



# NEWS

Edward A. Diana  
Orange County Executive

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **OC Youth Bureau Hosts Free Conference for Middle School Youth *Peace Out Offers Alternatives to Violence and Bullying***

**Goshen** – “It’s time to stem the tide of bullying and violence amongst our young people,” said Orange County Youth Bureau Director Carol Chichester. “Our children are our future, that’s why it’s so important that we give them the necessary tools to properly cope with the stresses and anxieties they face today.”

To do just that, Orange County Youth Bureau will be hosting a Peace Out Conference on Wednesday, April 20, for seventh and eighth grade students. The conference, especially prepared for middle school students, will feature interactive workshops, presentations, and conversations to promote peace among students instead of violence and bullying.

“The Orange County Youth Bureau team works very hard to understand the needs of today’s youth and address the challenges they face,” said County Executive Edward A. Diana. “The middle school years are critical to a student’s growth, development, and socialization. The Peace Out Conference will provide an excellent forum for youth to talk, listen, connect, and explore resources that are available to them. It’s important for them to understand that they don’t have to go it alone. The conference will be a productive and beneficial way to spend a day of Spring Break,” added Mr. Diana.

The Peace Out conference, which includes lunch, will be held Wednesday, April 20, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Monhagen Middle School, 555 County Route 78, Middletown. It’s free and open to any Orange County seventh or eighth grader on a first-come, first-served basis. Limited transportation to the event will be made available from the Newburgh Activity Center and Port Jervis Middle School. Registrations must be received in the Youth Bureau office by Friday, April 15. Participants must be accompanied by an adult or group leader.

For registration forms or more information, visit the Youth Bureau Department page on the County website at [www.orangecountygov.com](http://www.orangecountygov.com) or call 615-3620.

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