

McKay, Jr. named Arts Educator of the Year



The Arts and Education Council of Greater St. Louis honored James McKay, Jr. a strings teacher and Director of Orchestras for Jennings School District, as their 2021 Arts Educator of the Year. McKay is the director of music and a co-founder of Gateway Music Outreach, a non-profit school and community-based music education program which provides quality music instruction. The program is multifaceted targeting schools, educators, school-aged youth grades K-12, parents, and the community. McKay is a member of the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra's Task Force and is an education advisory board member for Jazz St. Louis. He has also been a strings teacher for Saint Louis Public Schools Foundation and an orchestra director for Hazelwood Schools.

Lafayette basketball breaks recent tradition by hiring Keim; Wright steps in at Miller Career



For the first time in 36 years the Lafayette boys basketball team is starting fresh.

Bryan Keim was hired in the spring to take over the Lancers. He replaces Matt Landwehr, who resigned after a 14-14 mark this season and a 64-72 record during his five-year tenure.

Landwehr replaced Scott Allen, who replaced Dave Porter. The most successful coach in school history, Porter had a 23-year run that included a Class 4A runner-up finish in 1998 and a third-place finish in Class 5 in 2004. He won nearly 600 games during stops at Lafayette, Poplar Bluff and Smith-Cotton. Allen and Landwehr both served on Porter's staff at Lafayette. Landwehr then was Allen's assistant for eight seasons.

Now Lafayette has gone outside of its own coaching tree, and Keim is thrilled for the opportunity.

"I've been welcomed with open arms," Keim said. "The kids have responded extremely well. The parents and administration have been phenomenal. I do think the kids and parents are eager for something different and something new."

Keim, 36, comes to the Lancers after spending the past six years as Winfield's boys basketball coach. During his tenure the Warriors were 55-89 and didn't win more than nine games in any of his first four seasons. However, Winfield won 16 games each of the past two seasons and was a combined 32-18. Lutheran St. Charles eliminated Winfield in the district tournament both seasons.

OTHER NOTABLE COACHING CHANGES

- Hazelwood East announced it hired Steve Hall to take over its boys basketball team. He replaces Lawndale Thomas, who was the head coach the last eight years.