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Lakewood Local Schools Hires Rich Porter as Athletic Director

Lakewood Local School District has hired Rich Porter as its new Athletic Director. Porter has most recently served as the 7-12 Athletic Director (AD) at Centerburg Local Schools since 2015. He was approved by the Lakewood Board of Education on May 20.



Porter has more than a decade of experience as an athletic director, event manager, and coach at the high school and middle school levels. At Centerburg, he oversaw thirty interscholastic sports and forty-one teams for grades 7–12, where he managed scheduling, budgeting, transportation, and the hiring and evaluation of coaches while ensuring compliance with the rules and bylaws of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. He has also implemented leadership development opportunities for coaches and student-athletes, created a comprehensive coaches handbook, and worked with partners to modernize the athletic department website and certification tracking systems.

“I am passionate about building programs that support student-athletes, promote sportsmanship, and strengthen the connection between athletics, academics, and the community,” said Porter. “I believe the role of an athletic director is to ensure that athletics remain an extension of the classroom – helping students develop leadership, accountability, and teamwork. I am committed to building strong relationships with Lakewood student-athletes, coaches, families, and community partners to create programs that represent the school district with pride. I will be dedicated to developing a positive, educational athletic environment that promotes sportsmanship, academic success, and competitive excellence for Lancer student-athletes.”

Prior to Centerburg, Porter was Athletic Event Manager at Olentangy Liberty High School and Game Manager at Whetstone High School. These roles allowed him to develop strong skills in event operations, financial management, and community engagement while hosting numerous conference and tournament events.

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His background also includes coaching at the high school level, which helped shape his perspective on supporting coaches and creating a positive culture within an athletic department.

Superintendent Scott Coffey shared, “We’re excited to have Rich lead our athletic department. We believe his experience and leadership approach will contribute greatly to the future success of Lakewood Schools’ athletic programs. We look forward to supporting him in serving our student-athletes well.”

Porter earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Science from Ohio University in 1993, and a Master of Science degree in Recreation & Sport Administration from Western Kentucky University in 2014. He was the 2018 recipient of the Central Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association’s Horizon Award, which is presented annually to an active athletic administrator within their first five years who has demonstrated exceptional professionalism, engagement, and impact within their school and conference.

Porter resides in Columbus with his wife, Rhonda, to whom he has been happily married for 30 years this August. He enjoys time with his family – grown daughters Ryleigh and Reagan, and grandchildren Kayden (9) and Koby (8).

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