



**LAKELAND
COPPER BEECH
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Robert S. Bergmann
Principal
Marc Casey
Grade 6 Assistant Principal
Donna Bolner
Grade 7 Assistant Principal
Frank Ruolo
Grade 8 Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

On a day to day basis, our students are faced with more and more challenges. These are not just academic, they involve the increasing social pressures that students are much too young to fully process or address on their own. Some of these pressures include alcohol, drug use, opioid abuse, smoking, vaping, bullying, peer pressure and the proper use of social media. Middle School students, in the process of maturing, need our guidance now more than ever.

This is why we are excited to inform you that beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, all of our 8th grade students will be participating in the DARE program. Detective Finn from the Yorktown Police Department will collaborate with our Health teachers, Ms. Barone and Ms. Bloom to educate students about the specific issues discussed above in a manner that will meet their needs. The program will rotate across the grade, and take place on a weekly basis in Health classes. We believe that 8th grade students will likely see greater benefit from this program since they are further along in the maturation process and need these skills as they transition on to high school.

I would like to thank Town of Cortlandt and Linda Puglisi, the Town of Yorktown and Michael Grace, Chief Robert Noble from the Yorktown Police Department and Dr. George Stone for their collaborative efforts to make this program a reality in our 8th grade. The idea to move the program to 8th grade began with a need brought to the attention of the Yorktown Police Department and the leadership mentioned above worked diligently to make this happen. Finally, I would also like to thank you in advance for your support of this initiative. As always, if you have any questions, please contact our Main Office.

All the Best,

Robert S. Bergmann
Principal