

For Immediate Release July 6, 2023

Welcome Raptor Football Staff 2023-2024!

Academic Magnet High School is excited to announce our Raptor football coaching staff for the 2023-2024 season.



**Academic Magnet
High School**

Eric Gallien, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita Huggins
Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Sherry Eppelsheimer, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent of
High Schools

Jacob Perlmutter
Principal

Mr. Ernest White, Head Football Coach



Last year Coach White led our Raptor squad to a 5-4 season and this year he returns to build on that winning record. Before taking the head coach position at Academic Magnet, Coach White worked with the AMHS Raptor team as an assistant to Coach Kamp for three years. He has over thirty years experience coaching football all over the lowcountry as a defensive, offensive, and head coach. He is most excited about the opportunity for athletes to face the challenges of a new season with a promising crop of recruits mentored by our seasoned veteran players. Coach White said, "Football is a true team sport that builds togetherness and a lifetime of friendships." He looks forward to working with our new coaches and players on the field, and can't wait to see the energy from our Birdcage student section Friday night games!

Mr. Stuart Walters, Assistant Coach



You will probably recognize this lifetime Raptor returning for a second full season on the coaching staff. Coach Walters was a record breaking player at AMHS and went on to play college football at Johns Hopkins University and semi-pro football before returning to Charleston. In addition to his years of playing experience, Coach Walters has coached football for four years. He's excited to get an opportunity to be back on the Raptor team where he cites the most important lesson he learned as, "you can't get back a missed opportunity." He's looking forward to helping athletes learn important life lessons and skills. Off the field, Coach Walters is an engineer, in his free time he enjoys riding atv's, jetskis, and spending time with his son.

Mr. Jimmy Brown, Assistant Coach



Coach Brown is a graduate of The Citadel where he was a four-year letter-man in both football and track and field. After college Coach Brown began a coaching legacy at St. Andrews High School and North Charleston High School that has produced numerous accolades, championships and academic success stories. Coach Brown's influence has extended well beyond the gates of the football field. Three players from his tenure as North Charleston head football coach went on to play in the NFL and nine of his former players continued at the collegiate level. Jimmy's coaching motto is, "We are what we repeatedly do; therefore, excellence is not an act but a habit."

Mr. Joe Bessinger, Assistant Coach



Joe Bessinger is a household name in Charleston football. A lowcountry native, (Wando class of '92) Coach Bessinger has worked with students as a football coach within CCSD for twenty-four years. In 2019 he was named Region 8 AAAAA Coach of the Year as head football coach of RB Stall High School. Academic Magnet is excited to bring this wealth of experience into our sidelines this season. Outside of football, Coach Bessinger teaches social studies at RB Stall and he and his wife Nadia are the proud parents of their son Bryson.

Mr. Andy Rusciolelli, Assistant Coach



We are also adding another familiar name to the Raptor football family in Coach Rusciolelli. Raised in Northern Virginia, Coach Rush moved south in 2002 to begin his teaching career at North Charleston High School. He served as a coach, teacher, and assistant principal at North Charleston and Stall High Schools before joining the AMHS faculty in 2012. Coach Rush has served as both the Raptor assistant athletic director and athletic director. A lifelong athlete, Coach Rush has played and coached baseball, basketball, and football during his career. We are looking forward to adding his enthusiastic spirit, love of the game, and existing knowledge of our student athletes.



“This is a dream coaching staff,” said Raptor athletic director Raymond Knauer. “There is 100+ years of experience to support our team this year and they are men of character.”

For more information please contact Coach White at Ernest.White@charleston.k12.sc.us or Raymond Knauer at Raymond.Knauer@charleston.k12.sc.us

Additional football details can be found at <https://amhsraptors.com/events/10/2021> .