. wants to maintain a competitive edge over other countries, whether it’s economics or science, it all starts inside the classroom.

The issue the United States has, however, is the size of

er for Finland to change an education system. Finland’s respect and appreciation for teachers is greater than the U.S. All teachers are treated like college professors compared to the U.S. where being a teacher can some-

times be looked down upon.

Ever since the “No Child Left Behind Act” there has been an abundance of standardized tests brought to the United States education system, whereas Finland only has one in primary school. The first step would be removing some of the implications of this extensive testing, and include more free time and less stressful tests for kids. This would help reduce test anxiety and allow kids to learn in a more relaxed environment, which has been proven to work in Finland.

Quinn Robertson-Duff is an opinion writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at quinn.robinsonduff@und.edu

“Why is there this presumption that the most important thing to a kid is how old they are, it’s like their date of manufacture?”

Sir Ken Robinson, Author

ization and ability to follow protocol. The model is not suitable for the 21st century.

“Why is there this presumption that the most important thing to a kid is how old they are, it’s like their date of manufacture?” Sir Ken Robinson, a British author, speaker and advisor for education says. In terms of learning, age should not be of concern. As kids, everyone learns at different rates. The brain is still developing and not all children are going to learn the same way regardless of age. Intelligence should not

ing Singapore, Switzerland and Belgium. Their system is designed with a stronger emphasis on the arts and music and for kids to enjoy their youth. There is no homework and kids go to school for only 20 hours a week. Finland believes learning happens naturally when kids are out exploring and playing instead of being bombarded by subject after subject, day after day. They believe kids learn best when they are in school less because it becomes easier for them to retain information when the brain is more



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Photos by Nick Nelson / Dakota Student

Holly Dazzle warms up winter

Nick Nelson
Dakota Student

The third annual Holly Dazzle Festival of Lights kicked off Sunday afternoon in downtown Grand Forks.

Held in Grand Forks' Town Square, guests were treated to classic holiday music performed by stu-

dents at the Bel Canto Studio. Roaring fire pits were available for people to roast marshmallows over and to warm their frozen fingers. Parked along South 3rd St., the New Flavors Food Truck offered fresh, handmade breakfast burritos by American Owl.

Children and adults alike took part in horse-

drawn sleigh rides along the edge of the Red River in East Grand Forks. Downtown businesses were alight with activity for all ages, particularly at Freedom Church and The Ember.

After dusk, the Holly Dazzle parade began with bright, festive floats from community businesses and organizations as they

processed east on Demers Avenue.

The evening's festivities were capped off with a dazzling fireworks show near the banks of the Red.

Nick Nelson is the photo editor for Dakota Student. He can be reached at nicholasgnelson@gmail.com



(Top) The Holly Dazzle Festival of Lights kicked off Sunday afternoon in Grand Forks' Town Square. (Top left) Community members roast marshmallows over fire pits. (Left) A family walks towards Town Square in downtown Grand Forks on Sunday afternoon. (Right) Ruby Erickson of the Bel Canto Studio performs "A Marshmallow World" in Town Square on Sunday afternoon. (Bottom) A guest warms their hands near a fire barrel during Sunday's Holly Dazzle event in Town Square.

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UND's Jordan Vail spikes against Eastern Washington University in a game earlier this season at the Betty Engelstad Sioux Center.

Faison from commenters. This however, isn't the case. There is an explanation for this and it is less sinister than the fans on Facebook are suggesting. After an email exchange with UND Athletic Director Jayson Hajdu, the rumor that it was the Athletics Department at UND that didn't nominate any of the players was quickly debunked. "Candidates are indeed selected by the head coach (and then submitted by the media relations/sports information department)," Hajdu said. Some fans were so willing to accept a negative outcome from the UND Athletics Department that they even made remarks of outrage on the Athletics Department's recent Facebook posts. UND has remarkable players this season and there

is more focused on being a better team rather than developing standout players. At 12-6-6 this season,

Hajdu said. "The two are not inextricably tied and that process will still play itself out down the line."

Nick Erickson is a sports writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at nicholas.r.erickson@und.edu

Mark Pryor, UND Volleyball head coach

the team has had some really impressive efforts so far and is hoping to continue that team-first mentality with the second half of the season in full swing. Not all hope is lost. We may still see some UND players in the race for the Hobey Baker later on this year. "Not being selected for the fan vote process does not preclude a player from being named a finalist by the committee,"

There were a total of 74 nominees for this year's fan voting portion of the Hobey Baker. Michael Bitzer of Bemidji State was one of the nominations. UND just finished a split home and away series with the 11-7-6 Bemidji State Beavers, thoroughly routing the Beavers in Bemidji, then ultimately tying them at home at the Ralph Engelstad Arena. Bemidji was a solid out-

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ed to get there, but we'll take it and continue to grow and get better," Head Coach Brian Jones said. The Hawks started the season with a 4-9 record through December leaving many questioning what could have happened in the off season following last season's historic run to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in school history. Losing star player Quinton Hooker who averaged just under 20 points per game last season was a tough loss for the Hawks, Hooker

now plays professionally in Poland. Fans wondered who would be able to step up and fill the void left by Hooker's absence, and as of recent the answer has been Geno Crandall, Junior Guard from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Crandall averages 16.3 points a game this season, leading the Fighting Hawks in scoring. Many had high hope that Crandall would be the much-needed replacement to the scoring void left from Hooker's absence, and although the team re-

cord shows the slow start Crandall's stats have been strong from the start. In the Hawk's most recent game, an overtime loss at Northern Colorado on January 20, Crandall scored a team high 30 points, yet the

team fell short after Northern Colorado scored a buzzer beater. "The past few years, we've developed a bit of a rivalry with them," UND's Geno Crandall said. "It kind of competes with the NDSU rivalry. But these

games mean more because it's a conference game and last year we played them for a championship."

John Gregg is a sports writer for Dakota Student. He can be reached at john.gregg@und.edu

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