

KEVIN HONEYCUTT: I'm going to jump right in here. People talk to you all the time, and you don't always know who you're talking to, so I'm going to give you a little bit of background. I teach, I taught for 13 years in a town with 1,100 people. We're like Mayberry. And I was the only art teacher, so when we broke into curriculum meetings, I met with me. For 13 years, I met with me. It was funny at first, and then it was lonely.

And I think I burned out in education. I was like a detached retina. I had no one to talk to. I was painting houses after I left the classroom, because I realized I was eating lunch in my room alone every day. I had no one to talk to. So when I find things that connect teachers to teachers and give them support, I get excited about those things. I'm going to tell you sort of my personal story, because I believe we remember stories better than lists.

So I'm going to jump right in and talk a little bit about that. But first, I want to preemptively tell you about this. I teach kids in juvenile detention, in pretrial lockup in Hutchinson, Kansas. These are kids who use rubber pencils, and they gave me some orange shoes recently. They made me one of them. They anointed me. They said walk a mile in our shoes. I keep them in my suitcase, and I wear them to remember these kids.

When I go into that environment, it's stainless steel tables and armed guards. So I have none of the tools of teaching, and, man, that's where you really find out what it's about. And what I think it's about is relationships. It's got to be about relationships. If you can't hook them, you can't cook them. So when I find a way to do that, when I get a hook in their gill, I get excited.

So I want to tell you my story. I went to school, at 20 schools across the country. My dad moved us all the time. People say military brat. No. My dad was an outlaw, literally. Whenever he broke the law, we moved. He'd say, kids, we're making a midnight run. We knew what that meant. Put everything you can in a trash bag, the Honeycutt luggage, and by moonlight, we left.

Told no one at school we're leaving, because they could follow us. That was my life. I was the perpetual new kid with long hair, I didn't have lice, highwaters, because that's how it worked. And I love those teachers who aren't afraid to put their arm around you, even if they might get lice. The best teachers aren't afraid to get snot on them, you know. Thank God for those people.

No one chooses their family. That's my brother there on the left. For years, I thought he was the antichrist. He tried to kill me every day of my life. One day, he forgot to hit me. He said, have I hit you yet today? I'm so stupid. I said no [sound effect]. He tortured me every day of my life, and now he's a preacher. He uses his torture of me as testimony, so I can't get even, right?

Shopping for clothes in the Honeycutt house meant a visit to the Goodwill box. Not the store, the box. Dad would pull up to the box at midnight, put me in the chute, drop me down, and I would fall into human kindness. By the way, people donate things like blenders. Okay? [Sound effect]. I fall down inside, and this was the drill, it had to happen fast. Dad would have 20 bags of garbage, pretending it was clothes, putting it beside the box while I handed clothes out as fast as I could. Scary.

One night, I heard, 215, roger 215 . . . there's a blue GMC pickup. My dad was like [sound effect]. I'm still in the box [sound effect]. He's not coming back. He comes

back an hour later. I was convinced he wasn't [sound effect]. Get in. I like climb in the back slot. I'm out. We're home. Busted open bags, that was school clothes shopping night. We wore what that process gave us.

We talk about school bullying, talk about cyber-bullying, talk about kids being nice to kids. This is personal for me, you know. I ask kids, how do you want to spend your heartbeats? When you were in your mom's tummy, your little heart started beating [sound effect]. And it's still beating today, and you only get so many beats. How do you want to spend yours? I'm not wasting any.

And I'm honored that you're spending yours with me, so I'm going to bust my hump to make sure something I say means something to you, I hope. I hope. You can only dream as big as your experience, and the Honeycutt dream was to one day, live in a doublewide trailer with, with skirting. Ah. If you didn't live in the trailer park, you don't know what I mean, but the upper class people in the trailer park have skirting.

You go to their house for trick or treating, because they got chocolate. The middle class, bales of hay around the trailer, and the poor people, nothing. Just the wind blows through, right? And a mobile home is not mobile once the tires go flat, unless there's a tornado, then they're mobile again.

This is the house I got on the bus in front of. Dad was drunk, probably passed out, if he didn't hit mom last night. Tell me why I need phonics? And you'd better be good. It can't be wah, wah, wah, wah, wah. You've got to hook me, man. I've got to believe you're real.

I love real teachers. The three-fingered shop teacher talking about band saw safety, I believe that guy, you know. My second biggest fear in the world was tornadoes. It's hard to live in a dwelling that's third less safe to a ditch or a low-lying area, right? Trailers are finger food for tornadoes. They come through town. Oh, there's trailers, yum. That was my second biggest fear.

My first biggest fear was my dad. There he is right there. That's not him. That's how I felt about him. In second grade, my dad was, my job was to hide dad's guns when he was drunk. I was the designated person who could know where his guns were, and I couldn't tell him. Tell me why I need math. You'd better be able to grab my imagination, and if you can, you can set me free.

Create playgrounds of possibility, but I've got to feel you. You've got to be real. When Madeline Hunter said, kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care. That's it. Here's what I've learned since. You know that part of your brain, that red part there, that part that's been with us since we were upper-Paleolithic hunter-gatherers, the part we survive with? That's the part kids use when they are traumatized, when they are bullied, when they are scared, when they are from toxic homes.

That outside part, the real wrinkly part, it's called the neo-cortex. It means new bark. It's about as thick as six playing cards. Okay? We have a six-layered neo-cortex. The only creature on earth close to us is the bottlenose dolphin. It has a five-layered neo-cortex. It means we can learn in one generation. We can learn to survive an Ice Age. We can change. We can adapt. And that's exciting. And what I learned is when you're in that survival part of your brain, researchers call it downshifting.

The other part doesn't work as if it goes offline, so we've got to create a safe space where kids can learn. If they're just scared, if they're just traumatized, if they're

just worried, it's extremely hard, you know what I mean, to get their attention. They want to, but it's hard. So I talk about this digital playground. I travel all over the country talking about online safety and cyber-bullying, and I talk to kids at all grade levels, parents, and I have this conversation.

And what I'm convinced is, our kids are growing up on playgrounds that didn't exist when we were kids. No one taught me to be an online parent. Mom sent me out the back door and said go play. Don't come back until the porch light comes on. We're having Helper Helper. There's no hamburger again. And that was life. We stepped on nails, got big by dogs, but mom and dad understood the world we played in.

I think the world has changed more in our generation than any generation in human history. We're doing the best we can, but our kids are growing up and making decisions now, right now, and so I think we've got to get onto that playground. My kid asked me when I was, oh, let's see, I was coaching football, and I was teaching art K-12, my kid, when he was this big said, dad, will you build me a treehouse?

It's like every dad's dream, man. I wanted to build him a treehouse. I said, soon, as soon as football season's over. When football season's over, it's cold, so I didn't get it done that year. The next year, dad, treehouse. Soon. The next year, dad, treehouse. Soon. The next year, dad, treehouse. I almost waited too long. I got a 4-foot by 8-foot sheet of plywood, stuck it in the tree, went [sound effect] done.

He said, dad. I said, what? He said, that's a deer stand. I said, use your imagination. He said, fine. Let's sleep up there tonight. I said, in a deer stand? When it's 2:30 in the morning, I wake up. I've got snot-cicles. I'm so cold. I said, Ben. What? It's cold. I know. Wouldn't it be cool if I had walls? Kids know exactly what to say to make you feel about this big, you know?

So I went to my wife. She made the biggest mistake in our 20-year marriage this day, because I said, can I build him a cool treehouse? And she just said, go for it. See, men need boundaries. I was about to overcompensate. I went to the local lumberyard and wrote a check for \$1,000 worth of stuff, and we started building this.

The neighbors are at the fence going what's he doing? This ruined property values for two blocks in both directions. It sleeps five kids. It's air conditioner, microwave, refrigerator, cable TV, wireless Internet, carpet. The only thing we couldn't figure out is a bathroom. It's hard to put plumbing in a tree, but my son and I are very inventive. We devised a very clever funnel and hose arrangement that works for us. Don't stand under the tree.

When my wife saw this, she gave the tree to the boys. Enjoy, she said. And my kid's up there, and he's a good kid. Your kids are good kids. I always say though even good kids will do stupid things if no one's watching. Who believes me? Even good kids will do stupid things if no one's watching. How about this? Even good adults will do stupid things if no one's watching. Tiger Woods. Do you know what I'm saying?

So kids can do almost anything, which is so exciting and scary at the same time. One day, I go up the ladder, and I've got to tell you, I'm larger than I was when I built this. Getting through that opening now is like going through the birthing canal for me. Okay? I need like Lamaze. I'm like push, push, and my kid usually hears me coming.

Well, one day I get up there. I don't make a lot of noise. When I open the door, he closed his laptop very fast. It was weird. I was like, hey, Ben [sound effect]. What? I'm like, what's up, buddy? Nothing. No, really. Where were you just now? It's private.

Last year, private. This year, private. That voice just came. I said, no, really. Where were you? It's none of your business. I said, what did you say to me? My wife said, you speak to him, I'll talk to the other kids.

We only have one child, thank you. It's one of those moments when as a dad, you either cowboy up or walk away [sound effect]. I realized I had a free-range Web user living in my house. We hadn't talked. And I remember, when I was 12, I found my dad's secret library. And it was analog, and it changed my life. Why hadn't I thought about all the things my good kid might accidentally do? I just hadn't. It's always next year's conversation.

I said, Ben, I need to know what you're doing from now on. He said, why do you got to be up in my business? Now how come you can't say up in my business without your neck doing this right here? Why do you got to be up in my business? I could pull something just trying to say it. I said, I'm your dad. It's my job to ruin your life. He said, you're doing a good job.

We started having a conversation we should have had a long time ago, you know, but we just started a little bit late. It wasn't easy. It was an hour long. I cried, yelled, raised my voice. He cried. He got mad. My gosh. We had to bridge the gap. I became my father. You ever do that, become your parent, say something your parent said that you swore you'd never say to your kids, and you say it?

I said it, as long as you're under my roof. He said, I'm in a tree. He had a point. I mean, smart, right? I said, I have a chainsaw. What we did was move the computer into the family room and started asking questions. He did not like this, you know, but it started, I had to move onto the digital playground.

I've got to tell you, I'm 43. Okay? I'm not natural at this. I'm a 12:00 flasher. Sounds bad. Everything in my house is flashing 12:00, because I can't program it. Okay? I'm not a natural. Okay? So my wife and I divide it up. She's the master of Facebook. I'm the master of instant messaging. We learn, and we work together.

See, when I saw him instant messaging his friends, here's my rule, you can only talk to people I know in real life. Not just you, I know in RL. So he's talking to Isaac, his good buddy he's known since preschool. No problem. We're watching *CSI Miami*. It's a particularly riveting episode.

He gets up with his laptop and goes to the laundry room. I didn't even notice. Half an hour later, my phone rings. It's an angry father. Your kid's saying mean stuff to my kid online. I said, no he's not. He's sitting right [sound effect]. When I was a kid, my dad would yell my name, and my butt would tingle in anticipation, you know. You know how it was wired? It's like, oh no.

I don't think our kids have that wiring. I said, Ben. Uh-huh. What happened? I was talking to Ike. He said something that made me mad, then I said something, then he said something, then I said something. I said, oh. You made a mistake. You're grounded from the laptop for a week. What? Did you do something stupid? Yes.

You know, it's out there. What kids need to know is it's out there. See, what happens, and this is why I tell kids all the time, I'm not here to scare them half to death. I want them to realize reality. Let's say you're my BFF. We talk about everything, everything, all the time. Then we get in a fight in the cafeteria, and now we hate each other. Never happens with girls, right?

You were saving your chat history, which means everything I said for the last six months is on your hard drive. What could you do with that? So I say to my kid, some conversations are still best mouth to ear. This is online. This is on the record. But it's just my, do you trust them forever? You're running for President in 20 years. You're way ahead in the polls. You're about to win, until the *Enquirer* offers your former BFF \$1 million for the chat history. Are they still your BFF?

I see kids all over the country squirm a little bit. They look over at their BFF, and they think for the first time. I can tell that they're thinking for the first time. Here's the inside of the treehouse. There's my kid back then. There's my ugly foot. When it lightnings, we get out of the tree. I had a couple try to rent this for their honeymoon. It just felt wrong, you know.

We grew up with technology too. Now you may not feel this, but I felt my kids are so fast. I used to live at the school. Midnight, I'd be at the school learning software. Why? I had to get my kids ready for the future, so I hated the computer. They brought it in my room, and said it was going to make my life easier. Your grade book's now in the computer. But they made us keep the old grade book. Now I've got two. How is that easier, you know?

I didn't want it. I didn't want it. But then I started realizing one day in the darkroom, while we were developing film, that no newspaper was using a darkroom anymore. This was fun. This was artistic, but I was getting my kids ready for the past. Not to mention that high school kids break wind, and you can't open the door in there.

So I started learning Photoshop, and I'm at the school. How come the manual for software is bigger than the Bible? How is that possible? I'm there at like 2:00 in the morning. The phone rings. I live two blocks from the school. My wife says, you like being married? That's not a good way to start a conversation. I said, yes. She said, get home. But, honey, I have, get home, I have to be a day ahead of the, get home.

Next day the kids came in, and I said, guys, Photoshop came in. I don't know how to use it. If you could learn it and teach me, they said, Honeycutt, we know you're old. We've got your back. That's when I realized I was teaching the wrong thing. I was trying to teach technology, when I should have teaching with technology. It's just a pencil of now. No one teaches with pencil.

So I would say, kids, this is due Friday. You can do it like last year, use Photoshop. Either way, it's due Friday. I don't know how to use Photoshop. Good luck. And what did they do? Learned it, taught each other, and went for it, right? Some kids still did it on paper. I call it tradigital teaching, traditional digital teaching. Let the kids' learning style tell you what they want to do. Sometimes, it's best with Elmer's glue and Popsicle sticks, sometimes software. It depends.

So here's my theory. Our kids have grown up playing video games. My kid grew up playing a game with 13 buttons, all right. I had this. Remember this? The joystick and one button. Thirteen buttons. 12:00 flasher. I don't know what they do. My dad, my kid tries to lure me into playing. Dad, play Madden Football. No. Why? Because you'll beat me, and I'll hate it.

But, dad, don't you coach football? You played back in the day. The day? What's that supposed to mean? He's picturing brontosaurus lumbering across the earth in black and white. He said, you've probably got old school skills. You've

probably got accidental skills, and I'm so stupid, because I'm starting to believe it might be true.

So I have a technique lot of dads use called randomly press any button as fast as you can for no apparent reason. Offense, defense, punt. Offense, defense, punt. And I beat him. Ha. He said, dad, you're amazing. And I'm so stupid, because I thought it was true. The very next game, he just sat and spiked my butt. He beat me. He smoked my ruin. And I was mature, I'm like your game is lame. I went down from the tree, went into the garage, and got out the cardboard box marked Atari, and I set it up old school.

Now back in the day, you had controllers. One that worked. One that was broke that you gave your friend when they came over. Remember? You were there. Guess which one I gave my son? I said, you're on my playground now, boy. He said, dad, you're embarrassing yourself. And we played PacMan [sound effect], and I beat him the first game. The little sucker beat me every game after that with a broken joystick. This will give you a complex. This can give you a complex.

Research that I've been following on these kids who've grown up with these devices suggest that they can make 110 decisions per minute. Now the only people who could think that fast from our generation were astronauts and fighter pilots. By the way, I didn't say good decisions. They make remarkably fast decisions and sometimes too fast. I think we need to slow them down sometimes and get them to think.

The military loves these kids. They're flying the Predator drone, and they're great at it. Their eye-hand coordination is off the charts. Dr. Robert Ballard, the guy who found the Titanic. Great guy. Well, these underwater submersibles that he uses, he likes gamers to be at the joystick. I asked him, could I ever do that? He said, what'd you play? Atari. Not a chance. Not a chance.

How many of you have a Wii at your house? The Wii changed my life, because for the first time, I could beat my kid in video games, because I can bowl in real life, and I can bowl with the Wii. I can play tennis in real life. I can play tennis with the Wii. That boxing game? Be careful. You will die.

Because by the time you know you're in trouble, the reaper's already got his cold, icy hand on your neck, you know. I bought the Wii Fit, because I'm a wee fat. So I bought the Wii Fit, and I made a bad mistake. I climbed on it in front of my family, didn't know what it was going to do. You know how she measures you, and she has that cute little voice?

Measuring, measuring, measuring, and then she says in front of my wife and kid, that's obese. Like I need this. Okay? I paid money for this. It's calling me fat in front of my family. I said, hush. Be quiet. Shut your cake hole. Shut it. Shut it. I climbed back on. Measuring, measuring, one at a time, please. Hey, hey, hey. I lost 15 pounds on the Wii. I gained it back. I've gained and lost the same 15 pounds so many times, my fat has déjà vu. But I'm working on it. I'm working on it.

I'm seeing senior citizens in retirement homes doing bowling tournaments from wheelchairs, and I think that's cool. It's not hard anymore. This stuff is actually getting easier. So playing on the same playground with our kid is getting easier. It doesn't have to be so complicated anymore.

These kids you're teaching today, their world has always had computers. I remember the first ones came to my high school in 1984. We got two, because

Williamsburg High School had one. We had twice as much technology as they did. We didn't know what they did. They cost a fortune. They roped them off with armed guards, you know. You weren't allowed to touch them.

The first laptops, they weren't laptops, they were suitcases. They cost a fortune, 30-second battery life. They were terrible. Our kids have cool, cool laptops. Remember the first cell phones? You had a bag, an antenna, you pointed it at NORAD. Rick, I'm on a cellular phone. Cellular, Rick. Get it right. Good grief. It's like \$17 a minute. It's awesome.

Our kids have got cool phones. They changed the world, these phones. But have we talked about this in education? As parents, have we talked about what these amazing phones can do, because they can be the best or worst thing in the world. When the Model A came out, the best and worst thing in the world. It can get you to your job interview. It can get you to your wedding. It can get you killed without driver's ed.

And there were moms and dads who said, I'm not getting in that contraption. I'll keep riding my horse, thank you. And their kid raised themselves in a Model A, and I don't think we can do that. Suddenly, this had a camera. I can take your picture. What is your personal policy? Quick, three, two, one, it's on Facebook. I want your 12-year-old daughter to have a policy, because you talked about it.

What is that as a family? Are you going to talk about that, you know? You can do video. You could do video from the Smithsonian and take it to class and hand it in, or a fistfight in the high school bathroom. Are we talking about it? They're going to do it. Raise your hand if you made a mistake in puberty. I love the honest ones. Here's my next question. Can I google it? This is sort of the difference in generations.

Our kids' lives our out there. I think we've got to talk to them about what they put out there, and make sure it represents them the way they want to be represented. Video games and the Internet. And that sort of came along and changed everything, and we're learning as fast as we can, education. I have a group of ladies called the digital grannies. They meet once a month where I work.

They called me and said, can you teach us about Facebook and Twitter and MySpace? I said, why? We want to mentor our grandkids, but we don't want to embarrass them. I love these people. They don't get any staff development or continuing ed points. They come just to learn, because they want to meet their grandkids on the digital playground and not hug them in MySpace. The room smells like optimism and Ben Gay. I love these ladies.

So how do you get information? This is sort of how the world is changing. Back in my day, you know, I had a brain, and I knew people I talked to, these were analog brains, the blue things. I subscribed to journals. I read my snail mail. I'm on a list server too, and I google. That's my sphere of learning, and it's pretty good. Compared to the old days, it's pretty good.

I look at two kinds of minds these days, the networked mind and the standalone mind. These two people apply for a job in my district. I'm a school board member now on my second term, and I feel like if you're going to talk about this stuff, you ought to live it a little bit, make sure that you're talking true.

Well, the mind on the left, this kid applies for a job in my district. He's Mensa smart, but he's one google ahead of me. When I need something, he googles it. I can

google it too. This girl applies for a job, and she's networked with a thousand other educators and ed tech folks around the world. They both ask a question at the same time. What's the difference in the quality of the information they get, you know what I mean? So the world is sort of moving this way.

I think our kids are playing with the model on the left. They're growing up, and they're being pubescent there. I think they could be leveraging that to build a legacy that gets them a scholarship. But we're not talking about it, for the most part, I think. Here's my kid's analog network. These are the people he has to see in real life to talk to, right? Now it's not really true. Mom and I are on the left over there, and we're fairly digital.

By the way, how many of you find out things about your kid because of Facebook that they wouldn't even tell you in the living room? My kid, you know, I learn about his life through his status updates on Facebook. Here's his analog interfaces, the things he uses, the tools that he uses, okay, and here's his digital interfaces.

And by the way, we're involved. I check his Facebook page every day. Why? I want to have an opinion. I'm his dad. I try not to bother him too much, but I do look to see who he's calling friends. Because back in our day, we'd say you are who you hang out with. On Facebook, if I click someone, and I see a Satanist theme, I'm going to have an opinion.

And I say, Ben, if you ever want to do anything, people think you're friends just like the old days. It doesn't change that much, right, the things we have to talk about? Here's his digital network. Oh, my gosh. My brain couldn't even think this way. So I think our kids are juggling their lives, the digital life and their analog life. Do you ever try to get your kid's attention when they're attached to a phone or something?

You're like, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey. Dad. Like, yes, I've been here the whole time. You almost have to amputate their digital limbs, right [sound effect]? Your kid can write the *Preamble to the Constitution* in text in his pocket, while making eye contact with you and having a conversation. It's amazing.

This is what I ask kids all the time. Everything you've ever posted is in your lifelong resume. No it's not. I took it down. Yes, it is. I can use the way back machine to see your site from yesterday or the day before or the day before. Think before you post. This is a big thing with kids. We wrote on bathroom walls. They painted over it. This stuff can be out there. I just want kids to think.

And it's not a bad thing to be a good person. What's bad about that? Will their digital footprint get them the scholarship or lose them the scholarship? I want them thinking now, and we've got to start talking about these things. What will their legacy be? In the old days, the tombstone on the left, that's me. A little morose, but I was a husband and a father. If you want to know more, talk to my old friends. I hope they're nice.

Now the one on the right. Want to learn more about me? My life's out there. I try to build that positively, so people will know what I thought, right, and I want our kids to do that too. They're doing it anyway. I think we have to talk about doing it well, doing it in a positive way. So how will they get started? They already did. Before your kids were born, mom had already posted their sonogram picture. Their digital resume already started, and they're going to jump in there somewhere, and, hopefully, not crash, right?

I think we rehearse these things in the classroom. How many of you use Twitter? Twitter. I want to talk about Twitter for a minute, because it's been on *Oprah*. Once it's been Oprah-ized, I feel like I can talk about it, right? But Twitter is, I say something, then you say something. And these little things we say, these tweets, move this way, and everyone in our network can see the things we say.

I call it thought-casting. Now this is for the world, and I can google those things. I want us to build Twitter bulletin boards, where kids in class write something on a, with a dry erase marker on a laminated card, and you sort of move them like this. And kids talk to each other, and when they do something mean, you can bring them over and say, Jason, that thing you just tweeted, how do you think it might make Stacy feel?

Oh, yeah. Let's rethink that. Cool. He takes it back, and he rewrites it and puts it back. Okay. Then a few years later, when he does Twitter for the first time, he goes, oh, this is like Mrs. Johnson's bulletin board. And, hopefully, he remembers the adjacent lessons that we taught in analog, in a tradigital way back in the classroom.

I don't think you have to have all this to teach netiquette. I think the cyber golden rule, what, do unto others as you'd have them to onto, you still works. Just add the word online to the end. It still works, right? Don't talk to strangers online, right?

Now here's something I've been thinking for the last three years. When I stopped teaching art, I felt really bad, because I knew some schools that didn't have art teachers, and I wanted them to have art. So I went home that summer, I sat down with my wife, who teaches K-4 in like a one-room school environment. The kids have laptops. It's like Laura Ingalls Wilder meets 21st Century, right? She's the only K-4 teacher in their building.

They don't have an art teacher, so I record 135, 10-minute art lessons, drawing lessons that align to standards curriculum. When your kid draws the fire ant, I say head, abdomen, thorax three times. I say exoskeleton. I say insect. I say six legs. I call it Trojan horse learning. While Ricky thinks he's an artist, and he is, I'm going to sneak that in his ear, and he won't even know why he passes on the science test.

It's sneaky. Ten minutes. They're short. Why? You don't have time. You can do this at the board in the front of the room and actually take ten minutes maybe, right? So, anyway, this is out there, and I've been doing it for three years. I've got, 3,300 members on this network, half kids, half teachers. Interesting. I have sort of a virtual school.

Now are kids mean to each other? Do they find each other? No. Why? I asked them not to. On the front page, see, ArtSnacks is a positive learning community. Be sure the words and pictures you post are always appropriate for our littlest artists. And, guess what? They do. Kids can rise to the occasion. They can be nice to each other.

Seven-hundred and fifty-thousand page hits in 3 years, how many times do you think a kid has tried to pee in the pool, do you know what I mean, do something inappropriate? Once. Once. You know, I wish school could work like that. I have a nearly one-to-one student teacher ratio here. This is my Petri dish. I want to see if we can teach kids in virtual places.

I want to tell you the story of this kid, 16-year-old at a school with no art teacher. He's on the ArtSnacks network, and he says to me in a private message, can you give me art lessons? I want to go to his school. I can't go to his school and give him art

lessons. I said, Nathan, I can advise you. Go to your local library and check out books on Rembrandt and Michelangelo and M.C. Escher and emulate their work.

A week and a half later, he posted this pencil drawing on my network. He's a prodigy in a school with no one to discover him. He's better than me. I spent six years in a four-year college, and he's better than me. Here's what I love. He's in college now, and he's still on the network mentoring third-graders and telling them that their grasshopper rocks. And when the third-grader clicks his name and goes to his page, oh, Nathan thinks I rock. The kids can be nice to each other in these places.

Moving around the country, I lived all over, 20 states, right? I found out that intelligence is relative. I lived in Tennessee for a while. I lived in Pelham, Tennessee in the mountains. And when I moved there, they called me the Yankee, and they meant that. They're still mad. They're still a little bit mad. That Yankee thinks he's so smart. I was two grade levels ahead. I went from Kansas to Tennessee, and in one move, I'd moved up two grade levels just like that.

They didn't even know what to do with me. They put me in the library to be on independent study. I read Funk & Wagnall's all day, right? The biggest mistake I ever made, I was in history class, and the teacher was talking about the Civil War. And he made it sound like it ended in a draw, so I raised my Yankee hand. Stupidest thing I've ever done. I said, you are aware the South lost the war, right? Cricket, cricket, crick. Someone muttered, that Yankee's going to die. Bad mistake.

Next, we moved to Pennsylvania. I went to New Oxford Junior High. Anyone know where that is? Yes. I'm home. New Oxford Junior High, now I'm flunking everything. Why? Dad's kind of on a rampage. Things are crazy at home. I want to be smart in your class. I do. I do. I've got some problems. You can't come in my front door. It's broken, you know. Come in the window, I'll blow your mind.

You let me come in the window, and I'll blow your mind. So I'm sitting in English class, where I'm flunking, and the teacher says, Kevin, you can do your project any way you want. Be creative. I lost my mind. I lost my mind. I'll tell you how I did that in a minute. Finally, we moved back to Kansas, where I was average again. Thank God, right? In Pennsylvania, I was two grade levels behind. I went from Mensa to slack jawed yokel in one move there, right? That was tough.

I'm living in Kansas, where I'm average. And I want to talk about the angels of my upbringing, and the people that literally saved my life. This is Mary Lou Brigoon(?), right? Sideburns thicker than my father's. She's not even a teacher, she's a para. And she put her arm around me, even though I might have lice.

You know, the most dangerous place to be in school is alone, and I was alone. Long hair, highwaters, no one's touching me. But she put her arm around me. I stood in the shade of her ample bosom, out of the rain. She saved my life that year. She saved my life. I found her when I graduated college. She was sitting on her front porch on living room furniture, because that's how we roll in Ottawa, you know. I said, Mary Lou Brigoon? I walked up to her like she was Yoda.

I said, Kevin, Kevin Honeycutt. She said, who? I was a little hurt, because I thought it meant something to her too, you know. Just too many kids. I said, you saved my life in 1978. I was hanging on by a thread, and you were nice to me. Thank you. She said, oh, shut up. That's just my job. Just my job? Oh, my God.

Those of you here reach out to the ones who bite, it's not easy [sound effect]. But you guys put on a leather glove, and do it again and again and again. Thank God. Thank God. This is Dorothy Anderson, secretary at Hawthorne Elementary. She sent me these notes every day. This isn't digital. This is oriental trading. I got mail. Every day, they'd be at the door. Letter for Kevin. I'm like, I got mail again.

They'd bring it over, and it'd be a little note from her. And they smelled like her, and she smelled good. And at night, midnight, dad came home drunk. He's cussing me, telling me I'm never going to be anything. I'd go to my room, put my fingers in my ears, and get out the box with these things in it. She believed in me, and she smelled better than him. She was my reason, and I'll thank her for the rest of my life. She passed away about five years ago. I love her forever. Forever.

It's little things you do. You never know which one it is. You never know. Keep doing it. Keep doing it. It takes years sometimes. Do you ever get that phone call from a kid who graduated years ago that gave you every kind of hell there was? Hey, Honeycutt, I just, uh, want to thank you for kicking my butt. You're the only one that held me accountable back then. I'm still in prison. Okay. Keep working, keep working. Don't give up. Don't give up.

I think empowerment comes from being trusted to attack learning according to your strengths. My New Oxford English teacher that let me do things creatively, I went home, I got a box of Rice Krispies, and I cut the front out. I made a long storyboard from *Watership Down*. I made winders out of coat hangers. I put a flashlight behind it. I invented PowerPoint in 1978, haven't gotten a dime so far.

I walked into school, for the first time, I'm so excited. I said, turn off the lights please. Thank you. Kicked on my Rayovac, and I started doing my report. And she looked at me like I was a unicorn. She had never seen me as a learner before. My front door is broken, but if you let me come in the window, I'll bring a lot of extra stuff. I'll knock it out of the park.

Mr. Ahman(?), you might know Mr. Ahman. I don't know if he's still out there in New Oxford. My social studies teacher, he let me build my cotton gin out of cardboard. It's still the stuff of legends. I'm a hands-on learner, you know. I do things a little bit differently.

Here's a possible right start. How many of you have heard of Lulu.com, I-u-I-u.com. Yeah. Self-publishing for free. I want to talk about this, because you can do it for free on a PC or a Mac, self-publishing. Okay? So what does that mean? In the old days, if you wanted to publish a book, you needed to have someone who was going to do that, right, or you could go to a vanity press and pay money to have your book done.

Lulu.com comes along. You go to Lulu.com, set up an account. You can upload a Word document, choose cover art, and publish. It costs nothing until someone buys it. Then they print it and send it. So wait a minute. I know this little girl in this school who wears black and flips you off in the parking lot.

She's a lost soul. She's a poet, because they usually are. She's got a handful of poems at any given moment. I said, would you like to be a published author with that stuff? She said, huh? How would you like to be published? Now, by the way, I test drove Lulu. I knew the tool. I tamed the tool before I invited a kid to the tool. Okay?

I said, do you have those in Word? Uh-huh. Let's upload them. So we upload them in Word. She chooses cover art. We choose a pen name. She was going to put

her name. Again, they need us on their playground. We chose a pen name. She published a book called, *Saving Me: Poetry from My Heart*. There's her book there. She priced it like \$23.00, ten pages in paperback. See, I want to buy the book and give it to her but not for \$23.

I said, sweetheart, what are other books in that genre going for with ten pages in paperback? She said, I'm not sure. I said, can we look? She finally marks it down to \$5.52. So I buy her book, and I take it to the school, and I hand it to her in the hallway. Did you ever see a kid launch [sound effect]? Did you ever see a kid launch?

In your whole teaching career, you may be lucky to three, four, five launches. She launched in the hallway. She turned into an author in front of my eyes. I handed her her book. She held it with reverence like it was the first copy of the Bible. She opened it and said, I misspelled everything. And for the first time in her life, she cared about spelling.

Why? What is she now? She's an author. She's teaching every other kid how to be an author. Writing is a social medium, but how many people typically read a kid's writing? Now what if I think you don't like me? What's my motivation for writing? Can we make them famous? Could we? Even if we don't put it out worldwide, even if we just buy it for the school library, what would that be worth to a kid? These days, you can do that cheap.

So I know schools out there, they're doing their yearbooks this way. My school is one of them. We've been handing money to Jostens and to, before that, Lifetouch for years. Now we publish our own yearbook. And when people buy it, the profit comes to our PayPal account. We don't have a box of these in the office. Wow. What could you do with that?

So I'm in South Dakota talking to teachers, and they decide they're going to put out a book of the best writing from their school that year, *Revered Writing 2009-2010*. You've got to work hard to get in this book. People buy that *Who's Who Among American High School Kids*. A leather bound book for \$50, why do they buy it? My name on page 256. What? You spend that money to see your name? Shouldn't it be more than that? This is something we can do.

How many of you think this is at least interesting, an interesting idea in this time of, you know, I'm thinking we could make money for the school, for sure. Every booster club, they do calendars, sports calendars. And they're good at it, right? If you don't sell any, you didn't lose anything. If you sell them, you make money. It's at least interesting to look at.

So I like teachers to think about, okay, what could we do with these things, to have time in a workshop where we play all morning, and just say, what could we do with these things? I like to have teachers start with a personal book. Your mom's recipes. Your siblings want them anyway. Publish *The Best of Mom's Kitchen*, right? And once you do it, you'll go, oh, that was easy. Now I've got some ideas, right?

Dad's letters home from the war, you know, give that to your siblings. You can keep it private, or you could be at every Amazon, every B. Dalton Books worldwide if you want to. You'll get your own sort of storefront where you can market on there. Today's workplace is anywhere collaboration, I work from the tree house some days. I'm talking to a guy in the U.K. He's like, Honeycutt, where are you, man? Boo. You're not in a flipping tree. I'm like, yes. I'm in a tree. No, you're not.

I show him out the window. Honeycutt's in a flipping tree. See, it's my branch office. Yeah. Here's the thing. There are more honor students in India than there are students in America. And they want the same job your kid wants, and they'll do it for one-third of the money to have a middle class life in Bangalore, and that's just the way it is.

Do our kids know this? They're dancing on the railroad tracks, and the train is coming. They're playing games. I'm saying, you like games. Can you make them? You like books. Can you write them? You like music. Can you, what are you doing, or are you just enjoying other people's work? I make my kid pay rent on his laptop. I call it a youth lease. I'm not here for his infotainment. Sorry. I demand something of that.

Once a week, mom and I have to see something we're proud of, or we take it. He's past page 500 on his own, personal, historical fictional novel. I don't know if it's good, but he's working on it. I demand it. I want more, you know. I want him to build something. Do you like apps? Can you make one?

There are eighth-graders in this country, I know classrooms where they're making apps for the iPad and the iPhone right now. That process is getting easier. What will our kids do? How many of you are using Skype, or you've seen Skype? If you've got a brother in Iraq, you're already using Skype.

What I get excited about is when classrooms connect to classrooms across the country. You know what happens. You have someone talk to the kids. They're all bored. You put anyone on the wall, and suddenly, it's the all-powerful Oz, you know. I like to be the expert for people. Tell me who I am.

If you don't someone from MIT, I'll be them. I'll do the accent. I'll be whatever you say. I'll be, yes, I'm from Houston, Texas. I want to talk about the rocket program here at NASA, kids. And I'm watching them as they do their presentations. I call it faking it until you make it. Now my Skype rolodex has real people on it, right? Connecting kids to kids out there in the world, it's exciting stuff, and it's cheaper than ever. With an average web cam and a couple of tools, you can be up and running.

How many of you use Google Docs? I'm going to talk about a couple of these things, because they're free, and I deal with schools with no money. Google Docs, you can work on the same doc at the same time. You're working on paragraph one. You're working on paragraph two. I'm doing paragraph three.

First-graders are making alphabet books. She's doing A. He's doing B. And they have to collaborate to make sure it goes together, and they can work on it while a teacher watches the whole thing being created for free. That gets me excited that we can collaborate in these exciting ways for no money.

I'm writing a book called *The Monarch of Castleton* about a butterfly. I'm doing the illustrations over there on the right, and my friends are helping me with the narrative. It's my grand experiment to see if we can write a book on Google Docs.

Back when I was teaching, I did concept cars every year. My kids made concept cars out of clay. That's cool, hands-on learning. The kids liked it. When did Detroit stop using clay? See, I was, I didn't know. I don't work in the auto industry. I was guessing. My gosh. I should have been using software, but I had no money. I had one computer.

So that first year I bought a Wacom draw pad, right? One. I had 26 kids. I had to blow a whistle and rotate them, so every kid could get a chance on the Wacom. I

wanted them to have skills in both worlds, right? After I showed the school board what we were doing, I had four. The next year, I had eight. It took me like 4 years to get 13 computers in my room so half the kids could be on them at any given time.

But I wanted them to have actual skills that translated into the world. We were pencil, paper, which is fine, but I can't let my kids be just pencil paper. This teacher in Emporia, Kansas has been doing this unit for 32 years. It's her cities unit. Every kid, fifth-grader, gets a two by two square of cardboard, and they make a business. And they slide them all together for parent night, and make a city. They're cool. Moms and dads walk through like Godzilla, you know. It's cool.

Can you tell where this boy stopped caring about the white lines between the cars? They're cool. They're cool, right? Hands on. This girl and this boy here made a school. He calls the school of doom, right? The same kids, I showed them free software, works for the PC and Mac called Google SketchUp. This is the fifth grader with Google SketchUp.

Without reading the tutorial, he just starts going. I want to show you what that looks like. This girl made what I thought was a teepee. I said, nice teepee. You have to be careful what you call kids' work, you know. That's a cool unicorn. It's a grasshopper. I said, nice teepee. It's not a teepee. I said, fine. This is her work in Google SketchUp, okay, software that's free for the PC or Mac. I want to show you what it looks like, because the interface reminds me of the Nintendo Wii.

Here you've got this little interface here, right? I'm going to click this square and drag. Watch the ground, and watch the bottom, right-hand corner as I do this. What am I getting in real time as I drag this? I'm thinking about geometry, a three-dimensional science largely taught on a two dimensional plane. Counterintuitive.

Anyway, Jason has never understood what a cube is until I put him inside of the cube. Swimming pool, skyscraper, swimming pool, skyscraper. I show this to . . . teachers, home ec teachers. They rush the stage. They've been doing interior decorating with a shoebox and wallpaper samples for their whole career. Now there's something free they can do this with.

I'm just going to show you a couple, little things. I click the roof. I hit this. I'm inside the shape. Now the value of putting a kid inside of a shape gets me excited. Here's a paint bucket. I wonder what it does? Oh, carpet and textiles. Click, click. Wallpaper, sorting . . . shingles, grass, groundcover. But, wait. There's more.

I'm dealing with kids in western Kansas who aren't going to go to any fieldtrips this year. We've got no money for gas. They're not going anywhere. But you click the Google SketchUp Warehouse, there are hundreds of thousands of designs from all over the world that kids can import and interact with, cathedrals, the Coliseum, the Parthenon. What that might be worth to kids who've grown up playing video games? Again, costs nothing.

So I want to show you what one teacher did with, this one crazy teacher, one of those teachers who writes checks on accounts she hasn't opened yet. [Video played]. Notice something. I was. I was an archeologist. Contextual learning. I was a cartographer [video played].

This woman's crazy. Bringing her to our district was like strapping a jet engine on a biplane. We have to slow her down sometimes, right? Now she did not know how to use this. She just did it. She said, kids, I don't know how to use this. Let's see what

happens. We can always go back to what we did last year. And the kids stayed until, she had to kick them out of the room, and the parents would say, why are they staying?

They're kind of engaged. Did they learn? Yes. They created museums of learning. And try to stop them from teaching other kids once they do that. Then they brought that to the board meeting. Want to knock your board out of their moccasins? Let the kids present. Here's what the board will do. What are we paying for this? The first thing someone asks. Man, I'm like, dang, guys. And the kids go, oh, it's free. Our teacher found it. Yeah. Thanks for the computers.

The next thing someone said was, what do you need? Because, man, they knocked it out of the park, you know. Gosh, we've got to do that these days, protect sacred things. So I want to show you a little tool that you can add to this. Raise your hand if you're fairly geeky. See, I'm leaning on my geeky friends to really help me here. Okay?

Google SketchUp, again, is free, but there's a little extension you can add to Google SketchUp. Here's a design of a mustang, right? It's kind of cool. Shelby. There's a little thing you can download from a company called AR-media that lets this be interactive in a way that, I'm just going to show it to you. If you're interested, I can connect you to people that can help you do this.

It puts an icon here of an eyeball. Okay? If I click that, the camera launches, and it starts looking around for this. When it finds this, it puts the mustang on this. So imagine your kids at the central office doing their reports. I'm going to click okay, and the kids are holding this up.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Parthenon was a structure made by the ancient Greeks. What's it cost? The trial version is free. Imagine your kids, and they can do this, and the board going, oh, wow. These are exciting times. This somehow comes off the computer screen and becomes part of their life, interactive and three-dimensional.

How many of you are at least interested in this? Yes. A little bit interested? Yes. It's cool, isn't it? Wow. AR-media. Cool stuff. [Video played]. Okay. So, AR-media, again, if you want to google that, you can download that. So I want us thinking about this. What are some ways we can use Google SketchUp? I think literature. Kids, I want you to design the interior from *The Raven* based on the clues the author gives you. Go.

Now they're arguing. No. The fireplace can't look like that. Clearly, over here, he says this. They're passionately arguing about the book. Don't tell them you know. Ssshh. They think they're artists, and they are. Why not? Why not? And they can be docents of their own museums and learn, again, by teaching, and take people through their museums that they've created. By the way, I've got the e-mail of this crazy teacher who did this. Anybody want it? She's nuts, and she loves to collaborate.

I met Dr. Robert Ballard a few years ago when he talked about the Black Sea. He wanted to get in there for a long time, because there were ships of antiquity sunken in the Black Sea. And there's something interesting about the Black Sea. Below a couple of hundred feet, the water is anoxic. That means the mollusks that usually eat wooden-hulled vessels don't exist. That means every ship of antiquity that ever sunk in the Black Sea is still there, all the way back to Jesus, is still there.

He thought this was true, but he couldn't get in because of the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union, until the wall came down. He rushed into there with this

ship, the *Knorr*, and they start looking for these ships. They find the first one. They start vacuuming up. The bottom of the Black Sea is about the consistency of Jell-O. Any ship that goes in closes the door behind itself. Thunk. There it sits like a time capsule.

They start vacuuming off the stuff. They get down to the ship, and the wooden ship still has the tool marks. The grain is not raised on the wood. The amphorae have their beeswax seals in tact. That's as far as they got on that cruise, but he thinks they're going to find bodies. Not mummies, bodies, that look hypothermic from biblical times. Oh, my gosh.

Now, Robert Ballard started the Jason Project. Remember the Jason Project? Because kids, after he filmed the *Titanic*, said can we come with you on your next cruise? And it touched his heart, so he said, darn it, we've got to broadcast this stuff to the world, and it was an awesome thing. It cost millions of dollars to do. Millions of dollars to do.

I look at the things we can do now, and I get excited. It used to be for \$30,000, you could get a satellite dish. You could get ten laptops online, and kids could report from the field, if you had the right equipment. And they could talk to people, if they had the right equipment. Now, with a cellular wireless card, I did this two weeks ago, okay, I tried this out, a cellular wireless card on my laptop.

Share the network. Kids with iPod Touches are doing field research and journaling live from location. What could that look like? What might that look like? They're going to do this stuff, whether we do it or not. It'd be nice to get in front of it one time.

So I took these kids in Colby, Kansas out to a historic site, and they did their research first. They wrote their scripts first. I made them work. I don't play first. Jump through my hurdles, and then we'll go have some fun. I've got that figured out. So they wrote, and they rehearsed, and we got to the site. And they stood up with their things, and they reported back to the classroom.

And the fun part was these kids were so engaged with history. Well, you can do this with an Android phone. You can do this broadcasting with an iPhone. You can do this with a laptop. There are all these things that you can do. We looked at a two-seater outhouse. This girl had never seen a two-seater outhouse. She's like, I'm here at the two-seater outhouse. We're not exactly sure how anyone could be such close friends. We also can't explain the Sears catalog. Back to you in the classroom, Cody.

Oh, my gosh. Here's what's cool. In my left hand is an iPhone. I'm broadcasting live on a secure webpage with a log in, so moms and dads can log in and watch that field stuff live in this hand. In this hand, I have a Flip cam, and I'm recording. And when I'm done, I give that to the kids, and they start editing.

I love editing, because I call it review. Writing a script, I call it research. Storyboard, it's an outline, right? But they think they're Spielberg. Let them think that. Let them get excited, you know. That's okay. I wanted to show you this guy [video played]. Here's what I love about video.

There's a benevolence to video, because kids get take one, take two, take three. They don't have to get it in one take. If you make me stand in front of the class, take one. That's the only take I get. And if I'm scared, if I don't read well, I could take a kid

to a room and do take 27. Guess which one the class sees? His best take. His best take. He can rewind learning too, rewind, rewind, in the privacy of his own home.

There's a benevolence. There can be a benevolence to video if we use it right, if we think about it right. I ask kids all the time, what are you learning? What are you learning with that expensive thing that you've got there? I bought an iPhone, and I forgot to ask my wife first. This was a bad mistake, all right.

I bought the iPhone, because I had to find out what it could do. Was it just a game? Because I've seen kids play Guitar Hero. I love Guitar Hero. It's making our kids like the hair band songs of the '80s. That's cool. But if your kid's good at Guitar Hero, and I hand her a guitar, can she play it? Can she play a real guitar? Does it translate into anything real?

I wanted to find out if any of these apps on the iPhone or the iPod touch actually did anything. The first one I had to go get was Harmonica. Harmonica, guess what it does? Well, it's a Harmonica, right? So [plays music] for \$1.99, I can buy this. It doesn't just play. It teaches.

If I put it in teaching mode, it makes dots where my lips should go, and in the mirror, I can sit here and learn to play a song. This one app can teach me. Oh, my gosh. Don't let just anyone do this to your device, by the way. My problem is I'm old, and I blow on it. There's no hole, man. I've got slobber all over the thing.

This app is called Ocarina. It turns your phone into a woodwind instrument, so you blow [plays music]. See, you have four dots [plays *Amazing Grace*]. I can't read music. You're so nice. Here's what's cool. Here's what's cool. I call it talent radio, because just now, yes, you heard me, but I was also broadcasting worldwide. People don't know who I am, but they can hear my talent.

They can click. I'm going to click right now, and see who else is playing worldwide. I have this on my desk some days [listens to *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*]. That's coming out of New York. Now I'm going to send them love. Love, love, love, love. They don't know me. I don't know them, but they know someone likes what they were trying. I give everyone love, because they're trying.

No one ever sends me love. If you have this app, if you hear *Amazing Grace* done badly, it's me. Click the heart. Okay? Give up a little bit of love there. What's amazing, is the kid in the trailer park, if no one exists in his life to recognize that he's trying, that he's learning, that he's good, maybe there's an audience. Maybe it's not the best audience, but there's an audience of people out there that can say keep trying, kiddo. Keep trying. Don't give up.

I want to show you a couple other apps on here, and then we'll do a little thing here. I want to get out PocketGuitar. Now I play the guitar, and I travel with this. The truth is airlines destroy guitars, all right. It's terrible. So I travel with this little three-quarter sized kid's guitar, because it fits in the overhead. It still gets beat up.

So if I can travel with a not real guitar, this is a fret board on my phone, right? But the only way to play it is to know chords. This is not a game. I can teach theory. Now here's the problem with guitar. It hurts. Most kids bounce off at the blister stage, and I lose them.

If I can pull them deeper, if I can hook them, I can cook them, right? So if I can get them to know chords and hand them a guitar, and they go, oh, I can really play that. Yes, you can. See, I think we build stairways of learning. Guitar Hero, yes.

PocketGuitar, yes. Real guitar, yes. On ramps to learning, right? So I'm going to try to play the song, of course, I'm the airport doing this. I've got on headphones. Now this is C. I'm going to play a C for you [plays music].

Now watch this [plays music]. I know. I know. So I've got headphones on. I'm going [plays music and sings]. Thank you. Thank you [plays music and sings]. I'm doing this in the terminal. They're like security to gate C. There's a freak in gate C. They're cuffing me. I'm like . . . this is fun man.

I can really teach guitar with this thing. But I want to show you. There's one I get really excited about, and then I want to bring up a victim, volunteer from the studio audience here. I'm going to show you Band. Now Band is \$4.99 and has five editions. I show this to band teachers. They rush the stage. Do not let this replace this. No way. Tradigital, right? I save time.

You're going to see this, and you're going to say that guy knew. You're going to see this on *Letterman*. I'm going to try to pick this up here. You're going to see a guy come up on stage with a guitar like this. Let me just try this here and give you just a little bit. Here's your preview.

Okay. I've got Velcro on the back of this, and I attach it here, and I make a double neck guitar like Zeppelin, all right, so I've got two guitars in one. You're going to see this on *Letterman*. There are bands that are doing this now, right? Real stuff. Mix it up. You can mix it up, right? So, anyway, I wanted to show you 12 bar blues. I can teach blues theory on my phone, right, but kids don't always get that.

First, I'll show you how to use the drums [plays drums]. It has . . . drums. It has, hold on . . . piano [plays piano]. I could also hit record and record a multi-track recording and make a song on the plane. Is it as good as real piano? No. Is it in my pocket? Yeah. It might be a hook. It might be a hook. Well, here's 12 bar blues, and I love this app.

Have you ever had a bad day, and you wish your life had a soundtrack, so people would leave you alone? This app is that for me. I plug this into my truck stereo, right? A guy cuts me off in traffic. I don't flip him off [horn plays], but I want him to know how I feel. So we get to the light, we get to the light and I roll down the window slowly, and I look at him, and I give him one of these [plays blues riff].

Ever walk into class and wish you could [plays blues riff]? Sit down. I'm going to try and put together a whole song with this one \$4.99 application and play several instruments at the same time. So I'll do the intro first [plays music]. Now you've also got [plays percussion]. Now, percussion, that's broken in two. Now let's pretend you . . . in class.

Okay. I've got my own audience [plays audience applause]. Okay. I've got a . . . in the studio audience. Let's give him a round of applause. Let's trick him into coming up here. Thank you for doing this. I'll put you right there, and I'm going to put the drum on there, and the first thing is I want you to kind of get your bearings and play a little bit. Okay? [Plays drums].

Oh, yeah. Here's what I love. He doesn't play drums. I was going to find a real drummer, but it kinds of make the point that you don't have to. You know, you don't have to be a professional to try it, right? I mean, shouldn't that be the point? I'm going to start something and just jump in [plays guitar]. Sorry guys. [Plays blues, participant plays drums.] Give it up for percussion.

Okay. I think you're ready. [Plays *Wipeout*]. Oh, my gosh. How am I doing on time? Am I still good? Woo hoo. So this is what sheet music looks like for the ocarina. You go to their website, and they give away whole songbooks. Around the holidays, people are caroling with this thing.

Now look at the sheet music. If it's blue, your finger's on the dot. If it's not blue, your finger's off the dot. Talk about an on ramp. If I get you excited, maybe you're going to want to learn how to read music. We've got to find a way to get these kids grabbed, hooked, right? So this, to me, it's a time that things can actually be easy.

So I got an iPad. Again, I forgot to ask my wife. Now I met the UPS guy in front of the house. I took pictures with him. I was so excited. I was so excited. So right away, those apps that work on the iPhone also work on here, only they're bigger. And first, I thought that's going to be terrible, a guitar that big. No.

A fret board that big is actually easier. I can play it on my lap. So what it is, I made a guitar out of it. Look at that. I took a Guitar Hero guitar. I painted it black, and I attached this to it. Wow. The kids are going crazy for this. Plug it into the amplifier. It's an instrument. It's an instrument. By the way, if we do this next year, I want to have a petting zoo with all of this in one evening where we get loose and have fun. What do you think of that idea? Yeah. Woo hoo.

So let me tell you my YouTube story. Now, you know, I'm not a fan. I don't think we should open the filter and let kids use YouTube, but they're there. But what can we do with YouTube? And what I get excited about was I got my first guitar in 1980. I wanted one so bad, but we were poor. I'm not going to get a guitar. We're poor. But my dad got me a guitar at a yard sale for \$1 with no strings attached. It had no strings attached.

So for six months, I played air guitar, right? I couldn't play anything. My dad was so nice. He said, I've been challenging the guy with . . . my dad said, play my favorite song, son. I said, what's that? Far, far away. I said, I don't know that. No. Play far, far away. You stink. Just not very nice, not very nice.

So I'm going to go back to this one again. I start teaching myself. And I go to the music store, and I can't read music, but I understand the books. They have a picture of this part of the guitar, and they have numbers. And I figured it out. That's where your fingers go.

So I'd go in the store, and I'd look at *Stairway to Heaven* [hums song]. And I'd go out to my truck and go [plays music]. I'd run back in. Run back out [plays music], run back in [plays music]. And the guy said, freeze. You're stealing our music. I said, no. You're memorizing. I was kicked out for thought-lifting.

I went home, started teaching myself how to play guitar. I thought I invented the chords, you know. It took years. It took years. When my son gets a guitar, when he's 16, he's going to ask me to teach him. I know he is. He's never asked me for anything. My wife taught him to love books, to read, math, she breastfed. I had no role. I'm supportive. Lactate, lactate, go ahead and lactate. I've got nothing.

Then he gets a guitar, and like he's going to ask me. He's going to ask me. I'm rehearsing. I'm like, okay, son, if you're going to play guitar, then you'll have to dedicate yourself to at least 30 minutes per day, maybe an hour, of drills and stuff. He doesn't come. He goes to his room. We're from the trailer park. That's our heritage, so they always learn this song first [plays *Stairway to Heaven*].

I'm like how's he doing that? I bust in. Do you need help? No. Dad, it's not personal, but I'm learning from a guy on YouTube. I wait 16 years. Sixteen years . . . he learns from a guy on YouTube. I'm sorry, but I didn't handle it well. I said, good luck. Hope that works for you. I go in the living room, pretend I don't care. By midnight, he's like [plays *Stairway to Heaven*].

I'm sorry. But I got mad. I got mad, and I went into this room to see this man who's teaching my son guitar, when it should be me. Here's the guy. Here's the guy right here. Hold on. I think he's here. No. I skipped it out. The kid ends up being like a third-grader, and the kid's ten times better than I am. He said, dad, it's not personal, but I can rewind this kid as many times as I want, and he doesn't know how many times it took me to figure it out.

I get it. I get it. When my son's not home, I'm learning from this kid, because he's really good. I work with a school in Kansas that has nothing. I mean, these are kids, again, that are on parole for violent crimes or theft, and my girls are usually pregnant. They're last chance kids. They get one shot to get them one more time, right? They want to learn piano. We've got no money. We've got no teacher.

So I have a music teacher friend, and I said help me curricularize some of this YouTube stuff. She helps me pick a semester of intro to piano videos. We take them off of YouTube, and put them on a CD. The kids put them on a computer right in front of their \$89 keyboard, and they're taking piano. Is it as good as having a Julliard teacher? Absolutely not. Is it as good as having a live teacher? No. Is it better than the nothing they had last year? Yeah.

I get excited about that kind of stuff. I like to take teachers on fieldtrips. I have them go out and find a funny video, by the way, women laugh at different things than men. You're already laughing. Women laugh at funny babies and funny pets. Men laugh when something, when a guy cuts down a truck, a tree that lands on his truck, all right.

How many of you have seen *Charlie Bit my Finger*? Of course. This is part of my curriculum with kids and online safety. I say, kids, you ever do something stupid, and you wish you could undo it like the next second? Charlie's brother stuck his finger in Charlie's mouth where there were no teeth last week. This week teeth. He makes two distinct sounds. Let's listen for them [video played].

I blame no one yet, but he's about to put his finger in there on purpose. He's going to make two sounds. Hee, hee, hee, then hoo, hoo, hoo. Listen for this [video played]. Now how do I curricularize this? I talk about making that mistake that you wish you could undo immediately, of course. Kids like this.

Cognitive neuropsychologists will tell you that Charlie cannot feel remorse, because he's not yet developed mirror neurons. He cannot feel empathy at that age. I beg to disagree. Charlie feels bad. You can see it on his face without words. Watch this. He feels terrible [videotape played]. Okay. Maybe not.

I'm going to skip through a couple of things here. You know, I love the *H.L. Hunley*. It's a Civil War submarine, the first submarine to sink a ship in battle, right? It had eight guys in it doing this [sound effect]. Actually, one guy in the conning tower that was about this tall, these guys are like [sound effect]. It killed three crews. This thing was a death trap, four feet tall, in the cold Charleston Harbor, you know.

These guys are out there. They had to be about the size of 12-year-olds to fit through those openings. These guys were doing this, and they had a harpoon spar on the front with a 50-pound powder keg. Their mission [sound effect], stab it into the side of a wooden-hulled vessel. Back up [sound effect]. It worked [sound effect]. It sunk the *Housatonic*, and then those guys disappeared from history for 135 years.

Clive Cussler led a team of explorers that found it, brought it up, and excavated it. Kids get riveted by this story. Now in the old days, you could read a book. These days, watch the live stream of the excavation while listening to *Raise the Hunley*, a book from Audible, while looking at artifacts from the actual wreck at the same time. Kids can learn from all these different directions at the same time. They can decide how many they want to learn from [video played].

You know, I like to talk about learning styles, the ways kids approach learning, giving them choices, you know, helping them understand. Now if a kid is really visual, I've got to get him verbal. He's got to survive in the world. If I can get in visual and lure him into verbal, you know, I like your pictures. Hey, make sure you add some captions. Hey, you want to add a paragraph underneath those.

Somehow lure them, but you've got to hook them with what they like first, I think, and then bring them in. I'm going to jump across a couple things here because of time. I want to talk about this. I'm teaching in Inman, Kansas, and I'm also doing the school play. And every year, I need 8 kids to 13 kids, and 3 try out, so girls are wearing mustaches again this year.

The school board's going to cut the drama budget. Every year, I'm on the chopping block. I have to do up some pig project, some pig, so they won't make bacon out of my Wilbur, all right. So I told my assistant director, let's make a full-length feature film. I didn't know how. I knew my computer would make movies. I'm crazy, man. This guy was so nervous. I said, we're going to do this.

I announced to the community we're making a movie. Fifty kids tried out. There's only 250 kids in our school. Ten adults from the community tried out, and I had never made a movie. I didn't even know if I could. I was sweating bullets. I put out a press release. Small town makes Hollywood style film. The news channel came out and did a story about it, right? I don't even have a movie yet.

What did it look like when the news channel came out? Well, they came out, and we had nothing. Every news cycle, they need at least 15 minutes of feel good. That should be us writing that stuff, right? They came out to point a camera at something, so we faked it. We didn't even have one of those clipboard things, you know. We bought one like that day, so we had no time to practice with it.

They came out, and this is what it looked like when they covered that [video played]. Put us on the map. By the way, we had nothing. The football team loaned us their VHS recorder. And we had no real equipment, no lights, no nothing [video played]. That's because he had gotten that that morning. Okay? [Video played]. Brandon Brown, never been in a play. He had football. He had football. In a movie, once I'm done filming, go back to football.

If you get ineligible academically, you're already on my video [sound effect], right? He graduates and moves to Greensburg, Kansas. What do you know about Greensburg, Kansas? It got wiped out by a tornado. I mean, wiped out. His wife calls

me a couple weeks later and says we lost everything. The only thing Brandon can't live without is that stupid movie. Do you have a copy of that?

Turns out, this was the moment of his life, this kid [video played]. This is all of our computers, so I had one light. And I turned all the lights off, so it's only one pool of lights. So when the reporter came in, they went, ah, futuristic wonder world in that corner, all right, in that corner [video played].

Okay. They said, you're going to do like a red carpet. I said, why, yes, we are. We had no idea of that until they said that. And so then we said, yes, we are. So we rented a red carpet, but it was only long enough to go from the curb halfway to the school. So when you see the video, watch where the carpet ends. We rented one limo, and it drove around the block 100 times.

But these kids were stars. Mom and dads were paparazzi. Our town police were so excited. They were doing security. Should we hit the cherries? Do you think we should turn on the cherries [sound effect], you know? Let me show you what that looked like [video played]. Look at this video quality. It was terrible. They didn't care. It just had to happen. It just had to happen. And as soon as it was over, the community said, what do you need?

Someone had to write the first check, you know, so we took the chances [video played]. You ever see a parent so proud they're goofy? Watch for that. Ready? [Video played]. Scott, flunking most classes. Everyone would say he's a slacker. He's a kid that doesn't care. He had to stay eligible to be in the movie, and he did. And he wanted to be in every movie after that. This thing did more for him, you know, than he could do for the movie. It changed his life, I think, in small ways [video played].

Okay. So it was cool. It was cool. Well, the next year, the kids wrote all the scripts. The kids made all the movies. We had a student film festival. It became about them. We had no money still, so we used bowling trophies for our Oscars. It turns out, if you put bubblegum on a trophy and let it, you can spray paint it and make it any shape you want to. You have to chew a lot of gum, but those kids love those bowling trophies a lot.

Making movies in the classroom, these days, it's different. And back then, you had videotape and it took forever. The process talked us out of it, you know. Now with a Flip cam from Wal-Mart for \$89, you don't even need videotape. So I see kids in the field doing reports, standup reports. We're here at the monkey enclosure today to talk about animal adaptations. If you look at the orangutan, you'll find that he's hanging upside down because of his opposable thumb. Back to you in the studio, Janie.

They did all that work before they ever got to the zoo, and they're all excited, of course. You can see they're really into what they're doing, right? And it's still learning, but it can be easier than it's ever been before. I'm going to give you guys a gift and bring this thing in for a landing.

There's two things I want to talk about, and then I'll be out of here. One, I would be remiss if I didn't talk about this. That's my kid posing, and he didn't want to do this picture. I aimed my wife's car at my son, at my car, and took this picture. So there he is, you know. And I talk about distracted driving, and I talk about the things the brain does.

I want you to take your left hand and put it in the air. I want you to draw a circle. That's driving. Your brain's driving. Ready? Now it's hard to drive. Bad conditions,

make a small circle, very accurate, very accurate. Four-lane highway. Relax. Stop. Texting, talking on the cell phone, triangle. Make a triangle. Triangle. Stop, drive, and text at the same time.

Steal this from me. Steal this slide from me, because kids laugh, and then they think. Their brain's doing two very different things there, and the same thing, I'm worried we're going to lose more kids to texting than we ever did to alcohol. There are appropriate times to do things, and we've got to talk to our kids about that. I have to remind my kid all the time not to do this. I don't want anything to happen to him.

Oh, there's so much. I want to invite you, my website, kevinhoneycutt.org, Kevin H-o-n-e-y-c-u-t-t. If you click downloads, you can download this presentation. There's a lot there. If you have a question, you can e-mail me from there, and I'll help you if there's something that I talked about that you want to know more about. But I'm going to bring this thing in.

You ever ask a kid, what were you thinking? What were you thinking? That's very unsatisfying, because they say, I don't know. My honor student. What were you thinking? I don't know. I'm at the, I was at the Learning and the Brain Conference, and there was a study that came out on teenagers, and why they make stupid decisions. You couldn't have kept me out of that room with wild horses [sound effect]. Do tell.

They talked about this thing in the front of the brain called the frontal lobe or the prefrontal cortex. It's in charge of something called executive function. It's the air traffic controller of your kid's brain. Guess what the last thing to develop in a human is? How funny is that? They showed video of asking kids this question, is it a good idea to swim with sharks? Fifteen-year-old girls, they're starting to say no. What do you think the boys say? Could be cool, if you had friends with you. Yeah. More snacks for the sharks.

The research shows girls begin to develop a frontal lobe around the age of 16 and men, marry one. See the women like ha. I'm running through the, this is why the kids need us, okay, I'm running through the house in my diaper when I was a kid, and I had a pair of those things on the right. And I saw these things on the wall that had two holes. I was smart. I knew those went together, so I walked up and went [sound effect].

As soon as I did that, my mom was at the door, and she saw the sparks fly out of the wall, and she said, oh, my gosh. And she ran in and kicked me with love. She's like [sound effect]. My fingers are black. The wall's black. My diaper's full. I didn't think about this for years until I got a little older, a little wiser, and a little boy. He's a Honeycutt. Poor child.

I bought those plastic things for the wall outlet. Sometimes I have to get in his face and make him mad, because I love him. I'm not going to apologize for that. Good parents, good teachers plant the seeds of trees they'll never sit in the shade of, you know. Anyway, I think that's important. So how can I keep learning? Well, I'm going to skip over this one, but if you want, when we're done here, I'm going to hang out for as long as you guys want to talk and share some other things with your, or I'll take you to my website.

This is my research base. I read a lot of books, but I'm also networked with minds, over 4,000 educational minds from all over the country. I talk to them on a daily basis. I'm smart, but my network is brilliant. Brilliant. I collect people, and I hope I can collect some of you guys today. I'm not going to do this one. So I'm going to jump to

the very last, my website, kevinhoneycutt.org. Thanks for staying awake the whole time. I know it wasn't easy. Yes!