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## **Madison announces Mark McFarland will lead the Madison Cubs basketball program.**

Madison, IN: Madison Consolidated High School has announced Mark McFarland as the new boys Varsity Basketball Coach. Coach McFarland comes to Madison from Rensselaer, IN where he was a business teacher, the Administrative Assistant Athletic Director, and Head Basketball Coach at Rensselaer Central High School.

“As a coach and teacher, it is my philosophy to win on the basketball floor and in the classroom by teaching students the importance of life-long learning and how to be a positive role model and contributor to our society,” stated McFarland in his application letter. “I do this by allowing the students to see these characteristics in myself everyday.” These very qualities were the things that stood out quickly to the search committee. “We received fifteen applications for the position of Head Basketball Coach,” shared Michael Gasaway, MCHS Principal. “We had some high quality applicants and after reviewing our expectations and their qualifications, we narrowed the field to six who we felt best fit what we are looking for in our program. Those individuals were then interviewed by a committee made up of administrators. We also talked with a few coaches at the high school and college levels for input.”

Coach McFarland graduated from Ball State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Major: Business/Marketing Education and received his Master of Science Education from Walden University. He will join the staff at MJHS as a Computer Science teacher and as a teacher within the Independent Learning Academy at MCHS. “This hire comes as a win-win for the high school and middle school,” shares Jill Mires, MJHS Principal. “We look forward to having Mr. McFarland in our building and a part of the Madison family.”

“When my players and students are able to see how much I give, it provides incentive for them to work hard as a team on and off the court. As a teacher, I push my students to the best of their ability, by developing meaningful lesson plans that students are able to relate to individually. I also create projects that create hands-on learning experiences for the student that benefit them as real-life situations,” shares McFarland.

McFarland is passionate about program development. His resume indicates he is capable of recruiting and maintaining a feeder system which will enhance the player experience and programs at all levels. “I look forward to working together with coaches and as a community to create a great experience for athletes of all ages,” shared McFarland. Most recently as the Head Coach at Rensselaer

Central High School, Coach McFarland's team was the Sectional runner up in 2015 and 2017. He developed and closely monitored a program for youth in Grades K through 8 and developed and Elite Group for athletes in Grades 4 through 8. His team finished Top 35 in State Defensive Average in 2014-2015 and he created an Elite Youth League for Northwest Indiana hosting 20-25 teams each weekend. "I believe that building a great program must be established from the ground up. In doing this, it also enables the community to gain interest and support for the program moving forward," said McFarland.

While at Mississinewa High School, McFarland's teams were Central Indiana Conference Champions in 2013-2014, Sectional runner-up in 2014, Grant Four Tournament Champions in 2012-2013, and he was awarded Grant County Coach of the Year in 2011-2012. "I have learned how to develop a championship mentality and approach to the game and look forward to sharing that with players of all ages," states McFarland.

"Mark brings effective teaching evaluations as well as six years as a varsity basketball coach at Rensselaer Central and Mississinewa High Schools, respectively. Mark was highly recommended as a coach who excels in game preparation, in-game coaching ability, and building a strong feeder program. We are very happy to have Mark joining the MCHS and MJHS family as he will be in both buildings during the school day to teach," shares Gasaway.

Mark and Chelsea have already found a temporary spot for their family to live so they can relocate immediately, but take their time selecting their home. "It was important for us to be here, and be together, for the beginning of the school year. Our son, Kayden, will be in the third grade and our daughter, Milena, who is just four months old are both looking forward to calling Madison home," shared McFarland.

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