

Wayne Country Day School

*Head of School
Announcement*

November 2, 2020



Wayne Country Day School

480 Country Day Road

Goldsboro, NC 27530

www.waynecountryday.com

Tel. (919) 736-1045 □ Fax (919) 583-9493

Dear WCDS Community,

The Board of Trustees of Wayne Country Day School are pleased to announce the selection of Matthew Jacobs as our next Head of School beginning July 1, 2021. Mr. Jacobs comes to us from Pinehurst, NC, where he currently serves as Upper School Head at The O'Neal School.

This selection is the result of an extensive, eight-month, national search which was conducted by a twelve-member Head of School Search Committee with the help of Southern Teachers Agency. The committee received resumes from 37 candidates. After several rounds, three finalists were invited to WCDS for interview sessions with focus groups consisting of trustees, Parents/Staff Association, search committee, faculty, staff, and students. After collecting feedback from all focus groups, the Search Committee deliberated and recommended Mr. Jacobs to the Board of Trustees who, in turn, unanimously voted for his appointment.

In selecting Mr. Jacobs as the next Head of School for Wayne Country Day, the Board of Trustees has chosen a leader with a lifelong passion for education, learning, encouraging students, and providing development opportunities to staff. Mr. Jacobs will bring a high level of energy and enthusiasm, along with his resume of accomplishments, which were seen by trustees as an embodiment of our school's mission and values.

Our next Head of School has a track record of creating programs that help students understand their capabilities and reach their potential. During his eighteen years of university and independent school experience, Mr. Jacobs has served as teacher, coach, advisor, and administrator. He has engineered a comprehensive professional development plan, redesigned the curriculum with more robust horizontal and vertical alignment, implemented technology, established cross-divisional educational philosophy, and united the school community to the school's mission and vision.

A 2002 graduate of Washington & Lee University with a B.A. in History, Mr. Jacobs earned a M.A. in History from University of New Hampshire and M.S.Ed. from University of New England. He is currently working on his Doctor of Education at Northeastern University.

Every person a teacher; every corner, a classroom; every experience, a lesson; every student our focus.



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Mr. Jacobs and his wife, Bethany, are the parents of Connor and Genevieve.

Before he began his tenure at The O'Neal School, Mr. Jacobs held several different positions as teaching assistant, History teacher, High School Head, and director of student activities at Washington & Lee University, Woodberry Forest School, University of New Hampshire, Bishop Guertin High School, and The Berkeley Preparatory School. In addition to teaching, he has coached baseball, football, ice hockey, and wrestling. He has also been the faculty sponsor for many clubs and activities such as camps, debate club, Model U.N., quiz bowl, student government, Honor Council, and other service-oriented clubs. During his tenure as a student, he played Football, Club Ice Hockey, and was on W&L's wrestling team.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank the members of the Head of School Search Committee, our consultants at Southern Teachers Agency, and all the members of our WCDS community who have contributed to the search process. We laud all who were involved for their commitment and dedication to the integrity of the search process.

Finally, we wish to thank Dr. Steven Taylor for his leadership and extraordinary service to our school through a very difficult time. His extensive experience, professionalism, passion for education, integrity, and the nurturing environment he created has guided us through a successful year. We look forward to continuing and finishing this school year under his leadership.

We thank you for your support and ask you to join us in welcoming the Jacobs family to our community.

Sincerely,

Amita Shreenath

Chair, Board of Trustees

Chair, Head of School Search Committee

Dear Members of the Wayne Country Day School Community,

Bethany, Connor, Gigi and I are thrilled to be joining you. The warm welcome that we received on our visits was without parallel. We met with trustees, parents, students, faculty and staff and were wowed by the love for the school and the authentic feeling of community. It is evident that WCDS is a special place and a remarkable school. We are deeply grateful to all the students, faculty, staff, parents and trustees who shared their time with us. Many thanks go to the Search Committee for their tireless efforts. We are eager to see you all on campus and to begin our new adventure as a family in Wayne County.



It has been a true pleasure to see firsthand a lively and proud community of mutual care. The level of commitment to the school is matched only by the level of concern you have for one another. The school certainly boasts amazing programs, and a rigorous, thoughtful, and innovative academic program, but it is the warmth of the people that set it apart. I was awed by the academic culture and I know I will learn much alongside a dedicated faculty. The ideal of excellence flows through the academic, artistic, athletic, and activity pillars of the school. On our visit we could see and feel that ideal. As fellow Chargers we will embrace it.

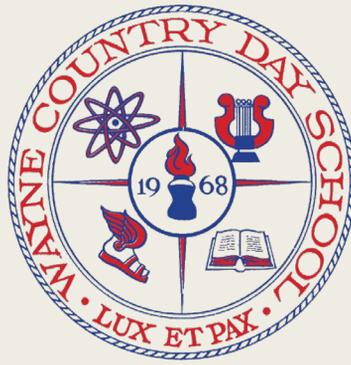
I have seen the amazing work that happens in the school every day. I am keen to understand and rejuvenate the school's many traditions. I fervently believe that together we can create a shared vision for the school's future. We are poised to take great strides as one of the finest independent schools in the state and I am humbled to be part of that journey. I look forward to meeting with you in

the classroom, car line, or in the stands. I want to hear your stories and hopes for the Wayne Country Day School.

In the coming months we hope to visit Goldsboro often. I will work diligently with the Board and current school leadership to immerse myself as deeply as possible in the school, its needs, and its strengths. There is much to be done and I can't wait to work with you all in building the future for the Wayne Country Day School.



See you soon,
Matt



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