

**CONTACT:**

Communications Office

[communications@harrisburgacademy.org](mailto:communications@harrisburgacademy.org), (717) 763-7811

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**Harrisburg Academy Names Mr. Ben Murphy Head of Middle and Upper Schools**

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Harrisburg Academy is pleased to welcome Mr. Ben Murphy to the Harrisburg Academy community as the new head of Middle and Upper Schools. Mr. Murphy will officially start his new role on July 15, 2019.



The search committee prioritized finding candidates who offer administrative experience, familiarity with International Baccalaureate programmes, and personal characteristics that will help lead the Academy into a new era of stability and continued educational excellence. During his on campus interview, the search committee found Mr. Murphy to be reflective and level-headed. They were impressed with his intentional style of decision-making. Mr. Murphy demonstrated a core value around building relationships through proactive and intentional communication. In addition to his knowledge of the practicalities of leading rigorous academic programs, Mr. Murphy also emphasized the importance of student character growth through both personal integrity and academic honesty.

When speaking about why he is interested in coming to Harrisburg Academy, Mr. Murphy acknowledged our strong community and expressed an interest in collaborating with colleagues and parents who are invested in our school. He recognized that the Academy has a long history of academic excellence but is also actively searching for ways to continually improve. Mr. Murphy shared a desire to be a part of our school community for its strong foundation but also because we recognize it's time to take the next step in our evolution. He is excited to be part of the momentum of purposeful change at Harrisburg Academy.

"I am excited about the opportunity to join Harrisburg Academy, and I look forward to discovering more about the school community and the Harrisburg area," said Mr. Murphy. "I believe quality relationships are at the heart of a quality and enriching educational experience, and one of my goals moving forward will be building productive and supportive relationships with students, faculty, and families. There is a great amount of potential at the school, and in my initial conversations with members of the Harrisburg Academy community, I appreciated how obvious it was that people loved the school and wanted to work to make it better. Thank you for allowing me to join your community, and I wish everyone a safe and happy summer. Go Spartans!"

Mr. Murphy is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, with an advanced degree in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He comes to the Academy with experience as an Upper School division director at the University School of Jackson, an independent school in Tennessee, and as a founding faculty member at an IB school in Hawaii.

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg's only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12<sup>th</sup> grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website at [www.HarrisburgAcademy.org](http://www.HarrisburgAcademy.org) or contact the Communications Office at 717-763-7811 or via email at [communications@harrisburgacademy.org](mailto:communications@harrisburgacademy.org).