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October 7, 2016

Dear Oak Grove Staff and Community:

I wanted to make you aware of an issue (in case you haven't heard) that continues to spread throughout social media outlets and the news. The "creepy clown" or "clowning" phenomenon has been an issue in other parts of the country and we're beginning to hear stories of concerns in other Bay Area locations and in Southern California. "Clowning" includes dressing up as a scary clown and frightening or harassing people. The definition is very vague and can include a wide range of threats from minor to serious.

Below is a link to a story published recently in the *DA Daily* (District Administration) about the issue in other states:

<https://pjmedia.com/trending/2016/20/03/clown-update-schools-in-several-states-threatened-clown-shot-in-indiana-as-craze-spreads/>

We are not aware of any incidences in Oak Grove School District; however, we are aware this topic is being discussed by many students. Should we be informed of any incidents, we will work with our local authorities to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and community.

It is unfortunate that social media is being used to promote such disruptive behavior. As relayed by other school districts, there have been students spreading this rumor by posting Instagram and Facebook comments that have been perceived as threatening. Please remind your student that making a social media post that threatens a school and/or student is considered a serious offense.

With Halloween approaching, this is an excellent opportunity to talk with your student about safety. Due to this newest phenomenon, we will not allow any clown costumes, any costumes that disguise the identity of the student, nor any play weapons. Children should always walk with others (parents or friends), they should not talk to individuals they do not know, especially individuals in full costume, and they should always let a parent or family member know where they are at all times.

We appreciate our community for being vigilant and helping our District as we work together to be informed and mindful of events that may be topics of discussion for our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our students and our schools.

Sincerely,

José L. Manzo  
Superintendent

José L. Manzo, Superintendent  
Board of Trustees: Jacquelyn Adams, Carolyn Bauer, Dennis Hawkins, Jeremy Nishihara, Mary Noel  
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**Our mission . . . "to ensure that every child's potential is achieved."**

