

## A Teacher to Cheer About - Jason Filie

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We are proud to share an in-depth look at one of our dedicated teachers, Mr. Jason Filie. As both a teacher and a coach at Cornerstone, he reaches our students on many levels.

Mr. Filie attended Detroit Public Schools and graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School. Mr. Filie is also a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in economics. He has taught social studies at the Nevada Middle School since 2000. In addition, he has coached the girls' and boys' basketball as well as the co-ed soccer team.

Mr. Filie recently shared a few thoughts on his involvement with Cornerstone:

As a teacher, my passion is to help my students get the very best education possible, using all of their abilities to their fullest potential. I believe that athletics have a huge

impact on a student's ability to achieve success in life. I also want my students to understand the great importance they will have one day as citizens of this nation; how events in our country's history have made that possible; and to know their civic responsibility.

On the field, I want my players to know that the effort and time they put into their physical goals are as rewarding as their educational efforts - and that the two are interconnected. A team that communicates well performs better on the field.

I feel students should be able to communicate their thoughts and ideas in the classroom. There are parallels between academics and athletics: Improving a part of your game takes hours of hard work and repetition, as does learning a new language or a math formula or memorizing part of the U.S. Constitu-

tion. I teach my students that adversity will always be a hurdle, on and off the field, and that knowing how to jump over them is a life skill.

Using the Cornerstone mission statement as a guide, I strive to open my students' eyes to the importance of reaching their full potential, of respecting others and their ideas, and making the right choices and taking responsibility for their actions. I want them to appreciate their freedoms and to realize that not everyone in the world enjoys our liberties. We are responsible for making our democracy work.

