3D Coaching

A little background of how I ended up taking this course for credit. I was looking for something different and I need the credits to renew my teaching license in Iowa. I am starting a new job next fall.

I will be the new head football coach at a school that has struggled in the sport for a long time. I need to make a difference. A friend of the program is a FCA representative and he sent me an email about 3D Coaching. I thought, Wow, here is a course that can do two things; help with my renewal and make me a better coach/person. I loved everything about this course from the start and I will be honest I need the skills now. I have to start getting my team ready now for the Fall and it has nothing to do with 1st Dimension if you know what I mean.

That brings us to this point in my journey. The final module required an interview with someone in athletics/admin. I only teach at my current school (I coach elsewhere). I asked Mr. Burkhart for the interview and he graciously made time for me. He is the Athletic Director at a small school in NW Iowa. What’s nice is I have nothing to do with sports here so I bring no bias to our discussion.

The ten questions were provided by 3D and seemed to cover the material well. I found through our discussion that 1st Dimension skills are a priority at this school, though 2nd Dimension skills are considered but are not purposely taught or expected to be used by the staff as a holistic approach to coaching. We of course got into questions concerning FCA and the 3rd Dimension and what should the administration expect of coaches. This school does have an FCA chapter as does the school I will be at in the Fall. Like many schools these days, FCA is done off campus after school hours so as not to upset those that feel strongly about separation of church and state. We talked at length about what does using the 3rd Dimension ask of us? I don’t feel that there necessarily has to be a religious vibe to it. The character, heart, and moral values should be part of everyone’s life if they desire to be the best they can be. The school seems to be fairly strong in the 1st Dimension but lacking in the 2nd and 3rd Dimensions. I also notice that some of the better athletes are not the best students regardless of ability (some kids will always struggle). Cheating in the classroom is widespread and I would imagine if some more attention was given to 2nd and 3rd Dimension this could be reduced as well as other behavior issues.

I recently had to interview candidates for a couple of positions on my new staff. I wanted to ask each candidate, “Why do you coach?” The four questions that Joe Ehrmann posed in InsideOut Coaching should be critical for every coach to answer on a regular basis. I propose for the school in the interview that they include the four questions in their interview and evaluation process. Though many schools are frightened of mixing religion in the public school setting, I believe that 2nd and 3rd dimension skills could still easily be integrated into their coaches’ growth and development plan. Since starting this class I pretty much tell anyone that will listen that it is a worthwhile program to implement.

Joe Ehrmann says the two most important words are “Coach Says”. We should be certain that what we are saying says something about why we coach.

James A. Gunter

Coach