



BOARDMAN HIGH SCHOOL

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January 9, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

As educators we provide many educational opportunities beyond the classroom for our students, assemblies are one example of this. During an assembly it takes just a few minutes to realize whether or not a speaker is going to impact your students. Dave Kohout is one of these speakers! Dave possesses a unique skill set that allows him to reach students, a connection that cannot be made at times even by educators and sometimes even family members.

This last November 2013 we had maybe the most powerful assembly we've had at Boardman High School in the last decade. We called it the YES Fest. The premise of the "fest" was to continue telling kids to say no to drugs and yes to the good things in life. The first half of the assembly consisted of two parents sharing about the loss of their own children due to drug overdoses. You can only imagine how difficult that was for those parents. Equally as challenging was following those two speakers to motivate our students to make good choices, Dave had that challenge and he knocked it out of the park.

The most rewarding part of the YES Fest experience was having my children present to hear Dave speak. My daughter is a sophomore at Boardman and said that Mr. Kohout's presentation was discussed in every one of her classes the balance of the school day. My son, an eighth grader, also attended the assembly. He was obviously impacted by the experience as he spoke all night about it at home. Seeing the positive effect Mr. Kohut has had on the children of BHS, and my own children, has been one of the most rewarding experiences for me, both as principal and a father.

H. Jared Cardillo,
Principal Boardman High School