

Hickory DAILY Record

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New face, fresh ideas

■ **Maine native becomes new director at Morganton charter school.**

BY SUZANNE JACKSON
RECORD STAFF WRITER

MORGANTON

Kissing his wife and son goodbye, Joe Slowinski watched as they boarded a plane for Hungary on Monday.

Although he'll miss them, he's got a lot to keep him busy, starting with his new position as the director for The New Dimensions School in Morganton.

Already a week into the job, the 38-year-old is making a long list of goals for the coming school year. Aside from the typical suit-and-tie objectives, Slowinski is setting his new school's sights on watching bird feeders, reporting the weather and collaborating with schools in Eastern Europe. He said he wants to help students focus on their strengths and interests.

This Maine native isn't all work and no play, he's a self-proclaimed bowling buff who says he'll give the Senior PBA tour a run for its money one day.

Bowling since he was 4, Slowinski said it's his passion.

"I am serious about bowling and coaching," he said. "I am hopeful that I can volunteer to support high school bowling in North Carolina as well as youth bowling in Hickory."

Although bowling a strike would satisfy him on most any day, he is a cheerleader for learning. Working in education for more than a decade, Slowinski has taught in California, Ohio, England and Switzerland. He even

had a radio program in Maine called Chickens R People 2, which featured children as hosts.

"I love community radio and would

love to become involved in this area," he said.

As an educator, Slowinski says he's a zealous advocate working for the future of the town, state, country and the world.

"I want to help facilitate the greatest school in the world," he said. "A school that provides students with skills but also empowers them to be self-confident independent learners."

He says if his life were a bumper sticker, it would read: I'd Rather Be Learning.



Slowinski

ON THE NET:

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DETAILS

The New Dimensions School is at 501 E. Concord St. in Morganton.

It is a charter school catering to children in Pre-K through fifth grade.

Students learn through a self-directed view as the foundation for their learning.

Students in charter schools are expected to obtain the same educational information as students in public schools, and are expected to perform as well on all tests required by the State Board of Education.

For more information, call 437-5753.