



Jefferson City Public Schools

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Jefferson City Public Schools Announces Activities Hires for Capital City High School

JEFFERSON CITY - **Jefferson City Public Schools** today announced several activities hires for Capital City High School. JCPS and CCHS administrators are in the process of hiring a full slate of head coaches and directors, with more announcements expected in the next several months. Final determinations on placement of certified teaching positions, department heads and other staff members will be made prior to the start of the 2019-2020 school year based on student enrollment, course requests and other factors.

“As we continue to build our team at Capital City High School, we believe that each of these individuals will bring the leadership and vision needed to have successful programs year in and year out. They are charged with building winning programs that will help foster the success and growth of our students both in and out of the classroom while we develop and mold the culture at CCHS,” said **Capital City High School Principal Ben Meldrum**. “Each of these individuals brings a unique set of experiences and expertise that will benefit our students and create a great experience for them during their time at CCHS.”

“We believe that all our coaches and directors will help set the culture of our school by serving as role models for our students every day and making sure our students have a great experience at Capital City,” **Capital City High School Activities Director Robert Ndessokia** said. “We are striving to assemble a great team of leaders for all of our activities at CCHS, and each of these individuals will play a key role in starting timeless traditions that will last for years and years to come.”

Capital City High School Activities Director, Robert Ndessokia

Robert Ndessokia was publicly announced as the Activities Director for Capital City High School in 2018 and has been serving in that capacity, in addition to his current role as Middle School Activities Director, for the 2018-2019 school year. Ndessokia is a Jefferson City High School graduate, and prior to joining JCPS he spent nine years at Lange Middle School in Columbia teaching STEM classes while serving many years as a coach and athletics director (football, track & field, basketball). He holds a Bachelor of Science (Major – Computer Information Systems) and a Master of Education (Athletics/Activities Administration) from William Woods University.

“I can’t say enough good things about Robert Ndessokia,” said **JCPS Activities Director Ehren Earleywine**. “He is a visionary and a great teammate who truly understands what JCPS needs to continue to raise the bar. Our district is fortunate to have someone like Robert on our team - he is truly a difference maker.”

Band, Kevin Blair

Kevin Blair has over a decade of competitive marching band experience, competing both locally and nationally, and also working with concert band, jazz band, percussion, color guard and pep band. Blair currently works as the Assistant Director of Bands for Jefferson City High School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School. He holds

a Bachelor of Music Education (Instrumental) from Southeast Missouri State University and a Master of Arts in Music Education (Conducting) from the University of Central Missouri.

“Kevin Blair has an intelligent and systematic approach which has been cultivated over his decade-long career leading a wide variety programs to a number of local and national competitions,” **Earleywine** said. “We have no doubt he will build a tremendous program at Capital City High School which will be tremendously successful in the years to come.”

Choir, Michael Brand

Michael Brand’s choral experience includes Director of Choirs, Piano Teacher, Musical Theater Teacher, Vocal Jazz Director, Music Director for Spring Musical & Fall Play, Set/Light/Sound Designer for Spring Musical & Fall Play, and Auditorium Manager at Reed-Custer High School in Braidwood, IL. Brand recently served as the Event Coordinator for the first Illinois SINGS Choral Invitational at the University of Illinois. He holds a Bachelor of Music in both Music Education and Voice & Opera Performance from Northwestern University. He is expected to complete his Master’s of Music Education in May of 2019.

“Michael Brand is highly-qualified to step into the role of launching our choral program at Capital City High School,” said **Earleywine**. “He has led both groups and individuals in competitions at a very high level in many different choral disciplines and has a proven ability to translate that experience into his teaching.”

Boys & Girls Soccer, Travis Cairer

Travis Cairer has nearly 20 years of coaching experience, most recently as the Boys & Girls Youth (4-18 yrs old) Head Coach & Director for Sedalia United Soccer Academy. Cairer previously worked as a Boys & Girls Varsity Head Coach at Sacred Heart High School, and a Boys & Girls Assistant Varsity Coach at Smith-Cotton High School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education & Health from Central Methodist University.

“Coach Cairer did a great job building the youth/feeder programs in Sedalia. Duplicating that successful model will be a key component to all of our activities’ success at Capital City High School,” **Earleywine** said. “He came highly recommended from his industry peers and will be a good fit for us as we get our program off the ground and running.”

Boys & Girls Golf, Levi Elder

Levi Elder has experience teaching and coaching at the middle school and high school levels, most recently as the Boys & Girls Head Golf Coach for Jefferson City High School and Boys Head Basketball Coach for Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Elder holds a Bachelor of Science (Major - Mathematics, Minor - Education) and a Master of Education (Secondary Education) from Columbia College.

“Levi Elder is doing a great job in his current roles with JCPS, and we believe he has a promising coaching career in front of him,” **Earleywine** said. “He is honest, hard-working and will represent JCPS in a positive light.”

Softball, Trevor Hibbs

Trevor Hibbs has over 20 years of high school coaching experience, most recently as the Head Softball Coach for Warrenton County R3, winning the class 3 state championship in 2015 and 2016 and the class 3 district championship in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. Hibbs was named the Gateway Athletic Conference Softball Coach of the Year in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education (Physical Education & Health) from Central Methodist University and a Master of Education in Administration from William Woods University.

“Coach Hibbs is a proven winner with valuable state titles under his belt,” said **Earleywine**. “We strongly believe he has all of the attributes that make a great coach and strong potential to lead a winning team for CCHS.”

Boys & Girls Cross Country, Magnus Holmstrom

Magnus Holmstrom has 13 years of experience coaching at the middle school and high school levels, most recently as the head middle school cross country coach and the assistant high school track coach. Holmstrom previously served as the assistant high school cross country coach from 2010-2015. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education (Physical Education) from Missouri Southern State University and a Master of Education in Activities/Athletics Administration from William Woods University.

“Coach Holmstrom has been dedicated to JCPS for many years and has earned the respect of his coaches, athletes and administrators,” said **Earleywine**. “He is definitely a guy who leads with character first and we believe he will build long-term success as a result.”

Orchestra, Ashley Nelson

Over the past 17 years, Ashley Nelson has served as the Orchestra Teacher at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Belair Elementary, Lawson Elementary, Pioneer Trail Elementary and West Elementary. Nelson is the Manager and violinist of the *Harmonia Strings* string trio and performs with the Jefferson City Symphony Orchestra. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

“Ashley Nelson knows the terrain of the JCPS orchestra program having navigated it for 17 years and will have a head start in building the CCHS program as a result,” **Earleywine** said. “Her relationships in the district combined with her ability as a teacher is sure to launch our program on firm footing and have an immediate impact.”

Capital City High School will open in the fall of 2019 with freshmen and sophomore students only. At that time, all activities will compete at the varsity level with the exception of football, which will compete at the junior varsity level only before growing to a 9-12 building over the next two years. JCPS & CCHS administrators will continue with the process of hiring a full slate of head coaches, with more announcements expected in the coming months.

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