Cliff Jorgenson began teaching and coaching at SCHS in 1980. An alumnus of Vermillion High School and Southern State University, Cliff was a runner. He was a member of the SD Sportswriters 1968 Independent Team of the Year (Southern Track Club) and the 1971 SDIC Championship Track Team. He earned his M.A. from the University of South Dakota and taught in Illinois.

Cliff returned to SD and taught at McLaughlin, Harrold, Stanley County and Pierre. At McLaughlin, he coached successful swimming teams and was named the 1976 head coach for the District 12 swim team at the AAU National Championships in Ithaca, NY.

In 1980, following two years at Harrold, Cliff began his career at Stanley County where he taught PE, health, and sociology for 14 years. He coached basketball (1980-82), gymnastics (1981-1994), cross country (1980-93), and track (1980-1993) at SCHS. In 1990, he was chosen Teacher of the Year. His cross country teams were Little Central Athletic Conference champions three times (1983,1986, 1987) and Cliff coached eight place winners at the South Dakota state track meet. Travis Hughes was twice runner-up in the high jump (1987-88) and Jody Owen won the 100 M hurdles (1988).

In 1984, Cliff was named head gymnastics coach at SC. His teams qualified for the state meet every year, dominated area competitions, and knocked on state championship doors. In 1993 and 1994, the Lady Buffs were Regional Champions. At the state meets, Cliff’s teams finished: 4th (1988), 3rd (1989), 2nd (1990), 2nd (1993), 2nd (1994). In 1992, Cliff was named State Gymnastics Coach of the Year and in 2017 he was awarded the SD Gymnastics Judges Association Pete Torino Award.

Cliff coached multiple individual place winners at the state gymnastics meet: Beam (12), Bars (12), Floor (6), All-Around (11), and All-Tournament Team (12). He coached five state champions: Jujet Larson (beam and vault), Kristie Hallock (floor and beam) and Shelly Scheinost (bars). Cliff’s success was due to many hardworking and dedicated young ladies and their families.

Cliff retired from teaching in 2008 but continues to coach.