

Jason Traczykiewicz
New CR North Assistant Principal Jumps in with Both Feet

Council Rock North and South each have four Assistant (grade level) Principals. These principals are not only responsible for the 400+ students assigned to them for four years, but also have responsibilities for curricular areas, along with other duties.

When Ellie Short retired from CR North in June 2013, many wondered who could fill her shoes as the Assistant Principal who created the school's entire schedule. Jason Traczykiewicz was hired in May and jumped in with both feet.

Mr. Traczykiewicz graduated from Kings College in Wilkes-Barre. He began his studies in a pre-med program, but soon realized that he wanted to teach; he wanted to have a positive impact on adolescents. He received a BS in General Science, with a minor in Psychology in 2000 and completed his Secondary Certification in 2001. He chose Kings College because it was a small, intimate school where professors and even the President of the university knew each student; so intimate that when he married his wife, the college president performed the ceremony! His Educational Leadership Certificate is from Del Val College, where the instructors are all local administrators, including some from Council Rock.

Early on, he worked as a per-diem substitute in a number of districts, finally landing a long term substitute position at Pennwood East Junior High in Yeadon. He recalls that the classroom didn't even have the basic supplies needed for student learning. He received his first paycheck and bought supplies for his students. He started in February and only after being hired learned that the class had been through 4 teachers in one month. It was a tough class, but he finished out the year.

"Mr. T" as he is known at North, began in Council Rock in 2003. He was hired as a building substitute at CR North, but the following year a long term sub position became available at Bensalem High School in General Science. This was his chance to have his own classroom and he took it. The next year, Mr. Funk (then Asst. Principal at North) and Mr. Gamble (Asst. Principal at North) approached "Mr. T" when they learned that Mike Fiore, the Accelerated Physical Science teacher was retiring from CR North. He interviewed and was hired for the job.

Through the years "Mr. T" has been the assistant coach for 9th grade baseball at North and served as class advisor in 2008 and 2012. He interned with Ms. Short at North from July through April of the 2012-13 school year and became adept at creating the school schedule. He was required to do 360 hours as an administrative intern and he accumulated 700 hours. In May he was hired to replace Ms. Short upon her retirement.

In addition to being the 9th grade principal and master scheduler, "Mr. T"'s position also includes being the liaison to the World Language, Counseling, Art, ELL and Library Media departments. He feels very strongly that the benefits of public education include the need for a variety of classes in music, art and business, not just core subject areas. He also oversees graduation projects for grades 10-12. He participates in new teacher induction meetings, on Mondays, believing that new teachers and their mentors should have the opportunity to get together often. "Mr. T" is also overseeing the online courses at North that Council Rock is piloting this year.

Mr. Traczykiewicz feels that there is a high level of respect and trust in Council Rock. He believes that "what we have [in Council Rock] is solid, but there is always potential for improvement."

In the short term, “Mr. T”’s goal is to assist his 9th graders in their transition to high school. He wants them to feel like they are an active part of the school program from the start. The slogan he has chosen for this class is “We are CR” and it is repeated as often as possible! He wants to be as visible as he can to students and the teaching staff. He is still doing hall duty and is trying to visit as many classrooms as possible to observe and assist in improving teaching strategies, especially the 9th grade teachers.

To round out his busy day, he is married to a 1st grade teacher in the Hatboro/Horsham school district and has two children ages 4 and 5.

Mr. Traczykiewicz remembers that as a kid growing up in Southampton and attending Archbishop Wood, he felt like there was “an aura around Council Rock.” When he decided to be a teacher, he made a list of the top five districts where he would like to teach. He recently found that list and Council Rock was at the top. In a sense, he is now living his dream!

Citizens For Education thanks “Mr. T” for taking the time to talk about his background and share his passion for public education with us. We wish him all the best as he embarks on this new, exciting phase of his career.