Perry A. Zirkel, COURTSIDE***:*** MySpace?, *Phi Delta Kappan*, Vol. 90,

No. 05, January 2008, pp. 388-389. Retrieved from <http://www.pdkmembers.org/members_online/publications/Archive/pdf/k0901zir.pdf>

I read an article based on the court case Spanierman v. Hughes. I chose the article, ***MySpace?*** by Perry Zirkel because of the impact social media is currently playing in education today and more specifically the impact social media and online multimedia outlets play in my classroom. The teacher involved in the case used MySpace as a communication outlet with his students and also his personal life without separation. When he was reprimanded by his administration and the district he filed suit in federal court, claiming the school system had violated his Fourteenth Amendment rights of procedural due process, substantive due process, and equal protection and his First Amendment freedoms of expression and association. The result was the teacher was fired and lost all of his suits against the district because communicating with students in a non-educational setting is not allowed.

I agree with the outcome of this particular case because every online social site isn’t the place to blend school and personal environments. Everything one says to “friends” should be communicated to students (children) and ethics should play a vital role when utilizing social media websites.

This article hits home with me, as an educator, because today, just about everyone has some connection to a social media outlet, Facebook, Twitter, etc. and as a teacher this can become a dangerous place for communicating with anyone. Personally, I do have accounts on several social media sites but would never accept or open communications with my students. There is a fine line that shouldn’t be crossed when any type of communication is made with students and more importantly, there are appropriate places to communicate with students online that are approved by parents (first) and the district you work for. As a teacher, in Aldine ISD, as in many school districts in United States, must sign ethics contracts the abides by state and federal laws about using social media sites with students. Before communicating online, get approval from your district or administration.

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