

Senator William J. Larkin Jr.  
39<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
1093 Little Britain Road  
New Windsor, NY 12553

March 28, 2016

Dear Senator Larkin:

My name is Nicholas Longo and I am a Technology Education teacher for the past 17 years in the Valley Central School District in Montgomery, New York. The purpose of this letter is both to endorse and recommend VR Quest™ as an important learning tool for my students or any student. VR Quest™ is a learning program that uses the First Person Gaming in order to teach not only coding, but a variety of different subjects. By reaching across all of the academic disciplines students are encourage to see how all of their subjects can be applied to one activity. The skills fostered by VR Quest™ will carry our students into the 21st Century and beyond.

Often, “gaming” has a negative connotation, often tied to violence and poor behavior exhibited by the characters with in the game. Parents and teachers often see it as an escape or a time killer for our kids in which they are allowed to have an interactive experience wash over them. VR Quest™ takes this perception of “gaming” and turns it upside down. Students are actively engaged in the design process. The design process has far reaching academic success. Students will have to call on all of their academic skills in order to create an interactive experience that is both engaging and enriching. Math and science are heavily relied upon in the coding and the physics of the game play. The social sciences are also addressed in the development of the game environment in order to give the game a sense of realism and background. These skills are further enhanced by being tied into the CORE curriculums.

In the short time using this program with my students, it has been a wonderful experience. I have had students ask if they can have a copy of the software, so they could design games at home. That is the ultimate sign of success in any educational program, do the students want to do this on their own time. With VR Quest™, the answer is yes. If you would like any further information, or would if you would like to come to my classroom to see it in action I can be reached by email at: [Nicholas.longo@valleycentralschools.org](mailto:Nicholas.longo@valleycentralschools.org), or by phone at 845.457.2400 ext. 16318. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Nicholas Longo

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