

THE EPOCH TIMES

LIFE &

TRADITION

ROBERT COLLINS/UNSPLASH



A good environment for learning consists not only of structure, consistency, and character-forming opportunities, but also play.

Joy and a Moral Compass Are Imperative to Learning

Social distancing restrictions highlight the importance of relationships for kids

CATHERINE YANG

Months of distance learning, online schooling, ad-hoc homeschooling, and hybrid methods that began in the recent school year have shown that course material is far from the only thing that matters when it comes to learning.

Structure, consistency, character, and perhaps unsurprisingly, play, are also deeply necessary in creating a good environment for

“

Every day is about valuing the process of learning, not fixating on the product.

Andrew Cotten

learning, as many experienced teachers know.

Eighth-grade creative writing teacher Andrew Cotten says that despite the upheaval of normalcy this past year—from teaching online in the spring to a cautious new alternating schedule in the fall—certain principles that have served him well still hold true, although they may be more challenging right now.

“What works well and what will always work well,” he said, “is having a relationship with students. Being there for them ... see-

ing them as people, getting to know them.”

Relationship-building is hard with distance learning, though Cotten’s class had the benefit of already having gotten to know him and their peers earlier that year. But as students returned in the fall, holding each other at arm’s length and even, he said, carrying some trauma, it took a lot of time, grace, and effort on his part to work to foster trust and relationships.

Continued on Page 4

Chin Up! 4 Steps to Sanity in Crazy Times

ANNIE SPRATT/UNSPLASH

How to keep our spirits up and stay active in a year beset by pandemic, lockdowns, and riots

▶ Many parents who have been unhappy with the state of public schooling this year have opted for private schools or homeschooling.

JEFF MINICK

Recently, I emailed a friend in a disheartened mood about the new pandemic lockdowns, including more dictates from the governor here in Virginia, about the elections, and about the glum mood of our nation this holiday season.

Here is her reply: “Evil times, yes. But as a friend told me, we should be happy we live in these times. When else has the meaning of life been so clear? When else has standing up for truth been so important? This is the greatest adventure in a very long time.”

Coincidentally, during his homily the following Sunday, our priest counseled

against giving way to despair in dark times and referenced this exchange between the hobbit Frodo and the wizard Gandalf in “Lord of the Rings”:

Frodo: “I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had happened.”

Gandalf: “So do all who live to see such times, but that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us.”

As we near the end of this awful year of pandemic, lockdowns, riots, and election fraud, we delude ourselves if we believe that a change in the calendar will magically

Continued on Page 2





Would you like to support America's honest journalism at this critical moment?

Support Epoch, Donate Today

'Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost.'

— Thomas Jefferson

Yet America's free press is being limited today. Not by the government, but by special interests that decide what the people should and shouldn't know.

The Epoch Times has and will always be an independent voice. We don't answer to any shareholders, political party, or government. And we will always strive to report the facts as we see them without fear or favor, simply because it's the right thing to do—for us as a company, for you as citizens, and for our country as a democracy.

If you support our mission, we hope you will consider making a donation today.

In a time when people are telling us where not

to look, we want to find what they're trying to hide. In a time when our voice is being sidelined, we want to find new ways to get our news to more readers.

We promise to stretch every dollar you give to fight even harder for truth and tradition.

Together, we can defend the concept of a press that's accountable to the people, and with it, the freedoms we know and love.

Donate now and join us in this fight for America's future.

SupportEpoch.com

We're a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit; your donation is tax-deductible.

Yes, I'd like to donate!

- \$50 \$100 \$300
- \$500 \$1,000 Others: _____

Payment Method

- CREDIT CARD / DEBIT CARD:
 - VISA MC AMEX DISC
- CHECK \$ _____ # _____

CHECK PAYABLE TO The Epoch Times Association Inc.
MAIL CHECK TO Attn: Accounting Department
 229 W. 28th St., Fl. 7, New York, NY 10001
OR DONATE ONLINE SupportEpoch.com

THE EPOCH TIMES

YOUR BILLING INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____ PHONE _____
 ADDRESS _____ UNIT # _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 EMAIL _____
 CARD#* _____
 EXPIRATION _____ CVV _____ ZIP _____
 NAME ON CARD _____ SIGNATURE _____

*We use your credit card solely, and securely, for your donation. We do not share it with any third parties.

The Joy of Gifting

(From readers who gave the gift of The Epoch Times)

“It seemed **perfect for my husband's birthday**.
JENISE STEINMAN

“I find the articles very informative. My husband does not spend as much time online as I do, and I thought **this would be a good way to share the content of The Epoch Times with him**.
CONNIE BREDEMEIER

“**We love that we get unbiased, truthful information** that we cannot get anywhere else. I also love the different sections of paper, particularly the opinion section and articles about eastern medicine, homeschooling, family and health.
MICHAEL DILORENZO

“It gives more than news, which takes us away from politics and **gives us a variety of useful information—both for young and old**.
SAL BERMUDEZ

“**As young adults, my children need to be informed** with independent, unbiased news, and most of all, content for a traditional growing family.
JOSEPHINE STEINDL

“Good reporting. **The recipient is someone intelligent who appreciates all the work you do**.
CAROL ROGALA

“**I wanted them to find truth** which is hard to find elsewhere in writing. The mainstream media appears to ignore much of the truth if it does not fit their narrative.
MARY MELINDA ELKINS

“It is so refreshing to get unbiased news—and **actually get to form my own opinions**.
ERIN E DOTSETH

“I [...] and **thought it would be great for both of my sons who are always looking for truthful news**.
RICK ONOFER

“My brother enjoyed reading Epoch but **couldn't afford it, so I helped**.
ALICE CARR

“Your paper and reporting are one of only a few of true journalism outlets remaining. **People need the truth and every one of us needs to do our part to save this country**.
SHAWN HARTSFIELD



Give the gift of Truth & Tradition at [ReadEpoch.com/Gift](https://www.readepoch.com/gift)

THE EPOCH TIMES

TRUTH and TRADITION

HELP IS JUST A CLICK AWAY!

[TheEpochTimes.com/help](https://www.readepoch.com/help)



It's quick and easy! You will never have to wait again.

FROM THIS PAGE YOU CAN:

FIND ANSWERS FROM A COMPREHENSIVE FAQ SECTION

- Troubleshoot common problems
- Learn our terms and conditions

USE OUR CUSTOMER SERVICE LIVE CHAT

- Tell us your subscription inquiries or concerns

SUBMIT REQUESTS ONLINE*

- Report delivery and other subscription issues
- Provide editorial and other feedback

ACCESS THE CUSTOMER PORTAL

- Manage your subscription account

*Cancellations are processed on the hotline only.