

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 the Christian school during high school 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** served together for twenty-eight 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 under his father's leadership 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 Greve** as he married Jennifer in May of 2011. After two years of teaching second grade at a charter school in Pennsylvania, Nathan teaches health and physical education at Grace while **Jennifer** is caring for their four children; **Caiden, Audrina, Adelaide, and James**. 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. Just recently married to **Brandon Luedtke**, Jessica also provides IT Support and coaches high school girls soccer. Like her two older sisters, their third daughter, **Katlyn** graduated from CSU in May 2013 with a focus on missions and elementary education. She worked with preschool children at the Grace Children's Center for four years and also served as coordinator of children's ministries at the church for two years. In 2017, Katlyn began teaching in the GBA Lower School, finding her niche in a first-grade classroom. She has a deep love for orphans in Kenya and has traveled to Africa on several different ministry trips. Their youngest daughter, **Meghan** completed her senior year of high school at Grace in 2013-14. While working with preschool children in the Grace Children's Center, she pursued undergraduate studies at Chattanooga State College and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She then completed her bachelor's degree at Clarks Summit University and returned to teach four-year olds in the early childhood education program at Grace.

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 facilitating 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 growth opportunities for students. Matt served for over 20 years on the team that directed *Teen Leadership Conference* at CSU which attracted close to 1000 teens each summer. In 1998, he founded another conference, *BBC's Growing Leaders* designed specifically for student government officers from Christian schools. Coordinating instructional sessions, interactive activities, while also speaking at main sessions provided a powerful experience for him at these annual fall events.

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. Matt is currently an adjunct online instructor in the Graduate School of Clarks Summit University. Engaging with graduate students who desire professional development in Christian school education is very invigorating and provides increased opportunity for him to be a life-long learner while leading these courses.