



ORTING

School District #344

121 Whitesell ST NE
Orting, WA 98360-8410
Phone: 360-893-6500

June 17, 2019

Dear Families,

The safety of our students is of the highest priority. Whenever we receive information that impacts student safety or well-being, we immediately investigate. With serious allegations we coordinate with an independent outside investigator, as well as the Orting Police Department for any alleged criminal behavior. We also follow [Board Policy](#) and [Procedure](#) 3205, Sexual Harassment of Students Prohibited, to ensure appropriate action is taken.

A former student recently shared a claim from 12 years ago of alleged sexual misconduct in our district by a staff member. Upon learning of this allegation, we promptly contacted our attorney and an experienced outside investigator. Upon conclusion of the investigation, we were unable to determine on a more likely than not basis that the conduct occurred as alleged. We also consulted with the police department and learned that, due to the length of time since the claimed conduct occurred, they could not move it forward.

We care deeply for our students and want them to feel safe and supported. We encourage our students, families and community members to promptly report any incidents of misconduct to a trusted adult so that we can take immediate action. Our counselors, teachers and administrators are always here to listen and, if needed, can provide a list of community resources to assist. We also offer anonymous online reporting through Safe Schools at <https://orting-wa.safeschoolsalert.com/>. Families can help us by reinforcing this message of “see something, say something” at home.

Sincerely,


Dr. Marci Shepard
Superintendent