



Voyager



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Welcoming Principal Carter

Aisha Hill
Reporter

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The 2017-2018 school year welcomed a new principal to Guilford High School, Mr. Ronald Carter. Mr. Carter spent seven years at Auburn High School, four, in which he taught AP Government and AP Comparative Politics. He then became an assistant principal to curriculum and instruction, overseeing the CAPA and Renaissance Academies as well.

Mr. Carter was born in Utah, but moved to Rockford with his parents at a very young age. He attended and graduated from Rockford Christian School, where both of his parents worked as administrators.

"I never really enjoyed high school. I had a fun time in high school, but being a student was not fun for me," said Mr. Carter. "It honestly wasn't bad going to school and having my parents working there as well. They always knew what was going on in my life, and they were always super supportive of me. I was never the academic brainy kid in school, but my parents were okay with that as long as I got decent grades."

Mr. Carter moved to Indiana and went to Anderson University on a partial running scholarship. After college, Mr. Carter and his wife moved to Chicago where he initially planned to go to law school, but realized it was not for him after interning with a lawyer.

"I hated every minute of that internship, it was miserable," said Mr. Carter. "That's kind of the cool thing with academies; I wish I found out in high school that this was something I wouldn't enjoy. But I really decided to become an administrator because I kind of saw what my parents got to do, and I thought this would give me the best opportunity to impact the greatest amount of students."

Mr. Carter has spent the major-

ity of his teaching career at Auburn High School. Coming to Guilford as the new head principal was quite a transition for him.

"This transition has definitely been different for me. It's been 50/50 of what I expected and the unknown," said Mr. Carter. "I was definitely very hesitant and nervous about the transition, but all of the concerns I had did not outweigh all of the positives and potentials. I just mesh real well with the team here. Professionally speaking, taking this job was the best decision I ever made."

Mr. Carter has been working very closely with Guilford's staff to continue the "good work" already taking place. Adding to that, Mr. Carter is searching for new ways to improve Guilford.

"I'm really looking for more opportunities to allow Guilford to grow as a building and set us apart from the rest of the district as truly one of the greatest high schools," said Mr. Carter. "Every high school in the country, I don't care how high test scores are, has something they can work on."

One of these opportunities includes re-opening campus lunch for Guilford's upperclassmen, which is set to begin in the near future.

"I really want to be able to allow more freedom for students to prove that they're trustworthy," said Mr. Carter. "When students leave, you guys are a representation of Guilford, and how you all act when you leave campus can really build Guilford's community."

Four weeks into the school year, Mr. Carter has acclimated and is committed to continue Guilford's growth and improvements.

"Guilford is a great environment, the building's culture just fits with how I view education and how I think we can do better," said Mr. Carter. "For me, personality wise, the team, the staff, and the kids are just great. I absolutely love Guilford. It truly feels special here."

ILLINOIS PASSES BUDGET

Riley Kuhn
Reporter

'21

Illinois' historic budget impasse of 737 days ended on July 6th, 2017, but what does that mean for the fiscal stability of the state?

The state reached an unprecedented crisis, the product of years, perhaps decades, of overspending and poor allocation of the state's excessive tax revenue. In general, Republicans and Democrats agree that the state is in a fiscal state of emergency and decay. With unpaid bills reaching over \$15 billion and pension obligations over \$150 million, the state has been forced to deduct from infrastructure, which has spelled disaster for its dwindling budget, as every temporary solution has ended in failure and worsening of a dire situation.

The budget allocation has affected schools across the state, Guilford High School included.

"The budget crisis creates uncertainty about funding the district," said Mr. Brian Maier, Government and Economics teacher. "There is a teacher shortage in the state of Illinois and the funding crisis makes it more difficult to attract and retain teachers in our school district and across Illinois."

For some time, there was no set school funding in place, but on August 28th, Governor Bruce



Julian Haynie informs Governor Bruce Rauner on the EMITT academy while on his visit in 2015. / PHOTO GHS Publications

Rauner signed a bipartisan bill that promises two monthly monetary allotments to public schools, the first of which is scheduled for September. It seems to be the beginning of a relief for public schools, although some have expressed skepticism on the practical impact this bill will have.

"RPS students have fewer resources than other students in the state because of Illinois' school funding system" said Mr. Eric Czerwin, English teacher. "I don't think there will be any long term effects from this bill. Illinois has had issues with school funding since the 70's, and it hasn't been resolved."

Of course, a budget seems to be an improvement, as the state lacked a set budget for years, and it seems to give promise to the prospect of a recovery.

"I'm hoping that some measure

of stability will give our politicians a chance to take a breath and work together towards a balanced budget for the state," said Maier.

With each temporary tax hike digging the state into deeper instability, many Illinois citizens have called for privatization of infrastructure in the absence of effective government subsidies. According to the Illinois Department of Revenue, the taxation revenue of Illinois has reached an astounding \$38.1 billion in 2017, the fifth highest in the nation. For too many years, the state has overspent its budget, and for the last three years it has operated without a budget. In 2017 alone, state spending reached \$153.4 billion, greatly exceeding state revenue.

"The best thing to come from it is the conversation about how we are funding our schools as a state," said Czerwin. "School funding is inherently political, and so it's good to start a conversation about it."

NEW ACADEMY HALLWAYS

Guilford created the academy hallways to group classes together that correspond to a student's academy

Zekia Daniels
Reporter

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This school year the academy hallways were implemented into the school's design. Each hallway represents one of the four academies: Human Services (HS); Business, Arts, Modern World Languages and Information Technology (BAMIT); Engineering, Manufacturing, Industrial and Trades Technology (EMITT); and Human Public Services (HPS).

The assistant principals for each academy have remained, with the exception of Ms. Katie Newhouse, new HS Administrator.

"Guilford's previous principal, Mrs. Lawrence, gave us our academies last year," said Mrs. Ashley Carlson, BAMIT

and HPS Academy Principal. "And we just decided to keep them for this year."

Requiring students to select classes in their academies to meet graduation requirements encourages them to select a class in which they can learn real life skills for a future potential career.

Before a student can be put into one of the four main academies, incoming freshmen are grouped into two freshmen academies that help the students choose what academy to go into their sophomore year.

"The Freshman academy is basically just to get and keep the freshmen students on track so that they graduate on time," said Mr. Cory Schrank, Freshman Academy Principal. "And it seems to be very helpful."



Principal Carter meets with editors and reporters of the newspaper staff. / PHOTO GHS Publications



Guilford Academics/ PHOTO GHS Website