



Dear Episcopal Collegiate School Community,

On behalf of The Board of Trustees of Episcopal Collegiate School, we announce with great enthusiasm and pride the appointment of James H. Griffin as Episcopal Collegiate School's next Head of School, effective July 1, 2021.

James "Jamie" Griffin joins Episcopal Collegiate from Battle Ground Academy in Franklin, Tennessee, where he has served as Head of Upper School since 2015. During his tenure at Battle Ground Academy, the Upper School has experienced tremendous growth. He helped manage the implementation of an innovative, four-year entrepreneurial leadership program, led the development of a learning center, an international student program, an expanded four-year college counseling program, and dramatically improved 8th to 9th grade retention. Jamie helped Battle Ground Academy achieve the goals of its Strategic Plan ahead of schedule and he played a critical role in drafting the new Strategic Plan under which the school operates today. Jamie was instrumental in creating and adopting Battle Ground Academy's COVID-19 Policies and Action Plan. He designed and teaches an Upper School course on Middle East History and in May, Jamie will earn a Doctorate of Education in Education Leadership and Policy from Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. He also has a Master's of Education from Cabrini College with a concentration in Education Leadership.

Prior to working at Battle Ground Academy, Jamie spent five years at The Haverford School in Haverford, Pennsylvania as an Upper School history teacher, faculty advisor to the student-led Honor Council, and varsity wrestling coach. Before joining Haverford, Jamie taught Upper School history and served as Form Dean of Students at his alma mater, The Episcopal Academy in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania.

Jamie is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy where he was also a varsity wrestler. He served as a Commissioned Officer for six years with the United States Marine Corps, was promoted through the

rank of Captain, and served in the U.S. war in Iraq. Jamie and his wife Maureen have been married for nineteen years. They met while they were both Middle School students at The Episcopal Academy, where Jamie began his teaching career after leaving military service. Jamie and Maureen know and appreciate the value of an Episcopal education. They are delighted to be back in an Episcopal school community and are looking forward to enrolling their eleven-year-old twins in Episcopal Collegiate School this fall.

This announcement is the culmination of a process that began last October when the Board of Trustees hired a search consultant to lead a national search for Episcopal Collegiate's next Head of School. Interest in the position was extremely high. Our consultant cultivated a diverse pool of more than forty outstanding candidates and following preliminary interviews with the most highly-qualified applicants, the Search Committee conducted in-depth interviews with the leading four. Jamie Griffin quickly emerged as the obvious and unanimous choice. His care for students, passion for teaching and learning, dedication to professional growth, strong leadership and communication skills, and unparalleled work ethic were immediately evident. Those impressions were solidified after speaking to each one of Jamie's former Heads of School, who all commented on his high integrity, authenticity, and humility. His former commanding officer in the Marines described Jamie as the "most inspirational leader he has ever met."

We would like to extend our deep appreciation to Interim Head of School, Steve Hickman. Steve's steadfast leadership has provided us with stability during this time of transition. His commitment to serve as Interim Head of School (if needed) until July of 2022 also allowed us flexibility with our search timeline. Steve has already agreed to serve as a consultant to Jamie and the Board of Trustees for the 2021-2022 school year, assuring the most seamless transition possible for the Episcopal Collegiate community.

Jamie is an experienced leader and a talented educator who embodies Episcopal Collegiate's values of Respect, Reverence, and Responsibility. He has worked collaboratively with faculty, staff, parents, and students in all areas of campus life and will bring those strengths to our community. We are thrilled to welcome Jamie, his wife Maureen, and their children, Mary Austin and Xavier, to the Episcopal Collegiate School family. This is truly an exciting time to be a Wildcat!

Thank you for your support,

Joan Strauss, President of the Board of Trustees
Search Committee Co-chair, Parent

Michelle Carney, Vice President of the Board of Trustees

Search Committee Co-chair, Alumni Parent

Head of School Search Committee:

Chris Cooley, Member of the Board of Trustees, Parent

Mary Lou Entzminger, Member of the Board of Trustees, Founding Head of Upper School

Steve Hickman, Interim Head of School, former Head of School

Jeanne Joyner, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Alumni Parent

Mark Lee, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, Alumni Parent

Harriet Stephens, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, Alumni Parent