

## Life Lessons from a Coach

On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Coach Jason Crowe, Verbum Dei's Basketball Coach, and his wife Irene, were surrounded by five Verbum Dei student athletes, three other basketball coaches, and the Athletic Director and Football Coach, David Banuelos, in Brentwood, at Il Piccolo Verde Restaurant. Also in attendance was Mr. Nick Spates, Verbum Dei Alumnus, last year's valedictorian, and student athlete. This special gathering was organized by Coach Crowe to highlight something very important to him—well-rounded young men—young men who care beyond sports. When you hear Coach Crowe speak, one is never quite sure if he's talking about basketball or life in general. The vested interest he has in his student is palpable and never in question. It was very touching as Coach Crowe talked about each student athlete—their contributions to the team, but more importantly, he focused on their opportunities in life and how they simply needed to continue on their current path. What's a student athlete? Coach Crowe smiles, "GPA of 3.0 and above." The students athletes include:



- **Jordan Griffin**
- **Jaloni Hinton**
- **Chibeza Nyirenda**
- **Jared Williams**
- **Channing McGee**
- **Willie Thomas**
- **Daejon Colson**
- **Jamaul Cotton**

Coach Crowe also articulated the important role his coaches played in the success and the growth of the students—he highlighted each one and how they make his job some much easier.



Coach Crowe and Irene handpicked Il Piccolo particularly for this occasion. And, the student athletes loved it as they were treated to a four-course meal at one of the finest Italian restaurants on the Westside.

As a humble observer, it made me proud to be on the same team as Coach Crowe, Coach Banuelos, and the entire Verbum Dei faculty and staff team—to all intrinsically care to development only “men for others.”

Finally, as proud as we are of our students, we'd also like you to know that this would not be possible were it not for the generous support of our donors, foundations, and corporate partners. Thank you for making this all possible. You're helping us “change the world, one student at a time!”

**Article written by Paul Hosch, SVP, Mission Advancement, Verbum Dei**