

# North Hopewell - Winterstown Elementary Attack: Lessons Learned



On the late morning of February 2, 2001 a 55-year-old man, entered the North Hopewell Elementary School in Red Lion, Pennsylvania armed with a machete. The suspect injured 14 people including 11 kindergarten students, 2 teachers and Principal Norina Bentzel. Principal Bentzel was central to stopping the attack and is widely regarded as a key figure in preventing additional harm. Despite her severe injuries she placed herself between the attacker and children, effectively acting as a barrier while others attempted to secure classrooms and call for help. Principal Bentzel ultimately jumped on the attacker and helped restrain him, which contributed to ending the assault before police arrived.

The **James Biever Police Community Alliance** is pleased to sponsor this presentation. In the 25 years since the attack at her elementary school, Principal Bentzel has spoken to over 140 audiences. Author of **Glorious Sadness**, she will discuss the incident and the aftermath in two presentations for first responders, CISM members, educators, school administration, mental health professionals, healthcare providers and social service workers.

Please register for one session.



Date: October 12, 2026  
Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
or  
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM  
Location: Lebanon County Department of  
Emergency Services

1805 Cornwall Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

