

# Teacher Guidelines

## Beyond the Medal of Honor

### **Note to Teachers:**

It is our hope that “Beyond the Medal of Honor” produced by *Capture It Productions* and Medal of Honor recipient Peter C. Lemon will be a moving and extremely valuable educational tool for you. Throughout the course of both our personal and professional lives, we have come to understand much about the social challenges facing today's youth. Primary among these is the absence of responsible and caring role-models, the lack of patriotism, and the widening hole in their moral ozone.

The Beyond the Medal of Honor program and the thought-provoking curriculum we have developed to accompany it is designed to address these very issues. Viewers are inspired to think critically about and reflect on themes of character and leadership. They also learn about important historical events. The curriculum has been developed by professional teachers similar to yourselves. Debbie Vought, Sarah Pecoraro, Doyle Cooper and Mark Sims have over 75 years of combined teaching and coaching experience.

"Beyond the Medal of Honor" movingly proves that ordinary men and women can achieve the extraordinary when they are motivated by ideals of service, duty and honor. We believe today's young people are hungry for inspiration and the call to rise to excellence. We believe that these DVDs and lessons plans will provide such inspiration while reinforcing the message that character *does* count. As educators, we lead the way.

### **Lesson Plan Objectives**

Following are broadly defined lesson objectives. Teachers may want to fine-tune these or develop their own to meet individual or specific curriculum needs:

Students will:

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics that define a hero.
- B. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of both the Congressional Medal of Honor and of recent Medal of Honor recipients.
- C. Apply acquired knowledge of heroic characteristics and the Medal recipients to other assignments or learning in language arts, social science, student government, community service and physical education.
- D. Apply an understanding of leadership, character, and heroism to their own lives.

The educational program features four remarkable men: Bill Crawford (WWII); Drew Dix (Vietnam); Jerry Murphy (Korea); and Carl Sitter (Korea). The lesson plans that follow these guidelines are divided into four sections as well. Accompanying each DVD are a variety of lesson ideas designed to appeal to a variety of learning levels. Teachers are encouraged to choose those that best suit their students and to modify them using their own creativity and based on their own classroom needs. We have also provided a bonus lesson plan (Disc 1 PDF) we believe is appropriate and motivational for both athletes and coaches during in-service or coaching clinics.

### **Lesson Plan Format**

Teachers will notice that each collection of lesson plans is divided into three distinct sections: "Into," "Through," and "Beyond." By design, the "Into" lesson ideas are meant as a sort of "anticipatory set" or "hook" – to borrow from the language of education leader Madeline Hunter. The "Through" lessons require direct use of and reference to the *Beyond the Medal of Honor* DVDs. (Most teachers will want to choose just one lesson from this section after viewing the respective film.) The lesson ideas presented in the "Beyond" section may be used to expand further on concepts and themes expressed in the DVDs. If time allows and teacher inclination is such, using one lesson from each of the three sections is ideal as it deepens a student's experience with the information and themes of the program. However, teachers are free to pick and choose lessons from whichever section they like – or simply show the film and give students its corresponding comprehension quiz.

### **Content Standards**

Each state differs somewhat in its content area standards. However, those listed below are generally considered universal and can easily be adapted to fit your state's specific content standard requirements. Not all lessons address all standards, but most lessons address multiple standards.

#### **A. History**

1. Understand the chronological organization and perspective of history.
2. Know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.

#### **B. Language Arts**

1. Write and speak for a variety of purposes and for diverse audiences.
2. Use viewing skills and strategies to understand and interpret visual media.
3. Gather and use information for research purposes.

#### **C. Civics and Community Service**

1. Understand how citizens exercise their roles, rights and responsibilities of participation in civic life at all levels – local, state, and national.

#### **D. Physical Education**

1. Understand how personal factors impact effective teamwork
2. Identify the personal factors that contribute to successfully meeting physical challenges.

**E. Life Skills / Alternative Classrooms**

1. Work cooperatively with and contribute to a group effort.
2. Effectively use mental processes based on identifying similarities and differences.
3. Perform self-appraisal.
4. Understand the relationship between personal character, self-respect and success.

**Materials**

The cornerstone of these lessons is the "Beyond the Medal of Honor" documentary program produced by *Capture It Productions* and available in your school library or learning resources center. The program contains a 5-disc DVD set and this curriculum disc. DVD Discs 1-4 feature Medal of Honor recipients: Bill Crawford, Carl Sitter, Jerry Murphy and Drew Dix. DVD Disc 5 is a two hour broadcast special made for PBS featuring all four recipients in one program. This curriculum disc contains PDF documents of the lessons to accompany the respective DVD discs. Pages 4-7 of this document contain the quiz key for each comprehension quiz and should not be accessed by students. You can quickly navigate each PDF by using the bookmarks that have been set under the bookmarks tab in Acrobat.

Additional materials may be necessary and those are evident in the lesson plans. Curriculum updates, professional development, Medal of Honor research links, new materials and product information will be available for teachers on the web at [www.beyondthemedal.com](http://www.beyondthemedal.com).

**Time requirements**

Most of the lesson plans require two to three class periods: one for viewing the film of choice and one or two days to complete the activities. These lessons can be used as stand alone activities to reinforce a history lesson, review language arts skills, teach a life skill or as a "fun and different" activity during a short holiday week when a teacher needs something to keep youth "on task." If you are lucky enough to have gifted substitute teachers in your district, these might be good plans to leave for him/her in your absence.

For the teacher and/or students who so desire, these lessons, taken all together, could easily make up a 6-9 week unit course. For answers to each comprehension quiz email: [brad@cipstudio.com](mailto:brad@cipstudio.com).

**Final Thoughts**

We encourage you to give us feedback on your experiences with these lessons. Visit us at [www.beyondthemedal.com](http://www.beyondthemedal.com) to share your thoughts on the program. As always, you are the best judge of your students and their abilities; therefore, we encourage you to modify and adjust these lessons and the time necessary to complete them based on your needs and curriculum objectives. We simply hope to inspire you and provide you with ready made ideas and materials.

We recognize and honor your commitment to students and the tireless job you do motivating today's youth! Keep up the good work.