

SAN ANTONIO ACADEMY OF TEXAS

Educating Boys for Life Since 1886

JOHN D. BUTLER -- FINALIST CAMPUS VISIT DATE: NOV. 10, 2021

With 25-years of professional experience in education, John Butler has held virtually every position imaginable as both a teacher and senior administrator at Marine Military Academy (MMA) in Harlingen, Texas. This college preparatory boarding school has a student body of 250 and offers classes for grades 7-12. Currently, John serves as the both the CFO and Provost & Director of Admissions.

John possesses many successes and achievements while at Marine Military Academy, most notable however, are his work in school finance and enrollment management which have been transformative. According to longtime MMA President, John was credited with “saving the school” as he was instrumental in achieving financial strength, erasing debt, and increasing the endowment. John achieved similar successes with revamping the marketing and admissions programs, subsequently increasing the number of inquiries, and improving overall student recruitment and retention.

As Dean of Academics, John oversaw curriculum revision projects that emphasize character and leadership development as well as the building of social-emotional support systems. As a senior administrator at MMA, John maintains a strong relationship with the school’s board, has assisted in the creation of the last five strategic plans for MMA, and has served on several accreditation teams for other area schools. He is confident that his unique experiences will transfer well to the needs of The Academy, specifically in addressing challenges prevalent in today’s private school environment.

John realizes the importance of inspiring active engagement between both school and community. He believes a quality educational leader focuses on the unique and positive characteristics of individual and motivates them to use their attributes to strengthen the school, the community, and the students. Furthermore, he asserts that dynamic school leaders understand that leadership is about *service over self*. They should guide those around them to find their purpose, creating new leaders and expanding communities.

John has clearly touched and influenced so many during his years at MMA. He prides himself in his effective work with diverse student and parent populations, many of whom are from all over the United States and the World. John is described as unassuming and thoughtful, someone who listens before responding, and who puts others at ease with his self-deprecating sense of humor. His management style is rooted in being present, accessible, supportive, and respectful. John strives to hire the best, be clear about expectations and goals, and then let these leaders do their jobs.

Outside of his impressive career at MMA, John has served in the United States Army and continues to support his community as a board member for several local non-profit organizations. John’s academic background is extensive, earning his BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Texas A&M before continuing to complete his M.Ed. in Education Administration at UT-Brownsville. He also received an MBA at UT-Pan American, and his Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Houston.

John has been happily married to his wife, Denise, for over 33-years and is blessed with two fantastic children, Hunter and Lauren. He enjoys fishing, cooking, skeet shooting, and traveling with family. John feels extremely privileged to be considered for the Head of School position at San Antonio Academy and looks forward to sharing more about himself and his family in the near future.

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