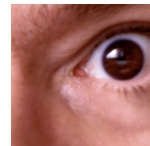


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Student accused in grades alteration

Park Forest teenager faces felony charge

By Tom Rybarczyk
Tribune staff reporter

July 7, 2006

A Rich East High School sophomore is facing criminal charges after having been accused of erasing his English teacher's grades and other records and loading dirty pictures onto her computer device.

John E. Porter, 17, of Park Forest stole the teacher's computer flash drive during class in late May, prosecutors said. He then disappeared into the school's computer lab where he wiped grades, final exam questions and attendance records from the drive, officials said.

When the teacher discovered her flash drive was missing, she asked members of her class if anyone had taken it, said Cook County state's attorney's office spokeswoman Marcy Jensen.

By the time the teacher found Porter in the lab, "all the rosters and grades were replaced with pornographic images," Jensen said.


Porter is charged with computer tampering, a class 4 felony that carries between one to three years in prison if convicted, prosecutors said. He is also charged with misdemeanor theft.

He has been released on a recognizance bond, according to records. Porter appeared in court Thursday for a preliminary hearing at which a Park Forest police officer described how the teen allegedly corrupted the teacher's file.


Assistant Principal Patrick Keeley confirmed the police and prosecutor's account. He did not know what disciplinary action the school took against Porter.

The school takes precautions aimed at making sure students cannot access inappropriate Web sites, he said. "We always have a number of guards on

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our computers," Keeley said. "But kids are getting pretty good these days."

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