

THE ROCKINGHAM NEWS

Students head behind the scenes

By Kristen Palleo

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PLAISTOW - Long before "E.T.," "Pirates of the Caribbean" or "Titanic," Steven Spielberg, Jerry Bruckheimer and James Cameron were fledgling filmmakers waiting to make their impact on the movie industry. All three began their careers by taking part in smaller, less influential productions.

Some students at Timberlane Regional High School have similar aspirations, and are pursuing work both in front of the camera and behind the scenes.

With the help of experienced audiovisual technician Dean Zanello, these students have the opportunity to recognize and explore their interests in video production.

While attending Timberlane before his graduation in 1998, Zanello was involved with the WKID student-produced television show, as well as several other technical endeavors. After receiving a degree from the University of New Hampshire in 2002, Zanello has held several television and video-production jobs, including work at WNDS in Derry and Creative Images, a private production company.

After being hired by the Timberlane District technology department in July 2003, Zanello knew he wanted to involve students in work behind the camera.

"As soon as the school year started, I saw a great demand from students to get involved with video production," said Zanello. "Since then, about 15 underclassmen and upperclassmen have been videotaping sports and musical productions at school. Some sports booster groups even pay students to tape games.

"Currently, we have programs airing on the Timberlane Education Network and hope to get even more programming in the future."

In addition, Zanello is ecstatic about the new equipment available to students including state-of-the-art digital cameras.

"Not many are aware of the great equipment that we have to use," added Zanello, "but the upgraded technology is great."

Even though he only began working at Timberlane this academic year, he has returned for each of the past four years to videotape the school's senior prom.

Much of Zanello's Timberlane-related photography can be found on his independently operated Web site, www.zanello.net.

Aaron Ingraham, a sophomore at Timberlane, is excited about being a part of the school's video production program.

"This is my first year, and I've learned a lot," said Ingraham, who was scheduled to tape the semiformal dance last weekend. "I definitely encourage other kids to take part."

"New volunteers of all skill levels are always welcome," added Zanello. "With more members, we hope to resume a student-produced television show, reminiscent of WKID, but we are working on an updated concept designed by the kids."

Timberlane students interested in a possible future in video production should see Zanello in room 115 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Kristen Palleo is a senior at Timberlane Regional High School.