

FoxSports.com Interviews Headmaster Dr. Chermak

FoxSports.com broadcasters covered much more than University School's 47-12 win against Miami Norland Senior High School. During half time for the first varsity football home game of the season, reporter Kavita Channe also profiled University School's unique approach to education and another University School state championship team: speech and debate. Below is a transcript of the interview with USchool's Headmaster Dr. Chermak.

Fox Sports' Kavita Channe: What is the benefit of having five-year-olds to 18-years-old on one campus?

Dr. Chermak: We get to know the students from a very young age. On the academic side, we can make sure that their education is well articulated -- that they're ready for Middle School and High School. From an athletic standpoint, we have football starting in 6th grade -- we have a 6th grade team, we have a Middle School team, we have a JV team -- so Coach Harriott can develop a system which is followed by all the assistant coaches from Middle School all the way through.

Fox Sports' Kavita Channe: Now let's talk about the philosophy of University School.

Dr. Chermak: I think our philosophy is unique in that we are really looking at each student as an individual. It's really not the group; it's about the individual student. And our technique, our approach is to personalize the education for every student who attends our school.

Fox Sports' Kavita Channe: What about the motto 'Find the Best in U' ... I know what that means but what is behind that?

Dr. Chermak: It has a double entendre really because on the one hand, 'Find the Best in U' means find the best in University School, but we're really looking for them to find the best in themselves. I think the mark of a good school that it helps students reach their full potential. And everybody's different. So, 'Find the Best in U' -- it could mean athletics, it could mean music, it could be in activities, it could be in academics, hopefully in all of the above.

Fox Sports' Kavita Channe: And speaking of all of the above, [your school] has awards in forensics, academics and athletics, arts, music... Talk to us about that.

Dr. Chermak: A lot of that has to do with the adult role models that we have here. Where you find a successful program, whether it is speech and debate, or football, or arts of any type, academics, look at the leadership. Look at the adults who are behind the program. In our case, it is the adults, it's our leaders who make the programs work and take interest in the students and make them successful.

Fox Sports' Kavita Channe: Back to football. Let's talk about the [football] 2014 class of football guys here. A lot of them have committed already to schools.

Dr. Chermak: Well, in February they have the official commit date. But some have made verbal commitments, and we're very proud of our class of 2014. We have students who have committed to Air Force Academy, students who are going to University of Florida, Duke, Notre Dame, just really top-flight schools. It makes us proud because they're not only athletes, they're student-athletes.

Fox Sports' Kavita Channe: I love that; now let's talk about the movie based on Steve Jobs. Steve Wozniak is played by Josh Gad who is a USchool alum here. Have you seen the movie? ...It was a great movie.

Dr. Chermak: I have not yet seen the movie, but I am in touch with Josh Gad. He's one of our more famous alums. Not only is he in 'Jobs', he was in Book of Mormon on Broadway, he's been in countless movies, and he still keeps in touch with us. His mother is here, he comes to visit us and we're very proud of him.



