

Daniela Karpun, Delview Secondary

Coach

About Daniela Karpun:

Daniela is a teacher at Delview Secondary in Delta. She currently coaches both girls volleyball and basketball at the school, and first became involved in coaching by helping out with her daughter's soccer team 7 or 8 years ago. "I've have always been athletic, and as a PE graduate, I have some basic knowledge of sports, and therefore, I was able to teach the girls the basics of the game."

Most Rewarding Experience as a Coach:

"Watching the girls improve their skills, whether they win or lose, is what is most satisfying. I am happiest when my team plays well, regardless of the end result. That is not to say that I enjoy losing...I don't think any coach or team enjoys that. I just enjoy a good match over a win but poorly played game."



What Coaching has Brought to Her Life:

"I enjoy seeing my students in a different light. I may see the same students in my classroom, but their personalities are sometimes different in a sports setting. I guess it comes down to the relationships that you make with people. There is a different connection that comes with being a coach in extra-curricular activities."

Biggest Challenges:

"The biggest challenge that I face is having time to do everything well. Something's got to give when there are only 24 hours in a day. The teaching profession is extremely taxing, as is coaching, and on top of that, being a mother is equally so. Sometimes I can only do what I can do, and at the end of the day, I have to be satisfied that I did as best as I could in all I needed to do."



Proudest Moment in Coaching:

"One of my proudest moments was my first year of coaching Gr. 8 boys volleyball. We made it to our district finals and ended up coming in first! The boys were all of very different capabilities--some were very athletic and some were not. I, along with my co-coach at the time, ended up taking all the boys who came out for the team. We worked hard on the basics of the game. We weren't the most skilled team at the finals, but we played the best on that day and worked as a team to win! Everyone on the team had a chance to play and contribute to that win. I would love to re-experience that moment with another team."