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For Immediate Release

Dr. John Dahlstrand Tapped as New President of Maur Hill-Mount Academy

ATCHISON, KAN., April. [13], 2026—The Board of Directors of Maur Hill-Mount Academy (MH-MA) announced today that John Dahlstrand, PhD, has been hired as president of the school effective April 27, 2026.

Dr. Dahlstrand comes to MH-MA from Corpus Christi Catholic Church in Lawrence, KS, where he has served as Director of Operations for the last 4 years. He brings more than 20 years of experience in education across a variety of roles, most recently as Director of Student Services for a first-year program at the University of Kansas responsible for recruiting and retaining international students. Importantly, Dr. Dahlstrand also played a leadership role in driving student academic success and retention at Washburn University in Topeka and Loyola University of Chicago. Dr. Dahlstrand earned his PhD in Higher Education Administration at Loyola University Chicago.

Dr. Dahlstrand's selection for the position followed a nationwide search that began early in the year. In seeking a new leader, the school focused on identifying a qualified person who will carry on the traditions that have made Maur Hill-Mount Academy one of the leading Catholic schools in the nation.

MH-MA Board Chair Dan Pombo says "The school is excited to have a person with Dr. Dahlstrand's skills, experience and accomplishments to guide the Catholic faith and philanthropic direction at the college preparatory, boarding school. His foundation of faith and proven leadership skills make him the ideal fit to lead our school into the future for many years to come."

Expressing a view on his new role, Dr. Dahlstrand said, “I am honored and excited to lead Maur Hill-Mount Academy into the future. The school has a rich history of impacting young people from nearby communities, across the country and around the world. I’m thrilled to lead the school’s important mission as a Catholic, college preparatory, boarding school that educates young men and women in the Benedictine tradition. It is a special place with a unique mission.”

“The board is grateful to members of the Maur Hill-Mount Academy community for their patience and feedback as we proceeded through the selection process,” Pombo said. “In hiring Dr. John Dahlstrand to lead our school, we are confident we have found the right leader to help Maur Hill-Mount Academy reach new heights in pursuit of its mission.”

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Maur Hill-Mount Academy has roots dating back to its founding in 1863 by the local Benedictine monks and sisters shortly after founding the affiliated Benedictine College in Atchison. The monks and sisters remain actively involved in both of these institutions today.

As a co-ed, college-preparatory high school for both boarding and day students, MH-MA models a college campus atmosphere where students experience a challenging and safe learning environment with a structured and supportive program for their success. The school enrolls students in grades 9 through 12 from across the United States and around the world, representing a variety of cultures and backgrounds. The school welcomes students of all faiths and nationalities who seek to be challenged, supported, and to grow within a college prep environment.