

# St. Thomas High School

## Finalist Personal Bio



### **Dear Members of the St. Thomas High School Community:**

I am honored to be selected as a finalist for the position of Principal/Chief Academic Officer at St. Thomas High School. St. Thomas is a community bursting with history and tradition, dedicated to academic excellence, a highly valued co-curricular presence, and is devoted to growing boys into men through building their relationship with God through a commitment to serve. Jesus said, “The “Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). Therefore, in the name of Christ, it certainly would be a joy for me to honor God by enthusiastically serving the St. Thomas community by providing an academic vision inspired by student achievement, devoted to faculty development, and formed by the community relationships.

### **Current Career Situation**

I am currently serving as the Head of Lake Highland Preparatory School’s Charles Clayton Campus and Director of the Middle School. In this role, I am responsible for the administration of the campus, including all curricular and non-curricular matters, and execution of an educational program for 400 students within the scope of a 2000 students and 40-million-dollar operation. On an annual basis I established operational objectives and work plans aligned with the strategic initiatives and delegated assignments to Associate Directors. My three administrative direct reports, who I support in supervising the teachers and staff, include the Curriculum and Academics, the School Counselor, and the Associate Director for Campus Affairs/ Dean of Students. I collaborate with the Admissions Office in managing the campus Enrollment Management plan and oversee the Business and Human Resource functions through the hiring, retention, and the teacher support program. Initially, I planned and executed all aspects of the move to a separate middle school campus including strategically planning for and accumulating over \$1,500,000 in gifts to commence the construction of the Charles Clayton Campus at Lake Highland Preparatory School.

### **Prior to This**

Prior to becoming the Head of the Lake Highland Preparatory School Charles Clayton Campus and the Director of the Middle School, I served as Associate Director of the High School in which I planned, implemented, monitored, and assessed a classroom instructional program which

was consistent with Lake Highland Preparatory School's mission and strategic goals. I provided the administrative support to bring the 66,000 square ft. math and science building online. I emphasized the need to build meaningful relationships among students through the creation of advising and mentoring programs, student field-trip retreats, and team-work community service projects. Throughout my tenure at Lake Highland, I have instructed classes including; Advanced Placement Human Geography and 7th Grade World Cultures, and served the school as the Head Varsity Basketball Coach and the Lacrosse Administrator.

Before relocating to Orlando, I worked at Owego Free Academy, Elmira Notre Dame High School, Sayre High School, and Epiphany School. My work ranged from teaching High School Global Studies to Elementary Physical Education, along with serving as the Head Varsity Football, Basketball, and Tennis Coach, and as the Athletic Director.

### **Personal, Education, Family**

I am married to Chris and we have three grown children: Megan, D.J, and Christian. We also have a 14-year-old Bichon Frise named Buddy! Chris and I attend St. Peter and Paul Church in Winter Park, Florida. I love listening to music (Christian, Country, and Pop). I am an avid sports fan and most recently have developed a passion for European Soccer. I have a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education/ Social Studies and Masters' degrees in Leadership and Educational Administration. I also have served on numerous accreditation teams, the Florida Council of Independent School State Conference planning committees, the City of Orlando Main Street Board, and have arranged many school service initiatives.

### **Closing Paragraph:**

Many aspects of this position are extremely appealing to me as a school leader. As a faith-filled practicing Catholic, I am inspired by the opportunity to lead joyously in a school committed to the development of the whole child embedded in the Basilian principles of Goodness, Discipline, and Knowledge. This aligned with the position's description of being "responsible for the day-to-day operations of the school and the overall quality of the student experience," keeps me connected where I excel at the highest level...interacting with students, collaborating and encouraging teachers and staff members, and relating with parents. Finally, while St. Thomas is filled with history and tradition, it is not resting on its laurels. The faculty is committed to transforming the community through the integration of best practices in education, the school is hoping to provide an increasing number of young with this outstanding education, and is dedicated to providing the resources to accomplish this goal. As a committed and passionate educator, I welcome this challenge!

Thank you for your consideration.

David M. Bernatavitz