

Teachers Concerned as Student Achievement Declines

STUDENT NAME

Toronto Catholic District School Board teachers are worried about students as cell phone usage during class begins to take a toll on their marks.

According to a recent study conducted by the University of Toronto, grades have dropped by fourteen percent since students began texting in class. School board officials are convinced that this correlation will continue to be evident in future years. "We understand that teenagers like to socialize," assures Geoffrey Carter, chairman of the TCDSB, "and it is for that reason that they are allowed forty minutes for lunch. There is no rationalization for their texting during fundamental lectures."

Teachers claim that they have been trying hard to bring this significant issue to an end, but their efforts have so far been ignored. "We do our best to make the curriculum interesting, but the students simply will not pay attention!" exclaims Lisa Sutherland, history teacher at Bishop Allen Academy in Etobicoke.



Students using their cell phones during a lesson.

Despite their falling marks, students are rebelling on the issue. "I get bored during lessons," says Romero Diaz, Bishop Allen student, "so I text my friends to make class more exciting. It's not like I'm actually going to need to know any of this stuff later on in life."

Although students remain unfazed by their declining grades, parents appear just as troubled as teachers. "My daughter used to bring home straight-As," claims Carol Palmer, mother of a now failing student, "but she no longer shows me any of her tests. I noticed this beginning to happen just around the time that I got her a cell phone, and I am

beginning to regret buying her one."

Though many link the plummeting marks to cell phone usage, providers are certain that they are not to be blamed. "We have been selling mobile phones to the public

since 1990," reminds Neil Jones, spokesman for Rogers Wireless, "and never has this been an issue. We simply provide the students with a way to contact their parents in an emergency. It is not our responsibility to control the specific times at which they use their phones."

In an effort to bring this predicament to an end, the school board has begun negotiations with data providers across Canada. Officials have been requesting that reception be inaccessible within school zones. It is not expected that they will reach an agreement any time soon, however, as many companies are concerned that this will lead to a major loss in business.