After completing my interview with Mr. Minneman and the 3D coaching curriculum, I did a lot of reflecting on where my baseball program was at and whether I was doing enough to meet the needs of my athletes in all 3 dimensions. I also thought a bit about the athletic department as a whole and what should be emphasized more in order to better promote the 2nd and 3rd dimensions as a priority to the coaching staff.

In regards to my baseball program, I have always felt pretty good about the first dimension and getting athletes prepared for the upcoming season. One thing I know that I struggle with more now as a head coach than I did as an assistant coach is tapping into dimensions 2 and 3 with my athletes. I do not feel like I built the connection I used to with the younger athletes in the program when I was an assistant, because much of my time is spent with the Varsity squad. So I would consider that one of my weaknesses and something I can definitely improve in the coming years. I also learned that I need to find more mentors and people to hold me accountable to making sure changes get made when I say they will.

The 3D curriculum was refreshing to me because developing those 2nd and 3rd dimensions are the reason I got into coaching in the first place. I believe they are my strengths as a coach because I naturally want to learn about people and ask them questions about themselves, their families and other interests outside of sports. One thing I talked about Mr. Minneman, was my struggle to make time for those kinds of conversations since I’ve become a head coach. So I liked the idea of creating play in practice to help develop those relationships with athletes and the spotlight activity that was mentioned and look forward to implementing those as a part of the practice plan.

As an athletic department I would like to see more training be provided for dimensions two and three. They aren’t always as exciting as learning a new drill, new technique, or new scheme, but we all know by now that kids have to be bought in to you and what you’re selling as a coach before you will see their performance really peak. So I’d like to see us spend some time focusing on those aspects. I’d really like to see us try to do more with educating parents how to approach being a fan and one that works for the same things our teams do instead of for their own personal agendas. I think putting in some work in that area could really change the game for all of our programs here at Marysville.

Overall I was very pleased with the 3D course and the ideas it gave me to implement. It was refreshing to hear we needed to focus more on caring about our kids beyond the fundamentals.