

From Science to Athletics
By Sabrina Shisler

When I originally enrolled in the MAED program through Michigan State in the early spring of 2009, I intended to complete the Science and Mathematics concentration in order to further develop instructional techniques for my chemistry class. A year after enrollment, which meant a year and a half of teaching at Davison High School, I decided that I would benefit from a change in concentration. The second season of coaching tennis had just begun and I realized how much I enjoyed coaching. After more experience with the professional development opportunities at my school, I decided that my Masters degree would be more useful to me if I focused on areas that were not directly related to practices in the classroom. I learn about teaching strategies, such as differentiated instruction, that allow me to become a more effective teacher to all of my students as a part of the professional development through Davison Community Schools.

When I coach tennis, I make strong connections with the players, which has allowed me to have a stronger positive influence on the lives of some of the players that were also students in my classroom. It was important for me to learn about areas other than the Science and Mathematics fields. I enjoy coaching and it was advantageous for me to learn more about the psychological, physical, and sociological factors that affect athletes. I feel that the knowledge I have gained about athletic programs is important not just because I am a coach, but as a teacher, most of my students compete in some sport, so I have a better understanding of some of the effects athletics have on an adolescent.