

Written by George Browning

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Walking into the principal’s office at Charlestown High School, one is immediately struck with a dose of “Pirate Pride.” Earlier this month, the Greater Clark County School Board named Mark Laughner Charlestown High School’s new principal. Laughner comes to Charlestown by way of Jeffersonville’s Parkview Middle School, where he served seven years as principal. Laughner began his teaching career in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida as a social studies teacher, before stints teaching at Clarksville High School and an Assistant Principal position at Clarksville Middle.

Laughner has begun moving into his new office at Charlestown High School, but by first mounting the now traditional Pirate flag on the wall behind his desk, and positioned various Pirate spirit reminders about; by all appearances ready to take the Pirate Command. Laughner is originally from a Central Indiana community very similar in many ways to Charlestown; which is a part of what attracted him to his new position. Charlestown seems to nearly feel like home for Laughner, who also added that the new high school facility also played a part in pursuing a “position that is hard to pass up.”

Laughner believes it’s a recipe for just what he was looking for in the high school administration area of his career. Laughner stressed a real interest in him and his staff focusing on student academic achievement, taking further the progress recently attained at Charlestown High School.

“I am interested in increasing not only the numbers of students who pass the statewide ECA tests, but also the numbers of students who tackle advanced placement and dual enrollment (college credit) courses and pursue an academic honors diploma,” said Laughner.

Improving the appearance of the campus is also high on Laughner’s to-do list, with a desire to increase the aesthetic appeal of the campus for all who study, visit or just pass by Charlestown High School.

Laughner has an athletic history, playing baseball in college, coaching football while teaching in Clarksville, and always enjoying watching student athletes compete. He looks forward to working with the Pirate Pride Booster Club to find ways to bolster school spirit and participation at athletic events. Laughner reiterated his academic focus, and has ideas to help student athletes have the resources needed to take care of business in the classroom; so they can then take care of business on the field or court.

Principal Laughner welcomes the parents and the community to contact him with any questions, concerns, or comments, by e-mailing him at [mlaughter@gcs.k12.in.us](mailto:mlaughter@gcs.k12.in.us).

“You’ll see me in the community, especially attending all the sports events I can,” said Laughner.