

February 2022

Angela Vecchiarelli - Class of 2013



February's Alumni Spotlight features Angela Vecchiarelli from the Class of 2013.

Angela, better known to her friends as Angie, grew up in the metro-Phoenix area attending OLPH Glendale for middle school. During her time at Bourgade, she felt called to involve herself as much as possible. Between student clubs, campus ministry and her daily studies, Angie's schedule was regularly full. That wouldn't stop her from leaving enough room for her true passion – sports. With fond memories of playing in the driveway with her brother, Angie quickly gravitated towards basketball at Bourgade. Her experiences with her coaches have kept them close together as friends, and her love of the game has inspired her to turn it into a career.

After Bourgade, Angie earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Northern Arizona University in 2017 and right away started coaching in the girls' basketball program at Desert Mountain High School once she returned to The Valley. Knowing that a career in sports was the goal, Angie landed an

opportunity with the Phoenix Mercury as a customer success manager and support specialist in 2019. When it came time to figure out exactly what she wanted from a role in sports, Angie confided in a former manager who helped her realize that her love for coaching basketball combined with her business background was a great recipe for becoming an athletic director. Soon after, she enrolled in GCU's sports management program earning her MBA in 2019, and this past year, she accepted the position of Athletic Director (AD) at St. Francis Xavier Grade School (SFX).

When reflecting on what attracted her to the position at SFX, Angie felt a connection to serving within the Diocese of Phoenix given her experiences at Bourgade. Right away, she felt a sense of trust from the community and the presence of tradition that had shaped SFX into an iconic Jesuit Catholic school. As the end of her first school year nears, Angie is already recognizing her impact in the formation of students which continuously reassures her that she's exactly where she's supposed to be.

When she's not coaching or fighting the tasks of setting up the SFX baseball and softball fields, Angie and her fiancé, Evan – who is a fellow BCHS alum – can be found hiking and trying new restaurants around town. And even nearly 8 years removed from her high school graduation, Angie is constantly reminded of the days of being a Golden Eagle she and Evan look forward to their October wedding with the joy of knowing they'll be surrounded by the many Bourgade friends who they remain close with. Thinking back to her time as a student, Angie knows that her drive to be involved has definitely contributed to her present success, and her love for Bourgade will always share a piece in her love for the people in her life because of it.