



ACADEMY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Academy ISD is proud to announce the hiring of Zane Johnston as the new Head Boys' Basketball Coach. Coach Johnston brings extensive experience to the program, having served as the Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Lake Belton High School since 2020, where he spearheaded the launch of a new program and navigated them through competitive 4A and 5A campaigns.

Prior to his tenure at Lake Belton, Johnston spent nine seasons as an Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, contributing to consistent conference achievements and a trip to the 2013 Collegiate National Championship.

"We are thrilled to welcome Coach Johnston to the Bumblebee family," said Steve Hoffman, Athletic Director for Academy ISD. "His proven track record of developing athletes both on and off the court, combined with his deep knowledge of the game and commitment to academic excellence, makes him the ideal leader for our basketball program." Academy ISD Superintendent, Darla Nolen, said, "Coach Johnston is the right leader at this time for Academy ISD, and I am excited to see the positive impact he will have on our student-athletes and community. His experience, passion, and competitive drive will energize our program and inspire our athletes to reach new heights."

Johnston holds a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science and a Master of Science in Education in Sport Administration from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. "I am eager to begin working with the student-athletes, joining the Bumblebee coaching staff, and introducing my family to the Academy ISD community," said Coach Johnston. "I sincerely appreciate Superintendent Nolen and Coach Hoffman for their trust and this opportunity."

He succeeds Coach James Holt, who concludes a highly decorated 10-year tenure leading the program. During his time at the helm, Coach Holt compiled a 217-124 record, captured four district championships, and guided the boys' basketball program to the 2021 State semi-finals. Coach Holt will remain with the district, transitioning to his new role next school year as the Athletic Media Facility Coordinator.

