

# Matt Pollock

Headmaster since 2013

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 a Christian school during his growing up years 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 graduating high school at Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, Penn. 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 nearly 30 years in two Christian schools and at Baptist Bible College before Matt took leadership of Grace Baptist Academy. He began his teaching and coaching career 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. Two years later, they moved back east to join the staff of Baptist Bible College. Matt was the Dean of Students from 2008-2013 after previously serving for 16 years in a variety of roles such as Financial Counselor for students, Dean of Men, and Director of Student Activities. 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 a son-in-law, Nathan, who married Jennifer in May of 2011. Upon their move from Pennsylvania, all of the Pollocks jumped into ministry at Grace. Nathan teaches health and physical education at Grace while Jennifer is caring for their first child, Caiden. Their oldest daughter, Jessica, teaches science and history in the Middle School of GBA and coaches girls basketball. Their third daughter, Katlyn, works at the Grace Children's Center with 3-year-olds. The youngest daughter, Meghan, completed her senior year of high school at Grace in 2013-14, participating in choir, soccer, and basketball. Meghan is now pursuing a nursing degree at Chattanooga State.

Beyond his professional vocation in Christian education, Matt has served in his local church as a deacon, middle school teacher, and in a variety of children's ministries. From 2000-07, 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, Tenn. He then coached the women's basketball team at BBC on the NCAA Division III level for three seasons.

One of his most fulfilling ministries has been using student government for the development of young leaders in each of the schools in which he has served. Matt considers involvement with student government to be one of the most dynamic opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Walking alongside these students has resulted in some significant achievements and experiences. Working with students to establish the Underground Café, a coffeehouse on the campus of BBC, is one of those special accomplishments. Matt served for nearly 25 years as a part of the team that directed Teen Leadership Conference at BBC. This Bible conference for high school students attracts close to 1,000 teens each summer. In 1998, he founded another conference called BBC's Growing Leaders, which targeted student government officers from Christian schools in the region.

While at BBC, Matt participated in accreditation processes with other colleges and was asked to serve on the accreditation commission of 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. Another passion for Matt has been helping people through difficult times. He earned a Master's degree in counseling (1998), enhancing his skills and developing a greater capacity to support people in challenging situations.