

The Man Behind the Chair

Thomas Jefferson Academy has had many great principals throughout the years, and recently a new one has been hired.

A former teacher at the school, Andy Bonifay is now a well-known face around the campus, but there are a few things the journalism club thought the students and parents may want to know about him.

When asked why he decided to become the principal, Bonifay said he asked himself “Do you feel like you could make this place better? And the answer was yes.” He has many plans for the school, considering adding new classrooms for the lower school and updates to the exterior of the gym sometime in the future. Classrooms are very needed for the elementary as it continues to grow, with the kindergarten class having to be split into two different rooms. The principal also wishes to create more opportunities in the classroom, such as the journalism club. Though he has big ideas, he is taking it slow and doesn’t want to make any major changes too soon.

“It came naturally to me,” Bonifay stated in response to a question about why he decided to become a baseball coach. He grew up playing the sport and also enjoyed coaching in college. In response to a similar question about teaching, he claimed “It was the first thing I got excited about doing something.” The experience of coaching in college and the help of a history professor inspired him to make the career choice that led him here.

The principal's favorite thing about being a Jaguar is the “community involvement and support.” The parents and students of Thomas Jefferson are always quick to respond to a need, whether it be the need of a single student or a schoolwide concern. Many have begun calling the new principal “Mr. Bonifay” as opposed to his previous title of “Coach.” Though most teachers have started using “Mr.,” the new principal expresses no preference or opposition to either title.

As the school year continues, Mr. Bonifay hopes to improve the school and make students' education the ultimate experience.