

# Student faces charge for sexting

By Mary Orr

Published: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 4:00 PM PDT

A St. Maries High School student could be facing felony charges.

In the past two years there have been two “sexting” incidents at the school.

“I don’t have a term for it really,” St. Maries High School principal John Cordell said. “They are sending nude photos back and forth through messaging on their cell phones. It’s becoming more and more common, which is scary.”

Both incidents were discovered after students’ phones were confiscated because they were being used during class time. Afterwards a student came into the office to inform administrators that there were inappropriate photos of another student on the phone that were being shown during class.

“We’ve had it happen twice involving four students in the last two years,” Mr. Cordell said. “It’s also happened at the junior high recently.”

When students report these incidents, administrators refer them to law enforcement. The most recent incident occurred two weeks ago.

“These are potential felonies,” Mr. Cordell said. “What the law says on this is pretty serious.”

The students involved are unaware of the seriousness of the situation, Mr. Cordell said. He urges parents to be more aware of the issue and to check their child’s phone if they are suspicious.

“I have teenagers and I consider their phones mine; I pay the bill,” he said. “If there was ever a question or if I was concerned because I had reason to believe something was happening I would check theirs.”

School district rules restrict cell phone use only during class time.