



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2021

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FORSYTH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES ROBERT BUTLER AS NEW HEAD OF SCHOOL FOR 2021 /22

Robert Butler Returns to St. Louis, Joins Forsyth with 20 Years of Experience as a Teacher, Coach, and Administrator

(ST. LOUIS, MO)—The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce Robert Butler, Jr., as new Head of Forsyth School, effective July 1, 2021. Butler comes to Forsyth from University Liggett School in Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan, where he has been the Assistant Head of School and Head of the Middle School since 2017. Before that, he worked at Whitfield School in St. Louis for seven years in a variety of teaching, coaching, and administrative roles, ending his tenure there as the Middle School Director.

Butler was selected from a large pool of candidates following a comprehensive, national search conducted in partnership with [The Education Group](#), led by Katherine Stuart, President. His appointment was recommended to the Board of Trustees by the Search Committee, comprised of trustees, parents, faculty, and staff.

“The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Butler by a unanimous vote based on the enthusiastic endorsement from the Search Committee,” says Kelly Richert, Board President. “We are thrilled to welcome him into our school community and excited for the future of Forsyth School under his leadership.”

Butler has served on the [Independent Schools Association of the Central States](#) (ISACS) Board of Trustees since 2015 and recently participated in the ISACS Leadership Academy in partnership with the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management. He holds a Master of Arts in English from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Northeastern State University.

“The magic of Forsyth School became abundantly clear from the moment I set foot on campus. The opportunity to serve as Head of School felt more like a calling than a job prospect,” notes Butler.

He says, “I am eager to preserve and amplify what has made Forsyth a leader in elementary education in St. Louis. Together with the community, we will turn boldly to the next chapter in the life of the school with a continued focus on the core elements of the Honor Code—honesty, kindness, respect, and responsibility. We will move forward with a fervent commitment to equity, inclusion, and the environment.”

Butler will be the sixth permanent Head of Forsyth School. He succeeds Dan Hildebrand, who will retire at the end of the 2020/21 school year after serving as Head of School for three years. Under his leadership, Forsyth successfully secured reaccreditation from the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS); navigated the global COVID-19 pandemic; launched a new Eyas Program for ages 2–3; and developed a new strategic plan with an updated mission, vision, and values. Hildebrand and the administrative Leadership Team will work closely with Butler in the coming months to ensure a seamless leadership transition.

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Forsyth School fosters a spirit of curiosity and joy, empowering children to pursue challenges with confidence.

At Forsyth, our talented and caring faculty encourage students to explore and question, enabling them to learn deeply. Each child’s unique identity is known, celebrated, and nurtured by our supportive community. The results are profound: children take risks, pursue challenges, and find joy in learning. The experience is enriched by Forsyth’s unique campus, location, and a shared commitment to the natural world.

[Forsyth School](#) is a leading independent, co-educational elementary school for children age 2 through Grade 6. Located across the street from Washington University and Forest Park in the Wydown-Forsyth Historic District, Forsyth provides an unforgettable experience on a one-of-a-kind, 4.5-acre campus in a remarkable location. The challenging and engaging curriculum promotes age-appropriate independence and prepares students to thrive in secondary school and beyond.

Forsyth School is accredited by the [Independent Schools Association of the Central States](#) (ISACS) and is a member of the [National Association of Independent Schools](#) (NAIS), the [Educational Records Bureau](#) (ERB), the [Enrollment Management Association](#) (EMA), the [Center for Spiritual & Ethical Education](#) (CSEE), and [Independent Schools of St. Louis](#) (ISSL).