



American Paradigm Schools Awarded with Three Athletic Honors

Athletic programs recognized at Lindley Academy, Memphis Street Academy and Tacony Academy

PHILADELPHIA, PA; June 24, 2024— American Paradigm Schools (APS), a nonprofit organization overseeing a network of four charters located in North Philadelphia, is celebrating three of its schools being recognized with significant athletic achievements.

The Metropolitan Philadelphia Athletic Association (MPAA) named Maurice Allen, Dean of Scholars (grades 3-5) and Athletic Director for Lindley Academy the 2024 Sports Director of the Year, and also named Marc Jones, 7th Grade Dean of Students and Athletic Director for Memphis Street Academy the 2024 Athletic Director of the Year. Tacony Academy was awarded the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Quality Program Award, the only charter school in the nation to receive the honor, underscoring their dedication to excellence in athletics.

"American Paradigm Schools is incredibly honored to receive these three awards—Maurice Allen, Marc Jones, and my team at Tacony Academy have shown outstanding dedication and passion to our students," said Paul Rieser, CMAA, CIC, Athletic Administrator for Tacony Academy. "Their hard work and commitment to excellence in our athletic programs across the charter network is truly commendable. We couldn't be prouder of their achievements and the positive impact they've made on our students and APS community."

MPAA Sports Director of the Year

For more than 10 years, Allen has led the athletic program at Lindley Academy. In addition to his current position, he was appointed the role of Sports Chair for the MPAA overseeing its cheerleading and softball programs—handling scheduling, coordinating officials, enforcing regulations and spearheading preseason coaches meetings. Recognized for his impactful efforts throughout the city, Allen was honored with MPAA's 2024 Sports Director of the Year Award.

MPAA Athletic Director of the Year

As the Athletic Director for Memphis Street Academy, Jones has increased student participation and created additional sport programs that advocate for student athletes. Dedicated to his students, Jones is passionate about evolving programming and attends the PSADA State Athletic Directors Conference and the NIAAA/NFHS National Athletic Directors Conference each year. Jones is a member of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Director Association (PSADA), the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS) and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA). He also holds two national certifications in coaching from the NFHS: Accredited Interscholastic Coach Certification and Certified Interscholastic Coach. Honored for



his devotion to the Memphis community, Jones was named as MPAA's 2024 Athletic Director of the Year.

NIAAA Quality Program Award

Since 2012, the NIAAA Quality Program Awards initiative presents an opportunity to recognize outstanding high school athletics program at the NIAAA "Exemplary" level. Only 40 schools in the country have been awarded this honor, and Tacony Academy is the only charter school recognized. This is the second year in a row Tacony was recognized for its outstanding athletic achievements and top-notch program spearheaded by Paul Rieser, CMAA, CIC, Athletic Administrator for Tacony Academy.

To learn more, please visit ap-schools.org.

About American Paradigm Schools

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit www.ap-schools.org.

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

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