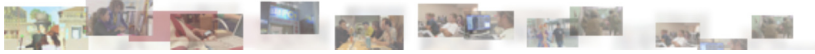




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## A chat with Obama's new Secretary of Education

July 14, 2009 \_ 13:16 / Rachel Dretzin / [comments \(4\)](#)



Yesterday morning I flew to DC to interview Obama's new Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan. Since there's still no confirmed Deputy Secretary of Education, we chatted in the Deputy's empty office next door to Duncan's own. Duncan's about my age (43) with a freshly scrubbed face that makes him look even younger. He surprised me right off the start with his enthusiastic endorsement of using

digital tools like video games and cellphones in the classroom. He's a pragmatist; his attitude is that kids are on this stuff all day anyway, so why not put them to educational use?

I knew that Duncan was a big believer in standardized assessments, but those didn't come up in our conversation. He came off as solidly on the side of those who think that schools need to move with kids instead of against them, and that means using the toys kids love—games and cellphones—to teach them, inside and outside the classroom walls.

Here's a brief excerpt from our conversation. We'll post the rest of the interview on this website in the next week or two.

- Rachel

### Comments

Was there any discussion about school choice and his positions on homeschooling, charter schools, or public virtual schools?

Online Homeschooler - John / July 19, 2009 \_ 20:17

We've been discussing cellphones as learning tools at Knox School Matters. <http://schoolmatters.knoxnews.com/forum/topics/teach-cell-phones-dont-ban> and <http://schoolmatters.knoxnews.com/forum/topics/let-them-cheat>

Doug McCaughan / July 23, 2009 \_ 17:27

### TOPICS

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### TWEETS

StephenBalkam: FOSI screening of Digital Nation w/Rachel Dretzin Q&A to follow this Thursday ([link »](#)) #dig\_nat - Tue, 23 Feb 2010 18:18:00 +0000

ozo: RT @cjkaminski: I cannot get over Sir Patrick Stewart talking about Twitter and Video Games. 2 minutes well spent. ([link »](#)) #dig\_nat - Tue, 23 Feb 2010 09:02:32 +0000

cjkaminski: I cannot get over Sir Patrick Stewart talking about Twitter and Video Games. 2 minutes well

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Ron Antinori / August 25, 2009 \_ 08:40

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spent. ([link »](#))  
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23 Feb 2010  
03:51:14 +0000

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great interview.

KRYSTIAN / September 04, 2009 \_ 10:34

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posted February 2, 2010

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