



Hall of Fame INDUCTEE

2022



During his time at South Fayette, Joe earned several academic and community service accolades, including being named as the Valedictorian of the Class of 2003, an Honors Academy graduate, a 2003 *Tribune Review* Outstanding Young Citizen Gold Medalist, and to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's* 2003 Top Ten All-Star Achievers program. An active member of the Theatre Arts and Show Choir programs, Joe was also involved in the National Honor Society and German National Honor Society.

At Duquesne University, Joe was a dual major in History and secondary education, graduating *summa cum laude* with a 4.0 GPA as a member of Duquesne's Honors College. He was named as the Duquesne University School of Education Dean's Teaching Fellow from the Class of 2007 and the 2007 Duquesne University Resident Assistant of the Year. He served as the Duquesne Duke Mascot, President of the Mortar Board Honor Society, and was awarded the School of Education's William Faith Award for Service and Academic Achievement.

**Joe
Welch**
Class of
2003

For the last 16 years, Joe has taught Middle School Social Studies in the North Hills School District. An Apple Distinguished Educator, Joe was named as Pennsylvania's Lead Digital Innovator by PBS Learning in 2016 before being recognized as the 2018 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's National History Teacher of the Year. He was recognized as the 2019 Pennsylvania Social Studies Teacher of the Year and the 2019 National Middle Level Educator of the Year by the Association for Middle Level Education. Recently, Joe has served as the 2020 and 2021 Pennsylvania Teacher of the Year and was recognized by Council of Chief State School Officers as one of Four Finalists to be named the 2022 National Teacher of the Year. At North Hills, Joe has served as the announcer for Varsity football and basketball events for the last 13 years and sponsor for the Middle School History Club. Joe was recently elected to the Board of School Directors for South Fayette and volunteers locally as a youth hockey and baseball coach. He resides in South Fayette Township with his wife, Sarah, and children, Julia and Noah.