

Video, Print & Electronic Curricula

# James Stanfield

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## In This Issue:

[Onion News](#)

[The Real News](#)

- [College Rampage...](#)
- [K-12 School Safety...](#)
- [Key to Safety...](#)

[Featured Program](#)

[Humor in the Classroom](#)

[Company News](#)

[Recommended Links](#)

[Miss Demeanor](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Visit us at  
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## Onion News

**Kindergartner Groomed  
For Line-Leader Position**



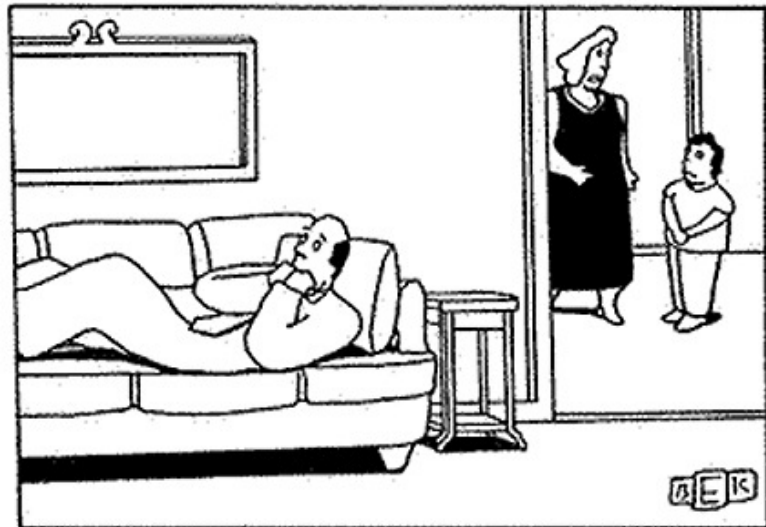
BELLE MEADE, TN—Belle Meade Day School kindergarten teacher Mrs. Allen, 33, says she has known since the first day of class that student Gregory Hutter, 6, was "line-leader material."

"It was sink or swim—and he swam," she said. (cont.)

## Staying Focused

"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge; it is inspiring change."  
- William Arthur Ward

## Featured Content



"You see, Thomas, there's a bully at Daddy's office."

## Humor in the Classroom

The benefits of incorporating humor with instruction are many and should be considered whenever designing instruction. That's why this newsletter, and many of the programs we produce, are full of "instructional humor."

For example, getting your attention and holding your interest in our newsletter is more likely if we augment our content with humor. If we can make you laugh, especially out loud, the good feelings that come with that laugh (laughing triggers the release of endorphins) will likely become associated with the newsletter itself. You will also likely want to return to our site for more laughs and more endorphin highs. Eventually these endless return visits will result in an addiction to the Stanfield Newsletter and you will live for nothing else.

James Stanfield, EDD

"He wasn't the tallest, but he conducted himself as if he were over four feet," Mrs. Allen said of Hutter, who she believes "has what it takes" to lead the class to key locations throughout the school such as the cafeteria, bathroom, water fountain, and to the playground. Mrs. Allen realized that Hutter could maintain his composure in high-pressure situations several months ago when, after recess, he took a quick sip of water at the drinking fountain. "He just had this innate sense that there were people waiting behind him who were also thirsty, and that the class was going to be late for music," she said. "You can't teach that."

When primary line leader Lauren Gratchic came down with chicken pox in mid-January, Mrs. Allen immediately tapped Hutter for the post. "It was sink or swim—and he swam," she said. Student reaction to Hutter's interim leadership was positive. "He did really good," said fellow kindergartner Miles Reed, 5. [\[Learn More\]](#)

### Company News



The massive undertaking of transferring many of the programs in the James Stanfield library is well underway. We are currently testing DVD menus for *BeCool* and *LifeFacts*. Digital remastering is also continuing on other programs. To find out more, visit [www.stanfield.com/new.html](http://www.stanfield.com/new.html).

### College Rampage Renews School Safety Concerns

From *Education Week* – Coming just four days before the anniversary of the Columbine school shootings, the mass slayings by a student gunman at Virginia Polytechnic Institute revived vexing questions and raised familiar fears for educators across the country who grapple daily with ensuring the safety of their students and staffs.

The April 16 killings provoked the same questions that arose for K-12 officials after the 1999 rampage at Columbine High School and a string of other such incidents in the past decade: Could this happen at my school? Are we prepared? What are the warning signs that students may harm themselves or others? The Virginia Tech slayings also prompted school officials from suburban Washington to the West Coast to pledge heightened security measures and assure anxious parents and students that their schools were safe.

"This is just as much a K-12 issue as it is a university one, and I imagine that most K-12 administrators are looking at it that way," said Gregory A. Thomas, who directs a school-preparedness program at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University. "This was a school shooting, albeit on a scale we hadn't seen before," he said, "but it was perpetrated by a student shooter who apparently had showed many of the signs we've seen in the shooters that have done this in our high schools."

[The suspect's] behaviors—silence, isolation, writings with dark themes—are critical clues for educators to watch for, said one school psychologist. "There are warning signs that everyone from teachers and counselors to administrators and fellow students need to recognize and report to someone responsible," said Cathy Paine, a psychologist in the 11,000-student district in Springfield, Ore. [\[Learn More\]](#)

### 'Be Alert' to Keep Schools Safe, Panelists Say

From *Education Week* – Educators, law-enforcement officers, crisis counselors, and students—some from communities that have experienced deadly school shootings—shared their hard-earned lessons and ideas about how to prevent further incidents at a school safety summit called by President Bush.

During an opportunity for the 300 participants to ask questions of a panel moderated by U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, Mr. Milonopoulos stepped up to the microphone and pointed out that access to guns was "the common denominator in the rash of school shootings."

What are legislators and the Bush administration doing "to halt the proliferation of weapons?" he asked. "Kids should not have access to weapons," answered Mr. Gonzales. He said the Bush administration was addressing the problem by prosecuting criminals who possess guns illegally.

In brief remarks, Mr. Bush expressed regret that the school shootings in Colorado, Pennsylvania, and Cazenovia, Wis. where a student killed a principal on Sept. 29, had made it necessary for him to summon a national conference on school safety. He stressed the need to exchange ideas on how best to prevent school violence. He showed particular interest in finding ways to urge more teachers to report warning signs that individual students are troubled as a means of preventing such violence. [\[Learn More\]](#)

## Recommended Links

[Fun Brain](#) - a fun and interactive website for students -- contains math and reading activities.

[PBS Teachers](#) - an excellent web resource for teacher. Over 90 professional development courses in math, reading, technology Integration and more.

[Birth-to-Six](#) - information about early literacy skills and how to help your child get ready to read as well as how to read to different ages: babies, toddlers, and preschoolers..

## Miss Demeanor: *Stop that!*



This month, I would like to address the topic of politeness. In one sense of

the word, politeness is the showing of consideration, tact, or courtesy to others. I find it truly annoying when young people rudely shove their way past people without saying 'sorry' or 'excuse me'. A simple display of politeness goes a long way in avoiding conflict with others.

Take the time and quiz your students: (1) Give examples of someone being polite, and (2) how does being polite help people to keep their cool?

*Stop that!*

## Watchful staff, students key to safety, experts say

From *Seattle Times* – Increased security patrols, metal detectors and surveillance cameras may seem like a solution to school violence — but experts say that well-trained staff and communication with students are far more effective tools.

The fatal shooting Wednesday of a student at Tacoma's Foss High School is prompting schools to take another look at their safety policies.

Budget constraints have forced some schools and law-enforcement agencies to cut back school-security measures. This school year, the Seattle Police Department reduced patrols at Seattle high schools to once or twice a week — down from about once a day — to focus on other priorities.

Experts say human interaction is the best way to stop violence before it happens. A video camera may only record the violence itself. "People are looking for some kind of physical, tangible evidence of heightened security," said Kenneth Trump, chief executive of National School Safety and Security Services, a Cleveland-based consulting firm. "But the reality is, there's no perfect security system anywhere.

The first and best line of defense is a well-trained, highly alert staff and a student body who can recognize a stranger in the parking lot or a student who is having problems."

[\[Learn More\]](#)

## Featured Program

### Losing It: **When a student turns a problem they can handle into one they *can't***

The Cool Way to Respond to Conflict.  
Field-Tested and Proven Effective!



**BeCool** is the first program developed specifically to nourish the key elements of emotional intelligence - impulse control, empathy and self-awareness. Within the context of teaching how to be assertive, **BeCool** teaches kids specific reflective thinking techniques to promote self-control and interrupt the tendency to impulsively act out.

# Free Catalog!

Would you like to receive a free catalog containing information on our current and upcoming products?

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# Save \$100!

Save an ADDITIONAL \$100 when you buy the complete LEVEL of the *BeCool* series. Mention the following coupon over the phone or on your PO/Order Form.

Coupon Code: BC2N5

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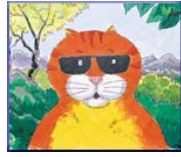
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**Lower Elementary.** Learning how to deal with these problems is a core skill that your students need now, and will use throughout their lives. For kids, these are tough everyday problems that never go away -- problems they must learn to handle in order to protect themselves and learn lifelong conflict resolution skills. [\[Learn more\]](#)



**Upper Elementary.** Created expressly for learners functioning at the Upper Elementary Level, this 5-module program is the second in the *BeCool* series and continues the presentation of the *BeCool* paradigm of self-control and assertion training. [\[Learn more\]](#)



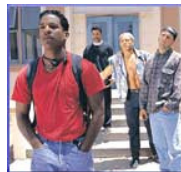
**Upper Elementary/Middle School.** Students in the late elementary and early middle school years are the most prone of all age groups to exaggeration and distortion of every-day events. The lightest expression of disrespect can trigger a reaction worthy of a declaration of war! *Losing It!* teaches your students the self-talk techniques for avoiding turning a problem they can handle into one that they can't. [\[Learn more\]](#)



**Middle School 1.** The middle school years can be the most difficult for students as they learn to deal with the challenging situations presented not only by interactions with their peers, but with parents, teachers and other authority figures. These five modules will help your students "put the brakes on" their emotions and let reason kick in when they are faced with provocative language, behaviors and requests in everyday interactions. [\[Learn more\]](#)



**Middle School 2. *BeCool Give & Take*** expands the *BeCool* Middle School series beyond coping with provocation to actually teach kids how to negotiate long-term resolution of disputes. Students will learn how to use proven negotiation techniques to work out solutions to differences without involving demands, threats or intimidation. [\[Learn more\]](#)



**High School.** Winner of the New York Film Festival, *BeCool: High School*, is the original program of the series, which focuses on high school-age students and young adults as they make the transition to the "real world." The video scenarios depict ordinary conflicts of daily living and shows students how emotions, not managed effectively, can result in aggressive behavior, social withdrawal and loss of self-esteem. [\[Learn more\]](#)

### What Your Colleagues Say:

"*BeCool* is the best series I've ever used in any class! This program generates more discussion than any other teaching material."

– **Betty Christians**, Living Skills Instructor, West Industries

"Undoubtedly the most effective program I've ever used to get Middle School-age kids to stop and think before they react to provocation!"

– **Paula Portman**, Social Worker

"In 30 years of teaching, I've never seen anything that deals as effectively with teaching the skills of coping with everyday conflict situations as the *BeCool* series."

– **Carol L. Soden**, Teacher