

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

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Justice hired to coach Thunder girls' varsity basketball

Woodstock North High School has hired longtime Woodstock High School boys' assistant coach as the varsity head coach for the girls' Thunder basketball team.

Justice has coached with the Blue Streaks program for the past nine years. The Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 Board of Education approved his hiring at its meeting on April 26. Justice was also hired as a physical education teacher at Olson Elementary School.



Coach Jay Justice

"We're excited to welcome Coach Justice to Thunder Nation and looking forward to the future of what's become a very successful program. We appreciate both his ability to connect with young players and his basketball knowledge," WNHS Athletic Director Dave Rose said.

The Thunder girls won their first outright Kishwaukee River Conference Championship last season with a 19-8 record winning 9 of their 10 conference games. They also won a share of the title in 2020.

Justice said he learned a great deal at Woodstock High School from former head coach Al Baker and several other assistant coaches over the years that he believes has prepared him well for the next chapter of his coaching career.

"I am thrilled to be taking over as the head girls' coach at Woodstock North. I can't wait to meet the girls, build those relationships, and get to work this summer," Justice said.

He also said he has great appreciation for what former coach Mike Lewis, last season's Northwest Herald Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year, has done with the Thunder program over the past 14 years and is grateful for the opportunity to continue building it in the right direction.

"The first thing that matters is building relationships and trust with my current group of girls. From there, we will really focus on developing skills and assess next steps based on our areas of strength," Justice said.