

## **John Radick Takes On CRHS South Roles of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal, Athletic Director**

John Radick's new position as 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal and Athletic Director at Council Rock South began on July 1<sup>st</sup>, but his story with Council Rock dates back to 1977. It was in that year that Mr. Radick was a new student at Council Rock High School, entering as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader when his family moved to this area from Northeast Philadelphia. Relocating in the middle of your high school career is overwhelming and stressful, but Mr. Radick said his introduction and experience at the high school was nothing but positive. He felt welcome from the first time he walked in the door and that feeling has led to nearly 30 years of continuous service with Council Rock.

As a student, Mr. Radick built relationships with teachers and coaches that inspired him to want become a coach himself. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business from La Salle University and then began working in his family's construction business. During this time, he simultaneously coached basketball at the CRHS (remaining as head coach for 14 years) and pursued his teaching certification from Rider University. He will earn his Principal Certification this February from Drexel University.

Mr. Radick's first teaching position was at Truman High School as a teacher in the Business Department. He held that position for four years and still continued to coach at Council Rock. His desire to teach and coach in the same building led him to move to Council Rock High School as a Business teacher in 1998. When South opened in 2002, he moved to that building, and in 2005 he was promoted to the newly created position of Dean of Students. At that time the Dean position was half-day, with the other half of the day spent as a Business teacher.

Last year, the School Board approved increasing the Dean of Students position to full time. That proved Mr. Radick is the kind of person who handles change and pressure well. Shortly after the year began, Mike Holland (former principal at South) went out on an extended medical leave. Charlie Cassady, 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal, filled in as interim Principal and Mr. Radick filled in as the "interim Mr. Cassady." Shortly after Mr. Holland's return, Mr. Radick stepped into the role of Interim 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal and Athletic Director (AD), when John Nodecker vacated that position. His experiences during that time led him to apply for the full-time position of 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Principal and Athletic Director when that became available. Out of the 25 Suburban One schools, very few are set up similar to Council Rock, having the same person serve as an AD and Assistant Principal. Additionally, liaison to Math, Health and Phys. Ed and Family and Consumer Science departments fall under his umbrella.

Having coached throughout his entire adult life, he really misses the day-to-day contact with the kids. However, it's not that he regrets that his new role required him to leave his coaching position. As he puts it, "It's not that you get to a point where you want to stop doing something. Instead, you see a broader picture outside the classroom or basketball team, where you realize you can help kids in a different way. I saw an opportunity to positively influence a wider number of kids."

Mr. Radick is enjoying having the chance to bond with an entire grade level of kids, and he looks forward to staying with them as they move from grade to grade to graduation. "I'm big on relationships. If you can have that, you can overcome many obstacles. I've learned that things can be accomplished when people trust and support each other." He acknowledges the tremendous support he receives from his 9<sup>th</sup> grade assistant, Naomi Simon, his Athletic assistant, Peggy Walsh, as well as the other members of the administrative team at South.

Mr. Radick is thankful for the opportunity to continue to be involved in a community that took him in during his difficult teenage years and provided him wonderful academic and athletic opportunities. Now he is motivated to give back to students in hope that they will feel as welcome and as positive as he did. "No matter what job I do, I just hope all my decisions are based on what's best for kids."