

## **Classroom Interruption: A *Unique* American Tradition Can Students Develop “*Concentration*”?**

### **1891: W. W. Goodwin, Prof. Harvard Univ:**

Another evil, one peculiar to this country, but a most unnecessary one, is the constant interruption of study by calls of society and by a thousand other distractions which in other countries would never be allowed to break in upon study in school.

### **1929: A Classroom Teacher:**

I would not indict the intelligence of my readers by insisting that all of the interruptions I shall enumerate are likely to occur in one day. I do insist that all of them can occur in one day, that many of them do occur on many days and that we teachers are never free from the threat of any of them.

[Article: "What Makes Teachers Cranky," 1929]

### **1948, G. E. Carrothers, Prof., Michigan Univ:**

Cutting in on classes over the public address system to make announcements of all sorts and kinds at indiscriminate moments, thus interrupting every class discussion for a thing which may concern only one or two individuals.

[Article: "Are Our Children *Being Cheated?*" 1948]

### **1997 TIMSS\* Videoed Class-Room Study Report:**

\*TIMSS: The Third International Math & Science Study of 41 countries

“In contrast to new German and Japanese teachers, new U.S. teachers do not receive a long-term structured apprenticeship in their profession. Once on the job, they have fewer formal and informal opportunities to discuss and share teaching-related issues and questions. **School are managed in such a way that lessons are frequently interrupted by loudspeaker announcements or visitors at the door.**”

2004, Ask classroom teachers in your district to give their stories.

### **Q: “Are Our Children Being Cheated?”**

See File 2.