

Johnie Matthews
Superintendent
541-937-5095
jmatthews@lowell.k12.or.us

LANE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 71
Lowell/Fall Creek
www.lowell.k12.or.us

Jessica Edgerton
Principal of Lundy Elementary
541-937-2105
jedgerton@lowell.k12.or.us

Kay Graham
Director of Curriculum and
Instruction
Secondary Principal
541-937-2124
kgraham@lowell.k12.or.us



Amber Hansen
Director of Special Education
and Student Support Services
541-937-2124
ahansen@lowell.k12.or.us

November 13, 2019

Dear Lowell families and community members,

Understanding parents' rights and need for timely and accurate information about student safety, we want to update you on the incident that occurred involving the Lowell School District.

Last night, a former Lowell student was taken into custody for allegedly making threats towards our high school principal. While many versions of the incident have circulated throughout our community, we want to share as much as we are able to with you.

This former student allegedly spoke to current students as well as texted and posted to social media sites earlier this week. He indicated that he was mad at our principal and blamed her for issues in his life. While some of the information shared in the community was accurate, there were also rumors. As soon as our staff were made aware of the threat, we began an investigation, questioned staff and students, and monitored social media. At the same time, community members contacted law enforcement and voiced concerns regarding what was being circulated among the students. With the information gathered, the school district sought the assistance and guidance of the Lane County Sheriff's Department. Because it was determined that he had indeed made these threats, he was taken into custody without incident, and lodged until his release to return to his residence in California.

The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. Should we find that there is a credible threat or continued threat, we will work with law enforcement to protect any adult or child in our district. We will never hold school or continue with our routine if we feel that in doing so will put our students or staff in harm's way.

We are continuing to make changes to our district, our policies and our procedures to ensure the safety of our students. As you all know, we are in the middle of construction to make our buildings more safe and secure. We are in the process of updating or have updated our entry systems, adding locked doors, changing our locks, installing perimeter fencing, implementing a badge system, and increasing training and support. This also includes immediate response with push button lock downs. We are also working to enroll our school in the SafeOregon program to give students, community members, and staff a place to report rumors, threats, bullying or unsafe situations.

We ask your support in the following ways:

- Talk frequently with your children about what they are hearing and seeing on the news, at school or in the community.
- Discuss with them the seriousness of bullying, threats and violence.
- Encourage them to report any suspicious activity to a trusted adult at school, or to you. You may call Lowell HS at 541.937.2124, Lundy Elementary at 541.937.2105 or contact SafeOregon at SafeOregon.com, tip@safeoregon.com or call or text 844.4.SAFE.OR (844.472.3367)

If you have any further questions, please feel free to call my office or the school principals. Thank you for your support and assistance in keeping our campus safe for everyone.

Sincerely,

Johnie Matthews,
Superintendent of Lowell School District

Lundy Elementary
45 South Moss Street
Lowell, OR 97452
541-937-2105

Dedicated to educational
achievement and the success
of every student

Lowell Jr/Sr High
65 South Pioneer Street
Lowell, OR 97452
541-937-2124