



## A Message from the Desk of

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### PARENT ALERT – SEXTING

I do not like having to address the subject of this week's article. But parents need to be fully aware of **the newest teen fad** sweeping across the nation that is landing some teens and young adults in serious trouble.

**Sexting** is a combination of sex and texting, coined to describe the use of email or text messaging to send explicit photos of themselves or other teens to someone else.

**Federal and state laws** both state that anyone sending or receiving such suggestive photos or videos of a person under the age of 18 may be guilty of possession, distribution and production of child pornography.

**Sexting has grown into a very acceptable** activity amongst teens and young adults. The first study of this activity has recently revealed some shocking results. As many as 22% of the 13-19 year old girls surveyed admitted they had sent nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves into cyberspace. Boys came in at the slightly lower rate of 18%.

The number of young people sending sexually suggestive messages was

even larger: 37% of the girls and 40% of the boys. A whopping 48% said they had received such messages.

**Although most of these messages** were sent to a boyfriend or girlfriend, the study found that many teens were also sending these photos to individuals that they were merely interested in dating or, most dangerous of all, to people they have only met online.

**Sexting began as a form of cyber flirting,** and has grown into something with serious consequences for many teens across the country.

**Teens often do not stop and think** about the consequences of their actions. Something launched into cyberspace can stay there forever. The results can be devastating.

**Parents, talk to your teens about sexting.** Warn them of the dangers. Monitor their cell phone activities. Sexting destroys reputations – and lives. *(This information was gathered from michaelk08, a practicing attorney and criminal lawyer, on squidoo.com)*

Thank you for your time and support. go to: [www.claycountyschools.org](http://www.claycountyschools.org)

