

To The Mustang Family,

I want to start this off by saying thank you to everyone in the Mustang family over the last 5 years. On Friday I accepted a teaching job at Central High School in Norwood Young America and I start on Wednesday. With me accepting the job I had to make a hard call and tell Downey that my time at MV would be coming to an end. Even though he was happy and I was happy it was an emotional time as Mounds View has been my family over the last 5 years.

Downey, thank you for taking a chance on me back in 2016. You got a random email from a random UMN student seeing if they could join your staff to fulfill a college requirement and then after one year handed me the keys to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade team for the next 4 years. You have no idea how much you have helped me over the last 5 years, you've helped me through some rough spots and have been someone to look up to. I have no idea how I can repay you but know that I will always look up to you and be my first call if I ever have a question, thank you for everything.

To all the other coaches thank you for how you have helped me. I know I can always bounce ideas off of you and learn how you guys do things on the field and in the classroom. Whether it be Courtright answering random questions about pitching, Ogdahl giving me great Fantasy Baseball advice and how to have fun as a coach, or Oberg who for some reason let me student teach in his classroom, THANK YOU. Players, know that all the coaches on the staff have your best interest in mind and want nothing but the best for you. These coaches care more about you then you'll ever know and do not take them for granted. This staff is something that you do not get elsewhere, all of the coaches could be head coaches elsewhere but they stay to make this program what it is. This is a staff that I would not trade for everything, and I am so honored that I was able to be a part of it for 5 years.

Players and families I cannot express how much fun I had coaching your kids. These last 5 years I have learned so much more from the players than I ever thought. The relationships I built with the players is something I will never trade for anything. I think that is why it was so hard to call Downey because I won't be able to coach the kids anymore and that sucks. Seniors, do not get complacent and keep grinding. You saw how hard it hit the seniors last year not being able to play so do not take it for granted. The talent is there, but do not give up or ever give in. These are the times you will always look back on, embrace it and give it your all. I will always be cheering for you, even though I'll be somewhere else. Hopefully I get to watch you at Target Field at the end of the season...

Once again I just want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. The Mustang community is something programs strive for and I am so glad I got to be a part of it. Embrace the grind and good things will happen. I will miss all of you, but know I am just a text/call/email away. I tell the kids I coach that my coaching does not end when the season is over. If they ever need anything I am always there for them. With that I say "see ya later" and thank you for everything you have given me over the last 5 years. MV will always have a place in my heart and I am honored to be a Mustang for life!

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