



# YEARLING MIDDLE SCHOOL

925 N.W. 23rd Lane Okeechobee, FL 34972-1997

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Andy Brewer, Principal • Kim Markham, Assistant Principal

Dear Rich & Jeffery,

1/15/2014

First of all, I want to offer the two of you an apology for having to leave the tepid, January breezes of South Florida to return to the low teens of Tennessee; just know that you are welcome to our neck of the woods anytime!

There seems to be some hesitancy by many administrators to allow guest speakers like Jeffery Dean to come into their schools due to his Christian Faith. Although we consider ourselves Christians here at our school, I don't believe anyone should fret about Jeffery's message crossing any invisible lines. Over the years, our school has allowed numerous guest speakers to address our student body about things such as 'Bullying', 'Drug Use', and 'Suicide'. Something Jeffery touched on during his visit, in addition to those things, was *personal relationships*. As the Dean of Students, I have to deal with behavior problems associated with personal relationships on a daily basis. Those difficulties might include Boyfriend/Girlfriend issues, Student/Teacher conflicts, even Parent/Child situations. When we reduce it all down to the actual *reasons* for what causes a lot of our discipline issues in school, as well as some of the aforementioned problems that students face, I would say that bad relationships rank towards the top. Accolades to you for addressing this issue and sharing it with us.

Please know that Yearling Middle School appreciates your visit to us and it was a sincere pleasure meeting the two of you. Based on the 'buzz' coming from the students afterwards, we know that you had a positive impact on our kids.

Sincerely,

Brent Stuart

Dean of Students

Yearling Middle School