



Dear Parents and/or Legal Guardians,

As stated by Greg Abbott, Attorney General of Texas, a disturbing new practice known as sexting has become increasingly common among teenage children. This term is used to describe sending or receiving sexually explicit images via mobile telephones. When sexting involves images of minors it can become an issue for law enforcement, because sending or receiving sexually explicit images of persons under the age of 17 can constitute the promotion of child pornography. With the passage of Senate Bill 407 on June 17, 2011, every Texas school district must make sexting-prevention programs available on a yearly basis. However, school districts have the flexibility to determine how to distribute sexting-prevention information to parents and students. The districts are also given discretion to determine which grade-levels should be required to participate. The Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC), in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, has been called to develop programs that address the dangers and consequences of sexting, as well as the related issues of bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, and sexting. These educational programs are now available online at <http://www.txssc.txstate.edu/k12/sexting>.

Strong partnerships with parents have always been part of the University Academy model of education. We believe that parents should have the opportunity to decide when and to what degree their children are educated in topics such as sexting, bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, etc... Holding true to this we would like to make the above sexting-prevention online educational program available to the parents of all University Academy students. We strongly encourage you to preview the online program before leading your children through it, if you choose to do so.

As always we appreciate your continued support of the University Academy and the partnership we have in educating your child!

Sincerely,

University Academy Administration