

The New York Times

Letters

The Different Way That Boys Learn

MAY 5, 2014



Re "[A Link Between Fidgety Boys and a Sputtering Economy](#)," by David Leonhardt (The Upshot, April 29):

To the Editor:

As headmaster for 26 years at the Browning School, an all-boys school founded in 1888 here in New York City, I believe that David Leonhardt may well take heart in the fact that some schools do acknowledge the profound differences between boys and girls.

At Browning, we are aware of the obvious distractions and learning styles and are dedicated to educating boys in such a way that they enjoy learning; in fact, they thrive.

As for the toughness Mr. Leonhardt believes is all too desirable a trait in the minds of boys who aspire to success, let me add that "grit" was one of our founder's favorite words and became our motto ("Grytte"). Grit is distinct from overbearing "macho" masculinity.

Rather than emphasizing the need to be gruffly assertive, we have chosen instead to stress that failing is part of the learning process and that anything worth having is worth working hard for.

STEPHEN M. CLEMENT III
New York, April 29, 2014