

Students use Facebook to protest teacher's ouster

Heidi Schlumpf | Oct. 15, 2009 NCR Today

After a popular teacher was [abruptly pulled from the classroom](#) [1], students at Chicago's Brother Rice High School organized a sit-in. But when that '60s-era protest method was scuttled by school officials, the students turned to Facebook.

Christian Brother Patrick B. Martin, a popular math teacher at Brother Rice, was transferred in late September, according Brother Rice president Brother Karl Walczak. "Nothing illegal has taken place," he told the [Southtown Star](#) [2].

Calling the reassignment a personnel matter, the school has remained close-lipped. But that hasn't stopped students from talking--primarily on the Internet.

Facebook groups like "Bring Back Bro. Martin" (almost 700 members) and "We want Bro. Martin" (450 members) are filled with posts by current students and alumni from all over the country praising the inspirational teacher and speculating about why he left, including rumors of possible health problems.

Proving once again that social media give a voice to people that those in power would rather keep quiet.

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[1] <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1823889,101409rice.article>

[2] <http://www.southtownstar.com/index.html>