
FREDERICA ACADEMY NAMES JEFF PLUNK AS ITS NEXT HEAD OF SCHOOL

September 14, 2026



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dear FA Community,

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Jeff Plunk has been appointed by the Board of Trustees as the next Head of School of Frederica Academy, effective July 1, 2027.

His appointment follows a national search that began in April and concluded with the enthusiastic recommendation of the Head of School Search Committee and the unanimous approval of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Plunk comes to Frederica from Savannah Christian Preparatory School, where he has served as Head of School since 2022.

Throughout the search, Mr. Plunk distinguished himself in the areas our community told us mattered most. At Savannah Christian, he has raised academic expectations at a school that seeks to elevate its academic reputation, expanded Advanced Placement offerings, and built genuine PK–12 curricular alignment across separate campuses. Our community's first-ranked priority in this search was continuing to strengthen our academic program. Mr. Plunk has proven his ability to meet that challenge. His extensive experience in—and genuine passion for—athletics and the arts were also recognized as notable strengths.

He is the kind of leader this community said it wanted to see. Rather than take a golf cart available to administrators, he chooses to walk the 230-acre campus to interact with students. He keeps his office in the Lower School. He meets individually with every employee when he arrives at a new school, and he continues to teach in the Upper School. Jeff is uniquely positioned to further develop the student experience, deepen support for every child, and ensure that Frederica's programs continue to evolve. Above all, we are confident he will nurture the close-knit culture that makes Frederica special, where the growth of mind, body, and spirit is at the heart of the student experience.

Mr. Plunk pursued this position and no other. He and his wife, Jennifer, whose own career has been built in independent schools, will establish permanent residence on St. Simons Island.

He joins Frederica at a moment of considerable strength, and that strength is the work of our leadership team, faculty, and staff, and the commitment of our families. We are grateful to every member of this community who completed a survey, met with a finalist, or shared their views with the Search Committee. More than four hundred of you did, and that participation shaped this decision.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Plunk and his family to Frederica Academy.

Warm regards,

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES | CHAIR, HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH COMMITTEE



“From my first interactions with Frederica Academy, I have been impressed by the school’s extraordinary sense of community, unwavering commitment to excellence, and genuine care for students. Frederica is truly unique, and it is the only opportunity I chose to pursue. Jennifer and I are eager to make St. Simons Island our home, and we look forward to joining the Frederica community. I am excited to build upon the school’s many strengths and work alongside our faculty, staff, students, and families to help Frederica continue to thrive as we seek to maximize the potential of each student through the development of mind, body, and spirit. I am honored by this opportunity to serve and am eager to begin this next chapter together.”

ABOUT MR. PLUNK

Jeff Plunk has spent his entire career in independent schools — thirty years as a teacher, coach, administrator, and head of school, all of it in the Southeast.

He has served as Head of School at Savannah Christian Preparatory School since 2022, an EC–12 school of approximately 1,200 students and more than 200 faculty and staff. There he restructured the department chair model to create genuine PK–12 curricular alignment, expanded Advanced Placement offerings, and managed enrollment growth with discipline.

Before Savannah Christian, Mr. Plunk served as Head of School at Ascension Episcopal School in Lafayette, Louisiana, a PK3–12 school of approximately 700 students on three campuses. He spent eight years at Wesleyan School outside Atlanta as Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Students, and then High School Principal and began his career teaching and coaching at Woodward Academy, The Westminster Schools, and Wesleyan.

Mr. Plunk holds a B.S. in Applied Mathematics from the Georgia Institute of Technology and an M.Ed. in Secondary Mathematics from Georgia State University, with post-graduate study in systems engineering at George Mason University. He has continued to teach AP math classes throughout his career and served for five years as an AP Statistics Reader and Grader for the College Board. He has coached wrestling, JV football, and JV baseball throughout his career and has received numerous coaching awards in wrestling. He has served on multiple SACS/SAIS and CESA reaccreditation teams and committees, has led ten international mission trips, and is a recipient of the Faculty Service Above Self award.

Mr. Plunk and his wife, Jennifer, look forward to calling St. Simons Island home.



Mr. Plunk (center) is pictured with his family (L-R): Brendan Mayo, son-in-law; Maddie, daughter; Jennifer, wife; and Matthew, son. Maddie and Brendan live in St. Louis but eventually hope to make their way to or near the Georgia coast. Matthew lives in Guatemala, where he teaches at an international school.

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ABOUT THE SEARCH

The appointment of our next Head of School is the culmination of a comprehensive national search that attracted interest from 175 candidates. This effort was rooted in our commitment to the mission of Frederica Academy, and we extend our deepest gratitude to the entire community—faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and students—whose active participation was so vital to this process.

The Board of Trustees worked in close partnership with our consultants at Carney, Sandoe & Associates, specifically Jamie Estes and Marsha Little. We are thankful for their expertise and diligent work in helping us navigate this pivotal moment in our school's history.

Following intensive review and semi-finalist interviews with the Search Committee, we welcomed finalists to campus. Each finalist met with the Committee and a broad representation of our community. Their feedback was instrumental in the Search Committee's recommendation of Mr. Plunk as the next Head of School for Frederica Academy.

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OUR MISSION

To maximize the potential of each student and to prepare every student for college and adult life through the development of mind, body, and spirit.