



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Tupelo Public School District (@TupeloSchools)**

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### **Dobbs Promoted To New Position With TPSD**

**TUPELO, Miss.** – In his 21 years with the Tupelo Public School District, Art Dobbs has served in many roles and worn many hats.

Effective July 1, he will leave the principal's chair at Tupelo High School to take on a new challenge — Executive Director of Educational Enhancement and Workforce Development.

On the recommendation of Superintendent Dr. Rob Picou, the Board of Trustees approved this hire on Wednesday.

A 1994 Golden Wave graduate, Dobbs began his TPSD work journey in 2001-02 as a physical education teacher at the middle school before making the transition to the high school as a history teacher and football and baseball coach.

"I'm so overwhelmed by this new opportunity and very excited to serve the district in this new role," Dobbs said. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as principal at Tupelo High School, a place that's near and dear to

my heart. It's a great place with fantastic teachers and staff. I learned so much during my time here as principal and looked forward to going to work there every day."

In his new position, Dobbs will serve as a liaison for workforce development between TPSD and ICC, oversee student discipline issues and coordinate the funding, recruitment and supervision of the highly successful Middle College — a program he helped create in partnership with ICC.

In addition, he will be tasked to devise alternative and innovative learning pathways for overage students and supervise the transportation and student services departments. He will also play a key part in developing and maintaining community partnerships.

"I want to thank Dr. Picou and the Board of Trustees for this opportunity," Dobbs said. "I know it will be challenging, but I look forward to working with a great Central Office staff to improve the overall well-being of our students."

In his five years at THS, Dobbs experienced tremendous success and witnessed great student growth across the board.

Last month, the high school posted a 90-percent graduation rate, the highest in school history. Under his tutelage, THS has reinstated the JROTC program that will launch in August, has been a high-performing, B-rated school and received the PREPS ACT Growth Award for 2021. He also worked diligently with teachers to bring in nearly \$95K in AEE grants.

"We wanted someone who understands our schools and community and focus on making sure the district does well while building relationships and supporting administrators, staff and students in all

their endeavors,” Picou said. “Mr. Dobbs checks all those categories. He has a big job in front of him, but I’m confident he will embrace this challenge like he has all the others and be successful.”

From 2010-2014, Dobbs was an assistant principal at THS, prior to being named principal at Pierce Street, where he was named the 2017 TPSD Administrator of the Year.

Dobbs earned his Bachelor’s degree from Mississippi State in 2001, his Master’s from Walden in 2008 and his Educational Specialist from Delta State in 2014.

He also just completed his Prospective Superintendent Leadership Academy courses and is a Class of 2020 graduate of the Jim Ingram Community Leadership Institute.

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