THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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PENNINGTON, NJ, November 16, 2026—Former Lacrosse Red Hawk Named Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Head Coach

The Pennington School is pleased to announce the appointment of Jay Grupinski '96 as head coach of the varsity boys' lacrosse team and Sandro Mariani as assistant coach for the 2027 season.

Grupinski brings a deep personal connection to Pennington, a strong playing background, and a passion for developing student-athletes to his new role. He currently serves as the director of dining services at Pennington and attended the School from 1993 to 1996; Grupinski was a standout in the boys' lacrosse program, finishing his career third on the program's all-time scoring list.

He went on to play lacrosse at Marymount University from 1996 to 2000, starting all four years for a nationally ranked, top-20 NCAA Division III program. His experience competing at the high school and collegiate levels shaped his understanding of the game and his approach to player development.

Sandro Mariani, who serves as Pennington's assistant director of admission and financial aid, also joins the boys' lacrosse program for the 2027 season. He grew up playing lacrosse in Greenwich, CT, and later coached at Brunswick School, a program known for its strong lacrosse tradition. As assistant coach, he will focus on player development and support Grupinski. Mariani graduated from Hamilton College in 2021 and earned his MS Ed. from Vanderbilt University.

Grupinski says, "Being named the head coach of Pennington's varsity boys' lacrosse program is an incredible honor. I am a proud alumnus, and Pennington has always held a special place in my heart. The opportunity to return and lead the program that meant so much to me as a student is truly special. My goal is to build a competitive, respected program that our players, alumni, families, and the entire Pennington community can be proud of. I cannot wait to get started, and I am so grateful for this incredible opportunity."

Interim Director of Athletics Caitlin Nielsen says, "We are excited to welcome our newly appointed Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Head Coach Jay Grupinski and Varsity Boys' Lacrosse Assistant Coach Sandro Mariani to the team! Their leadership, experience, and passion for the game will be tremendous assets to our program. We look forward to the energy, enthusiasm, and commitment they will bring to developing our student-athletes both on and off the field, while continuing to build a program rooted in teamwork and sportsmanship."

The Pennington School is an independent coeducational school for students in grades 6 through 12, in both day and boarding programs. The curriculum is college preparatory, with an emphasis on individual excellence, fostering the development of the whole student through academics, athletics, community service, and the creative and performing arts.

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