

## **A Brief Biography of Our Headmaster**

From his days in junior high, Matt Pollock was strongly influenced by the ministry of Christian School education. His father was a teacher, coach and administrator in a Christian school during his growing up years and demonstrated the incredible impact that could be experienced by students in this setting. Matt became convinced that God wanted him to serve in this field and so he continued his studies after high school at Clarks Summit University (formerly named Baptist Bible College) in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Bible and History. His love of sports pushed him to develop his skills in coaching during his college years as well.

Matt and his wife, Rosemary have served together for almost thirty years in two Christian schools and at also at Clarks Summit University (CSU) before taking leadership of Grace Baptist Academy. He began his teaching and coaching career at his alma mater, West Chester Christian School in southeastern Pennsylvania. After five years, the family moved to the West Coast as Matt became high school principal at Bethel Christian School in Lancaster, California. A move back east returned them to their alma mater, CSU. After serving for 16 years in a variety of roles such as Financial Counselor for students, Dean of Men, and Director of Student Activities. Matt became the Dean of Students from 2008-2013. Rosemary was the manager of the campus coffeehouse from 2005-2013 and enjoyed leading the team of student workers there. The Pollocks have four daughters and added a son-in-law, Nathan as he married Jennifer in May of 2011. After two years of teaching second grade at a charter school in Pennsylvania, Nathan now teaches health and physical education at Grace while Jennifer is caring for their two children; Caiden and Audrina. Their oldest daughter, Jessica followed in the "family business", teaching and coaching at Summit Christian for three years prior to moving to Tennessee to teach science and history in the Middle School of GBA. Like her two older sisters, their third daughter, Katlyn graduated from CSU in May 2013 with a specialized program of missions and elementary education. She works at the Grace Children's Center and also is coordinator of children's ministries at the church. She has traveled to Africa on three different ministry trips to orphanages. Their youngest daughter, Meghan completed her senior year of high school at Grace in 2013-14. She is now pursuing her college degree at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Beyond his professional vocation in Christian education, Matt served in his local church as a deacon, middle school teacher, and in a variety of children's ministries. From 2000-2007, he was the varsity girls basketball coach at their local Christian school compiling a record of 122-40, winning three consecutive league and ACSI regional championships, as well as two small school championships at the NACA invitational tournament held in Dayton, Tennessee. He then coached the women's basketball team at CSU on the NCAA Division III level for three seasons.

One of his most fulfilling ministries has been using student government for the development of young leaders in each of the schools he has served. Matt considers involvement with student government to be one of the most dynamic opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Matt served for almost 25 years on the team that directed Teen Leadership Conference at Clarks Summit University. This Bible conference for high school students attracts close to 1000 teens each summer. In 1998, he founded another conference called BBC's Growing Leaders which targeted student government officers from Christian schools in the region. Coordinating various sessions, fun activities, and the ministry of counselors while also speaking at main sessions provided a powerful experience for him at these annual conferences.

Another passion for Matt has been helping people through difficult times. Earning a master's degree in counseling (1998) enhanced his skills and developed even more capacity to support people in challenging situations. He is currently continuing his graduate studies in the Masters of Education in Administration program at Clarks Summit University. Matt continues to contribute in accreditation processes with Bible colleges that he began while at CSU with the Association for Biblical Higher Education. This has furthered his understanding of the value of good assessment and its role in the pursuit of excellence as an educational institution.