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TEACHERS CALL 1,400 STUDENTS IN ONE NIGHT

Los Angeles, CA – Teachers completed a seemingly impossible feat at Henry T. Gage Middle School on July 12, 2006: they sent home 1,400 different messages to the parents of 1,400 students. The messages regarded each student’s behavior in class, attendance, grade progress, and achievement, and were delivered in students’ home language.

Each teacher spent only seconds on each call, and only a few of the teachers spoke more than one language. This was accomplished through an innovative new communication tool called TeleParent that uses an easy-to-use online interface that allows teachers to create messages and send them in any language without ever picking up a phone.

With over 3,800 students, Gage Middle School is one of the largest middle schools in the country. Averaging over 1,000 unique calls sent home to students each night, Gage is one of the most active users of the TeleParent system.

During a survey conducted in December 2005, almost 100% of the teachers surveyed said that they would recommend TeleParent to other educators. When asked about the most beneficial features of the system, 68% said the ease and speed of use while another 27% said the ability to modify student behavior by sending calls home.

English Teacher K. Farhat stated, “Students improve behavior and a lot more students turn in homework and pass their tests.” Sixth grade teacher M. Calhoun also said the system generates more parent contacts, while ESL instructor Mr. Doerr stated, “I noticed behavior changes with some students – changes for the better.”

The improvements in student behavior, grades, and attendance can be attributed to an increase in parental involvement. TeleParent believes that through efficient, specific notification, parents can provide the instruction needed outside the classroom to help them succeed. Also, when parents are more involved in discipline and encouragement, teachers can spend more time teaching in the classroom.

The TeleParent system is currently being utilized in many schools in and around Los Angeles, sending messages home to over 150,000 students in Southern California alone. Schools such as Garfield High School, Crenshaw High School, and King Middle School, as well as dozens more in Los Angeles, are also benefiting from the system.

For further information, go to www.teleparent.net.

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