

= Grade School Confidential =

" Grade School Confidential " is the nineteenth episode of The Simpsons ' eighth season . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 6 , 1997 . It was written by Rachel Pulido and directed by Susie Dietter . The episode establishes the long @-@ term relationship between Seymour Skinner and Edna Krabappel . Bart witnesses a romantic moment between Principal Skinner and Mrs. Krabappel and acts as a snitch for them . However , they later embarrass him and he exposes their romance to the public .

= = Plot = =

Martin Prince invites his classmates to his birthday party , but the event turns out to be incredibly boring . To cap off the poorly received party , things come to an abrupt end when everyone becomes ill with food poisoning thanks to Martin 's parents serving diseased oysters instead of cake . In the meantime , Principal Seymour Skinner and Edna Krabappel attend and have a conversation which leads to them discovering that they have romantic feelings for each other . They end up kissing in Martin 's pink playhouse in an act witnessed by Bart Simpson , who did not get food poisoning since he fed his oysters to Martin 's cat along with Lisa who feigns sickness so she could leave without excuse .

Bart plans to reveal what he witnessed , but Seymour and Edna fear that they would be fired if anyone found out and they swear him to secrecy . They hire him as their gofer so they can secretly exchange messages . Bart agrees for a while because the reward for his cooperation is that Milhouse will inherit Bart 's poor school record . Eventually , Bart grows frustrated about his home , school and social life continually being interrupted to help them advance their relationship , putting him in embarrassing situations . One afternoon at school , after he is embarrassed in front of his classmates by having to say one of Seymour 's messages to Edna out loud , Bart bitterly gathers the entire school in front of a janitor 's closet and he opens the door to reveal that Seymour and Edna are making out .

Word of Seymour and Edna 's relationship quickly spreads throughout Springfield , with the story growing more illicit and exaggerated with each passing turn by the children . An appalled Chief Wiggum , upon hearing his son Ralph 's less than accurate version of the events , alerts Superintendent Chalmers . Chalmers gives Seymour an ultimatum ? end the relationship or have both of them face dismissal . Seymour decides that love is stronger than his professional goals , so Chalmers fires him and Edna , expecting them to leave the school at the end of the day .

Bart learns that the couple have lost their jobs and feels remorseful . After Seymour apologizes to Bart for embarrassing him , Bart encourages the former principal to stand up for himself and Edna . Agreeing to Bart 's comment , Seymour and Edna lock down the school , call the media ( with Bart 's help ) and make their demands : They want their jobs back and the townspeople to not interfere with their relationship . However , several residents reply with their accusation about the two having sexual intercourse in the janitor 's closet described by their children . Seymour insists nothing of the sort happened and that he is a virgin . At first , everyone is speechless , but being on the basis of being such an embarrassing thing for someone his age to admit , it has to be true for them . Realizing that they have overreacted over the relationship , the residents peacefully leave , believing that no one can pretend to be a 44 @-@ year @-@ old virgin . Chalmers agrees to reinstate Seymour and Edna as though nothing ever happened , but insists that they keep their relationship at a minimum level during school days . The couple decide to continue their relationship more privately than ever by convincing Bart that they have broken up after thanking him for helping them . They then go back into their relationship and enter the janitor 's closet where they continue kissing .

= = Production = =

The idea of Skinner and Krabappel becoming a couple had been around since the days when Mike Reiss and Al Jean were show runners . The episode 's writer Rachel Pulido took some of the

inspiration for this episode from " Bart the Lover " , specifically Mrs. Krabappel 's line to Bart about refusing to date Principal Skinner because , " his mommy won 't let him out to play " . The Mathmagician is based on Bill Gates . The cakes in Agnes Skinner 's cake book were designed to accurately resemble the real life versions of them . Homer using his megaphone to talk to Marge and Lisa , who were standing next to him , was ad @-@ libbed by Dan Castellana . A deleted scene featured an awkward moment at Martin 's party , between Bart , Milhouse and Martin , when the latter introduces the two to his parents .

= = Cultural references = =

The central argument of this episode was inspired by the film *The Children 's Hour* , starring Audrey Hepburn and Shirley MacLaine , in which two teachers was accused to have a lesbian relationship , starting a conflict between the teachers and the education community .

Mrs. Krabappel has a candle which resembles Charlie Brown , a character from *Peanuts* . At the Aztec theater , a movie by Tom Berenger was played . It is implied by Superintendent Chalmers ' comment " You think they actually filmed this in Atlanta ? " and from the commentary that the movie is *The Big Chill* . In trying to force Edna and Seymour out of the school , the Springfield police attempts to flood the area with music . This is similar to a tactic that the US troops used during Operation Just Cause in an attempt to force Manuel Noriega out of the Vatican embassy in Panama City . However , in this case , romance @-@ themed music was played , which was " *Embraceable You* " by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin . Edna and Seymour 's dance poses were taken from Orlando Baeza , who was the assistant director for this episode .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " *Grade School Confidential* " finished 57th in ratings for the week of March 31 - April 6 , 1997 , with a Nielsen rating of 7 @.@ 7 , equivalent to approximately 7 @.@ 5 million viewing households . It was the fifth highest @-@ rated show on the Fox network that week , following *The X @-@ Files* , *Party of Five* , *Beverly Hills , 90210* and *Melrose Place* .

The authors of the book *I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide* , Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , called it " A delightful episode that finally brings to fruition one of the series ' longest running gags : Edna and Seymour 's mutual attraction . What is doubly refreshing is that it remains a constant in the subsequent episodes . " The scene in which Agnes Skinner shows Bart her cake book is one of Matt Groening 's all @-@ time favorite scenes .