

## Text-message assignment pushes parents' buttons

BY SUSAN SCHROCK, Monday, Sep 10, 2007

GRAND PRAIRIE -- Some parents are not ROFL -- Rolling On the Floor Laughing -- about a Grand Prairie math teacher's assignment asking his sixth-grade class to decode popular, and sometimes lewd, text-messaging abbreviations.

The teacher at Jackson Middle School was disciplined this week after a mother called to complain about a Web site the teacher told her daughter and other students to use for the assignment, district spokesman Sam Buchmeyer said.

The site, [www.netlingo.com](http://www.netlingo.com), includes the abbreviations POS (Parents Over Shoulder), TDTM (Talk Dirty To Me) and GYPO (Get Your Pants Off).

"It was just an activity that he thought would be engaging for his students," said Buchmeyer, who added that the assignment was not part of the district's approved curriculum. Some of the Web site's material, he said, "has been deemed inappropriate."

The teacher and principal have apologized to the parent who complained, Buchmeyer said.

Other parents from Grand Prairie, Arlington and Irving have contacted the district this week with concerns, some calling for the teacher to be fired, Buchmeyer said. Others said the assignment has sparked an important dialogue between parents and their children about inappropriate text messages. The Web site outlines 70 abbreviations it says parents should know.

The teacher was not fired.

"He didn't think through it. He admitted he made a mistake," Buchmeyer said.

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