

TEAM MEMBER PORTRAIT  
**ERIC PHILLIPS**

*Leadership Development Strategist*



## **BIOGRAPHY //**

Eric is originally from Miami, Florida, and now resides in Cleveland, Tennessee. He received his bachelor's degree in English and just entered his 25th year of teaching.

Eric started his teaching career in 1992 at Northwest Whitfield High School in Georgia where he taught college prep English to 10th and 11th graders. While at Northwest, he was named Teacher of the Year in 1998. Eric also served as assistant wrestling coach and head girls' volleyball coach, and he was awarded the All-Area Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1997.

In 1998-99, Eric moved back home to Miami, Florida to teach English and PE. Eric was also the head junior varsity football coach and head wrestling coach. His wrestling program emerged as a Florida power and finished 4th in the state, four years in a row.

After eight years of teaching in Florida, Eric and his family moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, where he has taught English, PE, and *Teen Leadership™*. He has played a vital role in building a *Teen Leadership* program for each grade level, and he has helped create a *Capturing Kids' Hearts®* culture on the campus of Cleveland High School. Eric has also served as the athletic director and wrestling coach at Cleveland High School, and has been instrumental in building a wrestling program that has won seven state championships since his arrival.

Eric lives in Cleveland with his beautiful wife, Silvia. They have two children: Christopher and Samantha. Christopher was a four-time high school state wrestling champion and is now a junior on the wrestling team at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Samantha was a two-time all-state soccer player and is now a sophomore on the Middle Tennessee State University soccer



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player and is now a sophomore on the Middle Tennessee State University soccer team. Eric and Silvia believe that they are the most blessed couple on earth. ■