Urgent Warning: Teacher Communications

Teachers are entering a new era where the dangers are as great as they have ever been. At PEI we want to ensure teachers do everything they can to protect themselves and their career. One topic of great importance is exercising caution when it comes to teacher communications with students, particularly electronic communications. For example, teachers have been sanctioned for friendly personal communications to out-of-state students. As another example, communicating with students through social media platforms such as Instagram has contributed to reprimand or suspension.

Written communications pose the greatest risk. For starters, these communications will last forever and can be the basis of disciplinary action years after the fact. Many written communications can be a matter of public record. The nature of written communication is that the intended message can be lost in translation. Written words can lose important context clues such as tone of voice or general levity. To protect themselves, teachers should imagine how a written communication might look out of context to the general public.

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Thinking about completing your master’s degree? Mount Mercy University’s Master of Arts in Education (MAEd) program prepares students to become distinguished leaders in education by utilizing dynamic and interactive learning approaches in a collaborative setting. MMU is located in Cedar Rapids, IA but offers online (live) courses to advance your career to the next level!

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- Effective Teaching
- English as a Second Language
- Reading
- Special Education
- Teacher Leadership

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For more information, contact admission recruiter Brooke Waldron at bwaldron@mtmercy.edu or 319.363.1323 ext. 1865.

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