



100 Mount Clinton Pike · Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2507  
540-564-3200 · 540-564-3241 (fax)  
[www.rockingham.k12.va.us](http://www.rockingham.k12.va.us)

*Dear Colleagues:*

*Often we hear about the negativity, sometimes associated with high school athletics and in particular poor sportsmanship. In reality, we all know of the overwhelming amount of great sportsmanship and support we witness on a daily basis. My reason for writing you is to share an occurrence I witnessed at the Single A, Division 1, State Semi-Final Women's Softball game between Honaker and East Rockingham High Schools played in Salem's Moyer Sports Complex on June 8, 2013.*

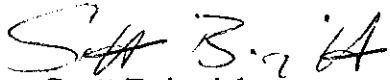
*East Rockingham High School was holding their graduation on Saturday, and five members of the softball team were unable to participate in the exercises being held at East Rockingham High School because of their softball commitment. Tournament Director Shelia Proffitt went above and beyond expectations in making sure that arrangements were made for a ceremony to be held prior to the game in which East Rockingham students would receive their diplomas in a dignified manner. This included accommodations for the parents of these students to witness and photograph the ceremony, the playing of "pomp and circumstance," and noting the academic accomplishments of each student over the public address system.*

*During the ceremony every member of Honaker's softball team was standing along the first base line facing the East Rockingham students who were receiving their diplomas. Immediately, after the ceremony while the East Rockingham students were still on the pitchers mound I heard Amy Davidson, Honaker's Head Softball Coach say, "Ladies let's congratulate them!" All members of Honaker's softball team willfully and enthusiastically congratulated the new graduates of East Rockingham High School, in most cases with hugs!*

*The respect and caring that Honaker's softball team demonstrated to the East Rockingham softball team, initiated by Coach Davidson, was a perfect example of the life lessons that high school athletics allows and is near impossible to replicate in other venues. It was my goal to share this information with others in hopes that this example of sportsmanship, respect, and genuine caring can be acknowledged and shared as a teaching moment for others. I have included some pictures taken by an East Rockingham parent for your review, and I would be happy to email them if you desire.*

*The duration of this event only lasted minutes, but the impact for the athletes on both teams will likely last a lifetime. On behalf of the Rockingham County Public Schools, I wish to extend my deepest and most sincere appreciation to Coach Davidson, her coaching staff, and the Honaker athletes who not only proved they are champions on the scoreboard but also champions as people!*

*Sincerely and with great respect,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Bojanich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" and last name "Bojanich" clearly distinguishable.

*Scott Bojanich*

*Director of Secondary Instruction  
Rockingham County Public Schools*