

A Brief Biography of Our Head of School

From his days in junior high, our headmaster, **Matt Pollock** was strongly influenced by the ministry of Christian School education. His father was a teacher, coach, and administrator in a Christian school, and he demonstrated the transformational 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 at *Clarks Summit University* (formerly named Baptist Bible College) in northeastern 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 also develop his skills in coaching during his college years as well.

Matt and his wife, Rosemary served together for almost thirty years in two Christian schools as well as *Clarks Summit University* (CSU) before taking leadership of Grace Baptist Academy in 2013. He began his teaching and coaching career at his own 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 college alma mater, CSU. After serving for 16 years in a variety of roles such as Financial Counselor, Dean of Men, and Director of Student Activities. Matt was the Dean of Students from 2008-2013. **Rosemary** was not only a residence hall director for five years, but later served as manager of the campus coffeehouse from 2005-2013. Her service as Coordinator of Children's Ministries at their local church was especially meaningful for the entire family. The Pollocks were blessed with four daughters. Their second daughter, Jennifer graduated from CSU with a degree in counseling ministries, and married **Nathan Greve** in May of 2011. After teaching second grade at a charter school in Pennsylvania, Nathan now teaches health and PE, while also serving as Assistant Athletic Director at Grace. **Jennifer** is focused on caring for their four children: Caiden, Audrina, Adelaide, and James and also serves as coordinator of nursery and preschool ministries at the church. After finishing her degree in secondary education at CSU, their oldest daughter, **Jessica** followed in the "family business", teaching and coaching at Summit Christian School for three years prior to moving to Tennessee to teach science and history in the Middle School of GBA. She also coached girls' soccer and basketball. In 2020, she married **Brandon Luedtke** and they welcomed their first child, Gwendolyn in 2022. Their third daughter, **Katlyn** graduated from CSU in May 2013 with a specialized program of missions and elementary education. She worked with preschool children at Grace Children's Center and also served as coordinator of children's ministries at Grace Baptist Church for two years. During her college studies, she developed a deep love for orphans in Kenya, traveling there on several ministry trips. A highly engaging and creative teacher, Katlyn taught first grade as well as coaching the elementary girls' basketball team for Grace from 2017-2021. It was at this point, she committed to at least one year of full-time ministry in Webuye, Kenya, moving there in August where she currently serves at *Encouragement Children's Home*. Their youngest daughter, **Meghan** graduated from high school at Grace in 2014. While working with preschoolers in the Children's Center, she attended Chattanooga State College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She completed her degree at CSU and returned to teach four-year olds at The Center. In 2021, she married **Chad Stephens** and then moved to the Academy to teach kindergarten.

Beyond his professional vocation in Christian education, Matt served in his local church as a deacon, adult small group leader, 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 ACS regional championships, and two small school championships at the NACA national invitational tournament held in Dayton, Tennessee. He then coached women's basketball at CSU on the *NCAA Division III* level for three seasons.

One of his most fulfilling ministries has been using student government programs for the development of young leaders in each of the schools he has served. Matt considers this to be one of the most dynamic opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. He served for over 20 years on the team that directed *Teen Leadership Conference* at Clarks Summit University. In 1998, Matt founded another conference called *BBC's Growing Leaders* which targeted student government officers from Christian schools in the northeast region. Coordinating training sessions, fun activities, and the ministry of counselors while speaking at main sessions provided a powerful impact for him.

Another passion for Matt has been helping people through difficult times. Earning a Master of Science in Counseling degree enhanced his skills and developed even more capacity to support people in challenging situations. Further graduate studies culminated in a Master of Education in Administration degree. Matt has also contributed in accreditation processes with Bible colleges through 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.