

SAN ANTONIO ACADEMY OF TEXAS

Educating Boys for Life Since 1886

JOHNNY GRAHAM -- FINALIST CAMPUS VISIT DATE: NOV. 16, 2021

In his 23-years of experience in independent school leadership Johnny Graham has built a reputation of taking on tough projects and mastering challenges. He is presently the Head of School at Williamsburg Christian Academy (WCA), a faith-based, 200 student, coed, day-boarding school with grades PK-12 located in Virginia.

After five school heads in five years, Johnny brought stability to WCA and performed transformative work in enrollment management and overall academic program development. For instance, after his first two years, WCA saw enrollment increase by over 60%. He introduced an International Baccalaureate program and has led all aspects of enrollment management, program expansion, faculty professional development and marketing. Because of the school's growth, Johnny was able to create a domestic and global boarding school that will add six million dollars to WCA's annual operating budget, which will open in the 2023-2024 school year.

Johnny believes learning environments are as ubiquitous and far reaching as the earth itself. His educational philosophy is based in 360-degree life training for students, in which the values of critical thinking, global literacy, service to others, and integrity are thoroughly imbued in, and modeled for students each day. He recognizes that a comprehensive life-preparation education of a child consists of four pillars – stewardship, global literacy, communication, and inquiry.

Described as a charismatic, inclusive, and approachable leader, Johnny anticipates and addresses the needs of his staff. He strives to invest in people and make them feel valued, while insisting that students and staff model the same service ethic. He also values the PK-8, single-gender academic community at the San Antonio Academy. He explains that this structure is ideal in allowing sole focus on the comprehensive growth of boys during their formative years without lower grade levels competing with a high school program for space and resources.

Prior to his position at WCA, Johnny gained extensive and varied experiences with positions all over the United States as the founding Head of Springdale Preparatory School (MD), the Associate Head and then Interim Head of School for Brandon Hall School (GA), and as a teacher at the Howard School (GA), Westminster School (GA), McCallie School (TN) and Christ School (NC).

As a graduate of McCallie School, Johnny now serves on the school's Board of Trustees. Johnny attended the University of North Carolina where he earned his BA in History and African American Studies, then George Washington University for his MA in Educational Leadership, and finally Virginia Commonwealth University as a PhD candidate in Urban Leadership Studies.

As the son of two preachers, Johnny is a very spiritual man. He and his wife, Kim are the proud parents of four sons, Christopher, Julian, Jeffrey, and Ashton, and the proud grandparents of two granddaughters, Delilah and Savannah. The Grahams are members of the Williamsburg Christian Church.

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