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Academic Magnet High School

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AMHS Welcomes Coach Raymond Knauer as our new Raptor Athletic Director!

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Raymond Knauer moved south beginning his teaching career in 2004 at North Charleston High School. He has served as a coach, teacher, instructional coach and athletic director at North Charleston High School for the past eighteen years. During the past seven years, Coach Knauer has worked to build NCHS athletic programs into a regional force and he leaves a legacy of improved student outcomes on the fields, courts, and in the classrooms.

Mr. Knauer reflected, "In my role, I have done anything to meet a challenge and solve a problem. I strive to always serve student athletes and find creative solutions to unique situations," adding "I am a huge, loyal advocate for my students and my school."

A former lacrosse athlete, Coach Knauer has some Academic Magnet connections as well... He was instrumental in starting the Raptor lacrosse program serving as assistant coach during the program's first two years. Coach Knauer has also coached cross-country and football and has invested energy in creating a more robust athletic program at NCHS. He loves the spirit of competition and believes that every sport is important and meaningful for a successful athletic program.

Coach Knauer has embraced the use of social media to publicize and grow athletic programs and has received recognitions for his work marketing athletics with Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and school websites. "You have to get information to the community wherever the community gets its information," he says. "That has changed over the past decade, so our communication plans have changed too."

Coach Knauer also brings an outstanding working knowledge of the SC High School League coupled with over a decade of positive relationships with regional athletic directors and coaches. He has formed partnerships with an array of local, regional, and national organizations to serve athletic goals and is known in the local sporting community for his affable trustworthiness and "whatever it takes" work ethic. He knows the systems and processes of the Charleston County School District and is familiar with the local collegiate landscape for athletics.

On our outgoing athletic director, he shared, "I have known Sharon Williams well for many years and have always respected her loyalty and judgement. In our line of work, we see many people come and go, and Coach Williams and I have worked together for a very long time (even when our teams were divisional opponents) to pool resources, to share buses and fields. I have always admired her. Coach Williams leaves huge shoes to fill at Academic Magnet but I am excited about the challenge!"



Ms. Sharon Williams, our outgoing Athletic Director and AMHS legend, said “Sometimes you have to look far and wide to find something that has been right here all along. Raymond is the right hire for Magnet. Period.”

Raymond Knauer will officially transition to Academic Magnetic in mid-January 2023 at the beginning of the second semester. The AMHS Athletic Booster Club will host an informal meet-and-greet for any interested AMHS coaches, faculty, staff, and parents on **Wednesday January 11th at 6:00pm at Common House Aleworks in Park Circle.**

Please join me in welcoming Coach Raymond Knauer to the AMHS Raptor Nation!