



District Admin Office
629 Easy Street
Brookings, OR 97415
541 469-7443
Fax 541 469-6599
www.brookings.k12.or.us

‘Creepy clown’ rumors reach Oregon schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 2 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6, 2016

Brookings-Harbor School District is not immune to the spread of “creepy clown” rumors disrupting schools and city policing across the country, after a spate of false reports and rumors spread online.

The school district takes any threat of violence seriously, no matter how outrageous. District administrators are investigating any student involvement in accordance with board policy and are working with law enforcement to ensure our schools are safe.

Any individuals wearing clown costumes or spreading clown rumors as a “prank” will not be tolerated on district property and will be disciplined under District Code JFCM for threats of violence.

The clown rumors began this summer in South Carolina and have spread quickly via social media to other regions of the country. The rumor is that people dressed as clowns will be coming to local schools to do harm to students. This rumor is the result of people reposting or sharing previous posts, and creating false social media profiles in order to post copy-cat messages to scare others.

In most cases, police are unable to confirm "clown sightings" or any legitimate threats. In a few cases, individuals dressing as clowns to perpetuate these rumors have been arrested. As of this press release, there has not been any reported clown sightings in Brookings.

If you come across posts such as these, or hear people saying there are threats meant for one or more of our schools in Brookings, please do not be alarmed as they are most likely not truthful. If school administrators become aware of evidence for any specific threats to our community, students and parents will be alerted right away.

You can help by not sharing these rumors, providing facts if you hear people talking about rumors and by easing the fears of students who may be concerned about threats.

If you believe you have information related to a “creepy clown” incident at our school district or about any person or persons spreading malicious rumors to threaten students, please contact the District Office at 541-469-7443. For emergencies, please call police at 9-11.

District code JFCM: Threats of Violence: <http://policy.osba.org/brookings/J/JFCM%20D1.PDF>