

New Director to Forge Even Stronger Connections in Alumni Journey

The Orchard Lake Schools announces the appointment of Donald J. Buchanan to the position of Director of Alumni Relations. The Honorary Alumnus (H'14) and St. Mary's Preparatory football offensive coordinator, who has played an integral role in five state championship teams and helped develop All-League, All-State, and All-American quarterbacks and running backs, as well as advocating for numerous college football players, is well-equipped to help build even greater momentum, tradition and brotherhood among former students of St. Mary's Prep, SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary and St. Mary's College.

The Cabrini High School grad received his B.S. in Education from Central Michigan University (1984). While teaching at Best Jr. High in Ferndale (1985-93), he obtained his M.A. in Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership from Oakland University (1990).

From 1993-95, Buchanan served in various positions within the Imlay City Community Schools, including Assistant Principal (high school) and Athletic Director before the administration was consolidated and he became Adult, Community Ed and Athletic Director. Following this two-year journey, he joined the Fenton Area Public Schools and returned to teaching, coaching and administrative roles (assistant principal).

Throughout the majority of his teaching career, Buchanan also devoted his talents to the Orchard Lake St. Mary's football program, including the periods from 1986-88, 1993-99 and 2004 to the current season.

This year, the educator, who spent over 32 years in public education, retired to pursue his new challenge to build the Orchard Lake Schools Alumni Association. "When I started coaching here 30 years ago, I fell in love with the campus and its community," said Buchanan. "I want the alumni association to be the best it can be. When the Director of Alumni Relations opportunity

came up, I knew I had some pretty big shoes to fill, but that it was the right move to make. I am embracing this challenge.”

Buchanan’s commitment to excellence and ability to excel in cultivating relationships and collaborating with external and internal constituents are just a few of many extraordinary skills he brings to the Orchard Lake Schools and his new role as director. “As a former teacher, I will miss the daily classroom rewards, but I see this as a very rewarding shift in the process of doing what I can to help make the Orchard Lake Schools a place all alumni can continue to wear as a badge of honor,” said Buchanan.

The new director, the third oldest of seven children, and his wife, Kathy, are the proud parents of Kyle (21), Katherine (19), and Kelli (13). His younger brother attended Catholic Central, and he has several friends who are alumni of other catholic league schools. “One of my goals is to remind our alumni of the pride we share in our legacy here at Orchard Lake,” said Buchanan. “We want them to feel the strong connection, the pride of ownership of our tradition and brotherhood, and keep them involved through their time, talents and treasures.”