DENVER SCHOOL of the ARTS

From the Office of the Principal

DSA Families,

Halloween is quickly approaching and the administration wants to remind students about a few safety reminders when wearing costumes on this special day at DSA. Student faces must be visible when in the building, and in class. Fake replica weapons should not be a part of costumes. Costumes should also be appropriate for a $6^{th} - 12^{th}$ grade setting. In addition, with the recent rash of incidents across the country we are asking that students not wear any clown costumes, clown masks, or clown make-up. Below is a policy recently enacted by Denver Public Schools. We ask that you honor this policy for the safety and well being of our staff and students.

Concerns Prompt Clown Costume, Makeup Ban

DPS is one of several school districts across the country taking the precaution of banning all clown masks and makeup from our school, school grounds and athletic facilities during this Halloween season. A number of Colorado schools <u>have reported online threats</u> of violence by clowns in recent weeks.

Our Department of Safety has been working with Denver police to investigate all reports of suspicious activity. At this time, there are no credible threats in DPS; however, the anxiety and fear are real. Because safety is our priority, the district is banning all clown masks and clown makeup. Our hope is that this effort also minimizes any concerns about this issue that our students, families and educators may have.

Sincerely,

William M Kohnt

William M. Kohut, Principal