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Board Chair

**For Immediate Release**

## **Ken Rolling Named as New Principal of Maur Hill-Mount Academy**

**ATCHISON, KAN., April. 27, 2026**—Maur Hill-Mount Academy (MH-MA) announced today that Ken Rolling has been hired as principal of the school, effective July 7, 2026. The school also announced that former faculty member John Newman is returning to MH-MA as associate principal.

Mr. Rolling brings a wealth of experience to the MH-MA principal role. For 15 years, he served as headmaster of Oxrose Academy, an online academy for students in grades 7-12 that he founded and built from the ground up. Mr. Rolling continues to serve as CEO of Oxrose, which consistently ranks among the top 20 schools nationwide on the standardized assessments it administers. He has also spent the last 18 months as principal of Saint Ann Catholic School in Decatur, Ala., successfully revitalizing the school.

Mr. Rolling earned a master's degree in Classics from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Benedictine College in Atchison. Mr. Rolling is also pursuing a Doctor of Education degree at Christendom College.

Mr. Rolling's selection for the position is the result of a nationwide search that began early in the year. The search committee focused on finding an accomplished educational leader with demonstrated ability to deliver outstanding academic outcomes while remaining true to the school's mission of Catholic faith in the Benedictine tradition. Mr. Rolling succeeds Dr. Christi Adams as principal at MH-MA. Dr. Adams informed the school early in the year that she intends to return to her leadership role in the School of Education at Benedictine College at the end of the current school year. Her service to MH-MA was vital in preparing the school for this hire.

MH-MA Board Chair Dan Pombo commented that “we are thankful to Dr. Adams for her contributions as principal since joining MH-MA and would also like to thank Benedictine College for its continued support of MH-MA, including its partnership in enabling Dr. Adams to serve in this role over the past two academic years.”

In discussing Dr. Adams’ successor, Mr. Pombo continued: “the search committee was deeply impressed with Ken’s experience, track record of academic excellence and profound love of learning. I can’t imagine a better leader to ensure that an education at Maur Hill-Mount Academy positions students for success in college and in life.”

Incoming President Dr. John Dahlstrand said, “I am excited to be working with a principal of Ken’s caliber and experience. Ken and I share a similar vision of forming students through strong academics, rooted in the Catholic faith and the Benedictine tradition, and I am confident that together, we can achieve all the goals in front of us at Maur Hill-Mount Academy.”

When asked about the opportunity to become principal of MH-MA, Mr. Rolling said, "I am, sincerely, honored to join the leadership team at MH-MA. It has been wonderful to meet and share ideas with the Board, Dr. Dahlstrand, and Mr. Newman. I am pleased to reconnect with the Atchison Benedictine community. I am excited to do the work of forming intellects, wills, and hearts for the greater glory of God in a manner that brings to flourishing MH-MA's Catholic, Benedictine, and this community's specific identity. Throughout the years, the thought has persisted that if I ever had the chance to return here, I had to do it. I am so pleased to have this opportunity."

Newman, who is returning to MH-MA as associate principal, has held a teaching position at St. James Academy in Lenexa, Kan. since 2024. “I’m so excited to return to MH-MA and work with Ken Rolling as we carry out a shared academic vision. We have an amazing opportunity to craft a singular educational experience for all our students. My family is thrilled to be back in the Atchison community, where we have such good friends and fond memories.”

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**About Maur Hill-Mount Academy:** 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 the school 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.