



York School District One

YORK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
1280 Johnson Road
York, South Carolina 29745
Phone: 803/684-5008

May 19, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude to Ken Freeman for volunteering to speak at our school. He stepped into our lives at a time our students needed to hear his message on making the right "choices". YJHS has over 800 students in the 8th and 9th grade. He gladly talked to each grade.

He walked into a gymnasium of 9th grade students with no visual aides...nothing that jumped or twirled or made sound. He only had a microphone and that didn't work very well so he put it down and approached the kids. His message was so funny at first that they fell hard and laughed a lot. He was serious when one's attention turned to the person beside him. He was quick to bring that forward, gave him a choice and brought him in line. After that point he stated his purpose; he had a story to tell and tell it he did.

After an hour of fully captivating both students and teachers, he received standing ovations during both assemblies. I was present for both and watched the faces as he pulled at their emotions. He talked about the "choices" they make each day and he reminded them of the "choice" they make with their attitudes in school. I could tell that they really listened and internalized what he was saying. Many were identifying with his story so they felt he had a right to speak to them. Mr. Freeman uses his own personal experiences to help them understand that people can make it out of a terrible childhood.

I highly recommend his program and wish we could have it every year. It is truly the most uplifting and interesting assembly we have offered.

Thanks again for your caring attitude towards our students.

Sincerely,

Beverly Meares, Assistant Principal
York Junior High School