

## FROM THE DESK OF PAUL K. SHEPICH

---

SUPERINTENDENT – CLARENCEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dear Clarenceville School District Families,

This communication is to inform you of a rumor that began yesterday, Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, concerning a “clown sighting” at Clarenceville Middle School. This rumor is **completely FALSE**.

This morning I was informed that radio station WWJ reported that there was a “clown sighting” at Clarenceville Middle School yesterday. It went on to say that the clown was sighted walking the track at the football stadium. WWJ did not get a “tip” on this sighting but rather took it from social media (Facebook) and reported it as “news.” I have spoken with the news director for WWJ and he has agreed to report on air that indeed the rumors of a clown sighting at Clarenceville Middle School yesterday was just that, a social media “rumor” with no validation.

You may be aware that there have been rumored sightings and encounters with “clowns” reported in recent days by many school districts and communities across Michigan and the country. I encourage all community members to report anything out of the ordinary to our local law enforcement agencies.

Due to this phenomenon concerning clown sightings I would ask that all parents take this opportunity to talk with your children about the seriousness of making false reports, spreading inaccurate information, and/or dressing up like a clown as a joke. These types of actions can cause undue fear and can lead to unintended consequences that are dangerous.

Additionally, this would be another good time to speak with your children regarding talking to or approaching strangers of any type while walking to and from school. Reinforcing these safe practices will go a long way towards keeping all of our students safe. The Clarenceville School District feels it is important for every student to feel safe in our schools and would greatly appreciate parents supporting safety by discussing the above points with your children.

The Clarenceville School District is committed to working together with our parents, our police agencies, our schools, and our community to ensure a safe learning environment for all of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

*Paul K. Shepich*

Paul K. Shepich

Superintendent

**Energize leaders...Empower teachers...Engage students...Enlighten community**