

# **'Progressive' policy in place in Easthampton**

BY CATHERINE BAUM STAFF WRITER

Easthampton High School levies a 30-minute detention when a third tardy is received, plus written notification of a parent or guardian.

On the sixth tardy, students receive a 60-minute office detention and parents are called; on the ninth tardy, students receive a Saturday school detention from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and a parent conference will be requested; and every third tardy after the ninth brings Saturday school detention. Students who skip Saturday school detentions for being tardy will be automatically externally suspended for the next day of school.

A tardy student is defined as one who is not seated in class when the bell rings for school to start at 7:45 a.m., unless the student has an excused late arrival.

In December, school officials created a policy review committee made up of nine high school staff members and three students to brainstorm and develop what Assistant Principal Stefan Czaporowski describes as a more "progressive" tardy policy. Easthampton students and staff looked at tardy policies in area schools and schools in California, Wyoming, Texas and Connecticut to get an idea of how to shape their new policy.

Czaporowski said many schools asked him to provide feedback about the school's new policy, which told him Easthampton High School is not the only one grappling with the issue.

"It's a problem all over," Czaporowski said.

- CATHERINE BAUM