



# School City of Mishawaka

*Equipping Students to Excel*

October 7, 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The safety and security of your student(s) is a top priority within School City of Mishawaka. As you may know, recently there has been an uptick in social media postings pertaining to clowns and threats of attacks on schools throughout the country. A regularly scheduled lockdown drill at John Young Middle School on Tuesday, October 4 was a drill and is in no way related to these clown-related threats. Reports contrary to this fact are false.

The most specific and targeted threat from #WeNotClowninAround states: ***"We will be at all High schools this Friday to either kidnapp (sic) students or kill teachers going to they cars ..."***

It is very important to note that local, state and national law enforcement agencies do not believe this to be a credible threat. Instead, it is likely to be a hoax taking advantage of the national fear revolving around these alleged attacks.

Though the social media threats have not been substantiated in any way, School City of Mishawaka will respond in the following manner:

1. All School City of Mishawaka Schools will operate during their normal business hours on Friday, October 7, 2016.
2. Parents / Guardians wanting to keep their students at home due to the threat are, at their discretion, allowed to do so without attendance penalty. School City of Mishawaka requests that any parent / guardian wishing to exercise this right call the school directly to inform the school of your student(s) absence. The absence will be considered excused.
3. Mishawaka Police Department will maintain their regular SRO presence in all of our schools. In addition, the Mishawaka Police Department has agreed to increase its presence and patrols around Mishawaka High School and John Young Middle School.

In closing, School City of Mishawaka is fortunate to have unparalleled support with the Mishawaka Police Department and the Mishawaka Community. School City of Mishawaka appreciates your trust and looks to fulfill our obligation in making your student's learning environment safe.

If you have further questions pertaining to the matter, please contact the School City of Mishawaka Administrative Center. If you see suspicious activity, please contact the Mishawaka Police Department.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore A. Stevens  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

## **Administrative Center**

1402 South Main Street • Mishawaka, IN 46544-5297 • phone [574] 254-4500 • fax [574] 254-4585