

# ERIC BURKE

## COACH



**PORT WASHINGTON HALL OF FAME**  
*Inducted September 27, 2025*



Eric Burke's legacy in Port Washington is defined by visionary leadership, athletic excellence, and a lifelong commitment to youth and community. A 1986 PWHS graduate and former conference wrestling champion, Eric returned in 1995 to launch a transformative coaching career. As head coach from 1999-2004, he led the Pirates to a 62-30 overall record, three straight conference titles, and a WIAA State Team appearance. He co-founded the Piranha Wrestling Club, started the Middle School Team, and introduced future champions like Alex Dieringer to the sport. Even after stepping down, Eric remained active as a volunteer coach, helping guide an additional 10 conference titles and continuing to shape generations of student-athletes.

Beyond the mat, Eric served as Assistant Principal, Athletic Director, and Principal of PWHS, where he championed student leadership, passed a major facilities referendum, and created lasting programs like Port Pride and the Community Mentor Program. Under his leadership, PWHS earned the state's highest rating of Significantly Exceeds Expectations. Now serving as Superintendent in Rhinelander, Eric continues to lead with purpose. His induction into the Hall of Fame honors a career defined by excellence, mentorship, and enduring service to the Port Washington community.