



MEET THE ATHLETIC COUNCIL

Stevenson McDuffie
Male Representative-Buffalo Public Schools

Every community needs people with pride in the place to take ownership. Every town needs people that care about their home to their core and invest. It is not always the investment of dollars, often times it is simply human capital; time, concern, care. Some people exit and never return. Others leave and stay connected through family and friends. Legends leave and invest in their hometown. Heroes come back and stay, becoming a vital element to the area and to those that live there.

Stevenson McDuffie grew up on the West side of Buffalo and attended Grover Cleveland. He was a three-sport athlete for the Presidents suiting up in the green and white in football, basketball and track and field. The 1991 graduate, played football for legendary coach, Art Serotte and won two Harvard Cups as the President's quarterback.

McDuffie earned three 1st Team selections on the All-High team, made first team All-Western New York his senior year and was the MVP of the Kensington Lion's North-South All-Star game. He went on to play four years at linebacker for the University at Buffalo. He served as a captain for the Bulls of Craig Cirbus in '96 when the squad went 8-3.

At UB he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Health & Human Services with a Minor in Sociology and History. He completed his Master's at D'Youville College in Secondary Education. His educational career has spanned 21 years. He teaches 9th grade Social Studies and serves as Head Football and Junior Varsity Basketball coach at Bennett High School. His gridiron team captured the Section VI Championship in 2016.



“My head High School football Coach Art Serotte, and teacher Al Vantresca were my role models,” McDuffie says. “They convinced me that I could be a role model for young men and women. I wanted to help impact young people’s lives by becoming a mentor, role model and teacher/coach.”

His principal, Carlos Alvarez cannot say enough about McDuffie. “Coach McDuffie is not just a coach of football. He is a coach of life for many of our young men. He not only molds them on the field, but he spends so much time off the field with them. He has a tremendous impact on their lives outside of football.”

Alvarez, the Principal’s Representative on the Athletic Council for BPS continued, “Coach McDuffie’s commitment to our kids is unbelievable. Coach will take kids to football camps across the nation to ensure that they are noticed and not forgotten. Often times, Coach will fund these trips himself, and doesn’t even tell anyone. Coach doesn’t want the attention, rather he would prefer the spotlight be on the young men he’s working with. Coach will do anything and everything for our kids. I am lucky to have Coach McDuffie on my team.”

Steve and wife Melissa, have three children. Sons Isaiah and Noah, and daughter Gabrielle. Isaiah played football and baseball for Olmsted while Gabrielle competed in basketball and softball. Eighth-grader, Noah is coming up the ranks participating in football and baseball as well. Isaiah is a starting linebacker at Boston College of the ACC and was the 2016 Connolly Cup Honoree. Gabby scored her 1,000-point last season on the hardwood for the Owls of Olmsted and she is headed for NCCC. The family’s favorite spot is Orlando’s Disney Parks.

Mike House, the new Director of Athletics for BPS feels fortunate that McDuffie is on his staff. “Coach McDuffie is a leader and role model in our school community. He prides himself on building a brotherhood where his student-athletes trust one another and take ownership over their academics, character, effort, attitudes, performance and trajectory in life.

House continued, “Coach Duff is an inspirational motivator that brings out inner courage in those around him. We appreciate that he truly understands his role as a head coach with developing young men on and off the field”.

The former Grover student-athlete knows his role now. Thanks to people like Art Serotte, he understood the important role he could play in his hometown, in his city. His goals were to act as a positive role model and advocate for students who may need guidance and opportunities. All kids need guidance and a connection, be it educationally, socially or professionally. Duff provides that love and support.

Most in the field of education believe that at the end of the day it’s not about what you have or even what you’ve accomplished. It’s really about who you’ve lifted up, who you’ve made better. It’s about what you’ve given back. In your hometown that can make you a hero.