



Dr. Andrew (Andy) Edward Payne is a proud graduate of the Class of 1995. He is married to Heather Payne, and they have been married for 16 years. They have two children, Mia and Lucas. Mia is sixteen years old and attends Houston County High School. Lucas, who is eleven years old and has a very rare medical condition called Allan Herndon Dudley Syndrome, attends Quail Run Elementary School.

Dr. Payne was born in 1977 to Mr. Jack Payne and Mrs. Joyce Payne. He has two brothers Eric and John. He went to Parkwood Elementary School, Northside Junior High School, and graduated from Northside High School in 1995. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in education from Mercer University in 1999. Then in 2007, he graduated from Mercer University with a Master of Education, and in 2016, graduated from Mercer University with a Doctor of Philosophy in education. Dr. Payne received all his postsecondary degrees from Mercer University and is known as a “Tri-Bear”.

Currently, Dr. Payne is in his 10th year as principal and 25th year in education. Dr. Payne started his career in 1999 at Westside

Elementary School, moved to Matt Arthur Elementary School in 2000, became an Assistant Principal for Discipline at Kings Chapel Elementary School and Perry Primary School in 2010, and finally moved to principal at David A. Perdue Elementary School in 2014. He has spent his entire educational career in the Houston County School District.

Throughout his time in education, he has been awarded the 2010 Teacher of the Year for Matt Arthur Elementary School, the John Yates Scholarship through the GAEL organization in 2011, and in 2016 was awarded the Elementary School Administrator of the Year from the Council for Exceptional Children. Andy has also helped lead multiple community events to bring awareness and financial support to organizations. He does this to help his students and himself grow in their willingness to serve and think about others first. Some of the organizations he has worked with are Kids Yule Love, the Central Georgia Cancer Care Center, the Houston County Sharks, Ronald McDonald House, Rolling Thunder of Georgia, and the Beverly Knight Olson’s Children’s Hospital in Macon. Andy believes strongly in serving others and allowing God to work through him each day.

While at Northside, Andy was active in multiple activities. His freshman and sophomore years he was a manager on the football team. His junior year he helped with a theatrical show for GTC called *A Glass Menagerie*. His senior year he was part of the state champion One Act show, *Big River*. All four years in high school he participated in the spring musicals (*Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *Seven Bride for Seven Brothers*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*). Andy was also active in the creation of the Zoo Crew which was named by NHS softball coach, Coach Vicki Jones. This was a group of students who went to softball games to cheer on the softball team. Andy was very much into school spirit by speaking at pep rallies to energize the crowd and going to sporting events as well. His senior year he was named “Most Spirited”, and he was also named one of the Outstanding Seniors.

What does Northside High School mean to you?

Northside High School means a lot to me because of the faculty, staff, and friends all of whom helped to shape me as a young man and impacted my life in such a positive way. Northside is a place of love and support - a place of tradition and most importantly pride. I am honored I got to be part of such a special place. Whether it was Mr. Dyson and his daily challenges, or Mr. Horne and his ability to push all of us to give more and make a show better, or Coach Daughtry for insisting I be a football manager, or countless teachers pushing me to learn and grow, or Coach Nix for letting me get on the mic at pep rallies to so many other people, Northside will always hold a special place in my heart because of so many people who impacted my life. I am proud to be an Eagle! I am proud to be a graduate of the Class of 1995! I am proud to say... **“I bleed blue!”**