

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Students: Play at life, or live it?

As a nation, we are more divided politically than any time since the Civil War.

But not on climate change. According to the Pew Research Center, the nation's leading non-partisan polling organization, broad majorities of the public – including more than half of Republicans and overwhelming shares of Democrats – say they would favor initiatives to reduce the impacts of climate change, including tree planting efforts, tax credits for businesses that capture carbon emissions, and tougher fuel efficiency standards for vehicles.

Millennials and Generation Z'ers are especially concerned about climate change, which makes sense since they will bear the brunt of it.

However, it's one thing to theorize about climate change. It's another to do something about it.

For more than a century, public school students in Pottstown and elsewhere have spent 12 years of their lives sitting in classrooms on the taxpayer's dime.

But in recent years, there's been a technological revolution, with a proliferation of information readily available to all on the internet, and Zoom making it possible for people to confer any time, any place.

Students need to spend more time outside of the classroom.

As naturalist and essayist Henry David Thoreau wrote, "Students

should not play life, or study it merely, while the community supports them at this expensive game, but earnestly live it from beginning to end.



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

"How could youths better learn to live than by at once trying the experiment of living?"

In the Pottstown School District, we're constantly talking about preparing students for the future.

Unless human society dramatically changes course, our students' future is droughts, wildfires, flooding and unbearable heat waves.

For us, protecting the planet starts right here in Pottstown, and it doesn't happen with talk-a-thons in the classroom.

Thursday: A stellar grass root effort.

Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone and not the board's.

Generations	Born
Boomer and older	Prior to 1965
Generation X	1965-1980
Millennials	1981-1996
Post-millennials Generation Z	1997-current

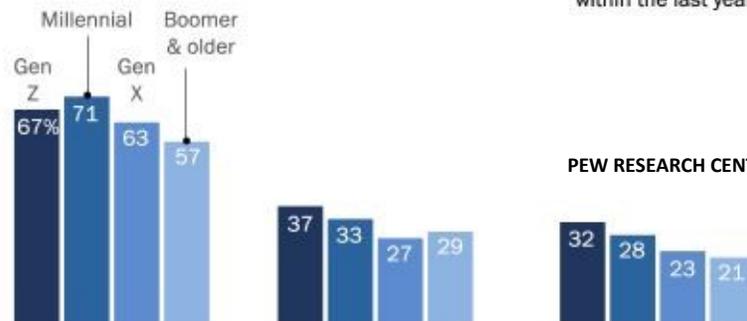
Gen Z, Millennials more active than older generations addressing climate change on- and offline

% of U.S. adults who say ...

Climate should be top priority to ensure sustainable planet for future generations

Addressing climate change is my top personal concern

Have personally taken action to help address climate change within the last year



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