

Easthampton's idea man: New assistant principal a creative force

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[Originally published on: Tuesday, September 18, 2007]

EASTHAMPTON - Stefan Czaporowski, Easthampton High School's new assistant principal, has new initiatives for the new school year. Among them are a spaghetti supper at this week's open house, an after-school hiking club, music over the loud-speaker and Saturday detention.

Czaporowski, of Florence, said it seemed a spaghetti supper would increase Easthampton High's open house attendance, so officials added it to the roster. The dinner is set for Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The open house begins at 6:30.

"The goal is to try to bring families in that haven't come before," said Gail Canon, school-to-work coordinator. "Food helps. If you come, you get a little something."

Big E's Foodland is donating the food - baked ziti, flour rolls, salad, bottled water and soda.

Czaporowski said the supper will give parents and students a chance to chat with teachers and administrators. "You really get to know people," Czaporowski said.

Another idea is to play four minutes of music via the intercom each morning between the warning and period A bells. Students choose the music and Czaporowski approves the lyrics. "Kids like to say, 'I brought this one in'," Czaporowski said.

The idea for another student-involved initiative Czaporowski hopes to launch came up when a student at freshman orientation asked if she could start a hiking club. "I'm going to look into it," Czaporowski said. "To me, when a kid shows interest in something, how can you ignore it?"

In terms of his more traditional duties, Czaporowski also is starting up Saturday detention - in hopes, he said, of reaching a goal of no tardiness and no absences from school. He's also hoping, he said, that having Saturday detention actually will serve as a deterrent to detention at all. "Detention's boring," said Czaporowski, who called himself the "rules guy." "You'd be better off coming on time than two to three minutes late and staying an hour later for it."

Czaporowski earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Westfield State College, after which he taught social studies at Chicopee Comprehensive High School for 11 years.

He was chairman of the social studies department during his last four years there.

At the Chicopee school, he organized a program in which politicians and celebrities came to speak to the students. Among those invited were Congressman Richard Neal, former Gov. Mitt Romney, and Manute Bol, a Sudanese-born probasketball player.

Czaporowski replaces Barry Wilby, former dean of students, who retired in July. "I really enjoyed the classroom," he said. "As much as I miss it I have a lot of energy and motivation to do big-picture work."

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