

DR. ANDREW RUNZI

Andy Runzi graduated from Herculaneum High School in 1989. He was an excellent athlete; baseball was his number one sport. As a freshman, he played on the State Championship Blackcat baseball team of 1986. Throughout his high school baseball career, Andy was a member of two conference and two district championship teams. He was named All-Conference Player three times and All-district Player three times, as well as chosen for two All-Metro Teams. Andy was selected to the J98 Dream Team for Baseball, was named All-State Player in 1989, and played for the East-West All-Star Team that same year.

Also, in high school, he played American Legion baseball. His team won the district championship each year he played, 1987-1989. They also won the Zone Championship in 1987 and finished fourth in the state that year. In 1989, he played for the Conclair Royals CYC League. In high school he also played football for four years and basketball for four years. Andy was an All-Conference Defensive End in 1989.

Andy attended Mineral Area College for one year and transferred to the University of Missouri St. Louis in 1990. He received his B.S. in Secondary Education in 1993 and eventually received his Doctorate in Education Administration from Missouri Baptist University. Throughout his undergraduate years, baseball was a large part of his life.

In the summers of 1990-1991, Andy played for the St. Louis Indians. In 1992-1993, he played for the Fairview Heights Mets. He was a pitcher for the St. Louis Union Printers in 1994-1995 and received the "Grit Award" for being one of the top pitchers in the Printers National Tournament. While attending UMSL, he played for them. In 1993, Andy and his team took second in the College World Series. They won the MIAA tournament and Andy was named Pitcher of the Year. He was named College All-American in 1992 and 1993. He holds the UMSL record for career wins, total innings pitched, and career shutouts. Twice, he struck out eleven batters in a game and ranks fourth in career strikeouts at UMSL. He was one of the twelve original members inducted into the UMSL Sports Hall of Fame in 2001.

From 1994 through 1996, Andy was assistant coach of the American Legion Post 253 baseball team. They won the State championship in 1996. He began his career in education at Herculaneum High School in 1995, teaching Social Studies, Physical Education and alternative School through 2001. From 2002 through 2006, Andy was assistant principal at HHS. Throughout all those years he coached. In 1995, he was the Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach when the team took 3rd at State. He became the Head Coach in 1996, and his baseball teams were Conference and District Champs as well as Class 3 State Champions in 1999. Andy was the Dream Team Coach of the Year. He was also an Assistant Varsity Football Coach when the team played in the State finals in 1995. He is a past vice-president of the Missouri State High School Baseball Coaches Association.

In 2006, Andy stepped away from his coaching duties to become the principal at Herculaneum High School. Early in his career, he married his wife, Debbie, and by this time, they had three beautiful daughters, Kylie, Katelyn, and Kendall. The family moved to Jefferson City in 2011 where Andy became Associate Principal at Jefferson City High School. In 2014, the Runzi's moved back to their hometown area. Andy works for Thomas Industrial Coatings as an EEO Officer/Quality Systems Coordinator.

Herculaneum High School, in its rich and storied history, can certainly boast a long list of very fine coaches. Andy Runzi ranks as one of the best. A good coach knows the game, imparts knowledge and a will to win, takes responsibility when things go wrong, and shares the glory when winning is enjoyed. With Coach Runzi, you have those qualities plus the element of integrity. His ball players revere him. They regard him as charitable, honorable, a respected leader, and valued friend. Coach Runzi has shared with his teams a credo to live by: *It's amazing what can be accomplished when no one cares who gets the credit.*