



Jefferson City Public Schools

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

JEFFERSON CITY - **Jefferson City Public Schools** today announced the latest activities hires for Capital City and Jefferson City High Schools.

"As progress continues at Capital City High School, we feel great about the activities team we are putting together," said **CCHS Principal Ben Meldrum**. "When we open doors this fall, I am confident these new hires will help positively impact the learning environment for our students."

"We are tremendously excited for our new coaches to join the JCHS team, and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will make in their new roles," said **JCHS Principal Bob James**. "Welcome coaches and GO JAYS!"

CAPITAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Boys & Girls Track, Scott Gschwender

Coach Gschwender has coached JCPS students since 2004, serving as the Varsity Track & Field high school assistant coach the past 15 years, head football coach for both Lewis & Clark Middle School and Simonsen 9th Grade Center, as well as a Varsity football special teams coordinator. His career as a classroom educator began in 2002 with the Paris school district.

"Coach G's knowledge, energy and passion are exactly what CCHS needs to start our track program," said **Robert Ndessokia, CCHS Activities Director**. "He's a son of a Hall of Fame coach, so he is no stranger to hard work, dedication and establishing positive relationships with our student athletes, it is in his DNA. He will be a great head coach for CCHS."

Girls Basketball, Ryan Madison

Coach Madison comes to JCPS by way of the Hamilton R-II, Stanberry R-II and St. Joseph school districts. A classroom Spanish teacher with a Bachelor of Science in Spanish Education from Missouri Western State College and a Masters of Education in Athletics/Activities Administration from William Woods University, he's also coached both boys and girls basketball dating back to 2003.

"Ryan Madison brings high energy, a wealth of experience and a tremendous record of success which fits perfectly with what we are looking to accomplish with our Girls Basketball Program," **Ndessokia** said. "We are very fortunate to have a coach of this caliber to establish the new program. I am confident that Ryan will lay a solid foundation and will quickly establish the program to play at a competitive level."

Wrestling, Mitchell Werdenhausen

Since 2013, Coach Werdenhausen has successfully lead wrestling at the middle school level for Thomas Jefferson Middle School. He began his classroom teaching experience (as a student teacher) at Jefferson City High School in 2011 with experience in teaching social studies and American Literature at the secondary level. Werdenhausen is currently the metals/electricity/woods instructor at JCHS.

“Coach Werdenhausen is an extremely hard worker and brings a great deal of positive energy to the job. He will have an excellent rapport with the athletes on the wrestling team,” said **Ndessokia**. “Mitch takes pride in everything he does and is committed to doing things the right way, which gives us great confidence in him for setting the foundation of our wrestling program.”

JEFFERSON CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Head Boys/Assistant Girls Golf, David Franks

With 25 years of classroom teaching experience, Franks also brings Varsity level coaching experience to JCPS in the sports of basketball, cross country, football, golf and track - by way of California R-I, Eldon and Russellville school districts.

“David has been around golf for most his life and taught at JCHS for years. He is a student of the game and really understands what it takes to compete at the highest levels,” said **Chad Rizner, Jefferson City High School Activities Director**. “We look forward to David sharing this experience with JCHS golfers in his new role.”

Head Girls/Assistant Boys Golf, Caitlin Phoenix

An avid golfer herself, Coach Phoenix played on a golf scholarship at Bradley University where she earned a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. She currently teaches 8th grade math at Lewis & Clark Middle School and works as an assistant coach for the 7th grade girls basketball team there.

“Caitlin was a standout athlete in high school and college and has competed and succeeded at the very highest level,” **Rizner** said. “As an assistant for the Jays and Lady Jays she showed a great rapport with our athletes and showed an ability to use her experience to help the team. We look forward to working with Coach Phoenix in her new role.”

Cheer, Paige West

A University of Missouri graduate with a Bachelor of Science in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Paige West currently teaches business at Jefferson City High School. She also possesses high school level teaching experience at Rockbridge and Battle High Schools.

“Paige has been a great teacher at JCHS for several years. She is always willing to step up to challenges and be successful,” said **Rizner**. “Her past experience in cheer will help her create a strong and successful team. We are excited about continuing to work with her in her new role.”

JCPS administrators are continuing the process of hiring a full slate of head coaches and directors for Capital City High School, which 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. In addition to activities hires, 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. JCPS & CCHS administrators are continuing the process of hiring a full slate of head coaches, with more announcements expected in the coming months.