



For Immediate Release

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Media Release

West Ashley High welcomes new head boys' basketball coach Ben Kettering

West Ashley High School

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Superintendent of Schools

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Chief Academic Officer

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Executive Director,
Secondary Learning Community

Ryan Cumback, Ed.M.
Principal

Kettering guided Poly Prep to one New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYS AIS) Championship and two NYS AIS championship appearances

Charleston, SC – West Ashley High School has named the 2019–2020 New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYS AIS) Coach of the Year, Ben Kettering, as its next head boys' basketball coach. Kettering joins the Wildcats after a successful run as the head coach at Poly Prep Country Day School.

"We are excited that West Ashley High was able to attract another championship-caliber coach," said Athletic Director Jeff Fipps. "Our goal was to hire a coach who would allow our basketball program to continue competing at the championship level. We believe that Coach Kettering will allow us to do just that."

Kettering spent the past six years as the boys' head basketball coach at Poly Prep Country Day School in Brooklyn, NY. He guided the program to two Ivy Prep League Championships, six playoff appearances, one New York State Association of Independent Schools Championship, and two NYS AIS championship appearances.

"I am deeply grateful to accept the position of Head Boys Basketball Coach at West Ashley High School," said Kettering. "For me, the joy of coaching has always come from helping student-athletes build a sense of family within their school environment. The opportunity to do that now at West Ashley—a school rich with talent—and in Charleston, where my own family lives, is one I will cherish. I'd like to thank Principal Ryan Cumback and Athletic Director Jeff Fipps for affording me this exciting opportunity."

Kettering began his coaching career in 2012 as an assistant coach at the nationally-ranked Tilton School in Tilton, NH where he coached Terance Mann (currently plays in the NBA with the Los Angeles Clippers).

"We made a commitment to our student-athletes to hire the very best and bringing Coach Kettering onboard is staying true to that commitment," said Principal Ryan Cumback. "Coach Kettering won the state championship at his previous school in 2020 and we look forward to watching our program grow under his leadership."

While studying at the post-secondary level, Kettering was an all-conference wide receiver at Amherst College where he graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in History. He was also Captain of the 2011 New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) Championship team.

He served as an Admissions Associate at Poly Prep from 2014 - 2016 before becoming the Associate Director of Admissions that same year, all while serving as the head boys' basketball coach. Kettering graduated in July 2020 from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Science in Education.

Kettering, originally from Fairmont, WV, is the youngest of five siblings (three brothers and one sister) and has six nieces and nephews.

For more information, please contact WAHS Public Relations Coordinator Donnie Newton at (843) 852-2516.

Photo Captions

West Ashley High Welcomes New Head Boys' Basketball Coach Ben Kettering (01)

West Virginia native Ben Kettering joins the Wildcats as the new head coach for boys' basketball. He was recently named the 2019-2020 New York State Independent School Coach of the Year.

West Ashley High Welcomes New Head Boys' Basketball Coach Ben Kettering (02)

Kettering served as the head boys' basketball coach at Poly Prep Country Day School for 6 years where he was also the Associate Director of Admissions. While there, guided his team to two Ivy Prep League Championships, six playoff appearances, one New York State Independent School Championship, and two NYSAIS championship appearances during his time at Poly Prep.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science,

technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.