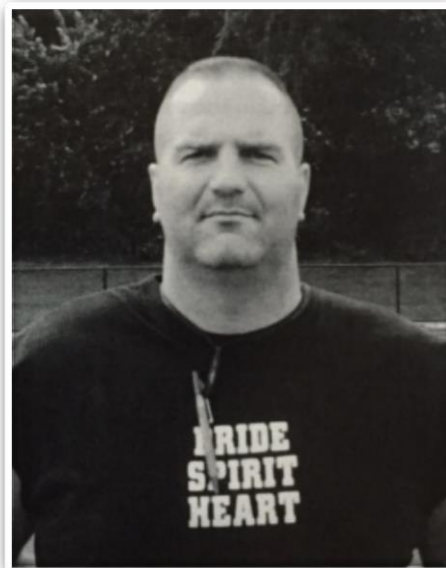


## **Joseph L. Cipp III**

### ***Bellport High School Class of 1987***



Joe Cipp III, graduated Bellport in 1987, played varsity football and baseball, earning All-Conference/All-League honors for football. He earned a B.S. at Ithaca College and Master's in Education at Dowling College, married his high school sweetheart Susan Dibble (valedictorian Bellport class of 1987) and has three children, Connor (essayist Bellport class of 2014 & NYS Class A football scholar-athlete of the year), Jessica (Bellport class of 2016), and Cole (Bellport class of 2018). He is a full-time special education teacher for Longwood Central Schools since 1994 and currently is the head varsity football coach for Bellport since 2011 after his father, Joseph Cipp Jr., retired as the career victories leader for Suffolk County HS football.

Joe earned three varsity letters playing football at Ithaca (1988-90), winning the NCAA Division III Stagg Bowl National Championship in 1988. He started a successful football coaching career as a graduate assistant at Ithaca under legendary coach Jim Butterfield, winning another NCAA Division III National Championship in 1991. Joe replaced his father at Bellport as defensive coordinator in 1993 and in his third season (1995) captured his first Suffolk County and Long Island championship. In 1996 he became the head varsity football coach for Longwood HS and in 1998 won an undefeated Long Island championship (first in Longwood's history) and Rutgers Trophy, becoming the youngest head coach in Suffolk history to do so. Joe was named coach of the year by Long Island Newsday and the SCFCA. He was inducted into the Longwood Sports Hall of Fame and is the only football coach in school history to win an undefeated county and LI football championship. Coach Cipp Jr. and Cipp III are the first father/son head coaches to win back to back undefeated LI championships! Coach "Sonny" returned to football at Bellport in 2000 and became offensive coordinator in 2001, capturing another undefeated LI championship and Rutgers Trophy (Bellport's first) including a #1 NYS ranking with his father as head coach. Sonny was recognized by AFLAC insurance as National Assistant Coach of the Year 2001. During his 21 year high school football coaching career at

Bellport and Longwood, he has totaled fourteen Division championships, six Suffolk County championships, five Long Island championships and coached 35 All-State players, including two county scoring champions, two Hansen award winners, five National Football Foundation Golden Eleven Scholar-Athletes, and a New York State Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Joe was selected by the National PTA as Special Educator of the Year and is a member of the Multi-Tiered Student Support stakeholder team at Longwood. He has volunteered over the years for many community organizations including SUCCEED for Youth, Special Olympics, South Country Central Schools Budget Advisory Committee, Adopt-A-Corner, Snuggle Up and Read, local food pantries, local youth sports organizations, Breast Cancer Prevention fundraising among others.

