

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2025

Contact: Andrea Newstead

348 S Mason Road

St. Louis, MO 63141

Telephone: 314-576-6177

Cell: 314-750-6080

Email: ANewstead@mirowitz.org

Mirowitz Appoints Brian Thomas, MS, as Interim Head of School

Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School is pleased to announce the appointment of Brian Thomas, MS, as Interim Head of School, effective immediately.

Brian is a seasoned educator and school leader with 36 years of independent school leadership experience. He most recently served as Head of School at Proctor Academy in New Hampshire, where he championed experiential learning, programmatic excellence, strategic and financial planning, and a deeply inclusive culture. Locally, Brian is well known for his time at MICDS, where he served for five years as Assistant Head of School, guiding a community of 1,200 students and launching signature initiatives in diversity, faculty development, academic leadership, and student support.

His previous leadership roles include Associate Head at Bentley School (Oakland), Head of School at Presidio Hill School (San Francisco), and Head of School at the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (Las Vegas). Brian began his professional life as a stage, television, and film actor, a creative foundation that continues to shape his belief in the power of the arts, community, and joyful collaboration.

Brian holds a B.A. in History from Yale University and an M.S. in Education from Portland State University. He writes and speaks nationally on proximate learning, inclusive school culture, and the role of creativity in education, and serves locally on the board of COCA.

A Thoughtful Transition

“Brian brings exactly the kind of steady, visionary, and compassionate leadership Mirowitz needs in this moment,” said Scott Levine, Board President. “He leads with warmth and confidence, and he understands how to partner with faculty, support families, and hold space for meaningful community building. He also has deep experience helping schools stay strong and focused during transition periods.”

Reflecting on his new role, Thomas shared, *“In every conversation I’ve had with faculty, trustees, and community members so far, I’ve felt something rare and beautiful — a school grounded in its Jewish values, passionate about academic excellence, and most of all, committed to raising children who are compassionate, curious, and courageous. It’s the kind of community every educator dreams of joining.”*

Thomas will begin his role this week and work closely with Assistant Head of School Val Toskin and the school’s administrative team to ensure a smooth start to the school year. His responsibilities will include not only day-to-day operations, but also collaboration with the Board on strategic planning and long-term leadership development.

The Search Process

The Interim Search Committee was convened in early June and included trustees, educators, administrators, and leaders from the school’s legacy institutions. Members included Lauren Cohen (chair), Cheryl Mayan, Carol Rubin, Shannon Rohlman, Val Toskin, Roey Kruvi, Alex Hoffman, and Uchenna Ogu. Additional input was provided by other board members and community advisors.

After a national outreach and rigorous rounds of interviews, the committee unanimously recommended Brian Thomas for the role, and the full Board approved the appointment last week.

“One thing that stood out immediately was Brian’s calm presence,” said Levine. “He’s not only highly qualified—he’s beloved by those who’ve worked with him. A former colleague told us, *‘Brian is the kind of leader who unites people around good work. He holds space for hard conversations with care, and he inspires others to do the same.’* That’s exactly what we were looking for.”

About Mirowitz

Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School is a Jewish day school located in St. Louis, Missouri. The school is known for its rigorous academics, commitment to social responsibility, and joyful Jewish life. Mirowitz welcomes students from all streams of Judaism and is proud to nurture confident, curious, and compassionate leaders for tomorrow.