



# The Post-Standard

## Preserving the Korean culture

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Staff writer BoNhia Lee interviewed Jongwoo Han, principal of the Central New York Korean School. The school opened in 1995 to teach Korean language and culture to Korean children and those adopted by American families. Since its inception, 804 students have enrolled in the school, which offers language classes, music, calligraphy, Hapkido martial arts and cooking classes for adults. Name: Jongwoo Han.

Address: Summerhaven Drive, Manlius.

Age: 45 I've lived here for: Since 1985, when I came to fulfill my goal of studying political science.

I'm originally from: Seoul, Korea

Occupation: Adjunct professor of political science at Syracuse University's Maxwell School and senior associate of the Center for Technology and Information Policy.

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science from Yonsei University in Seoul, master's degree and doctorate in political science from Syracuse University.

My family: Mother, Sungja Cho; wife, Kyunghee Lee; daughters, Hyemin, 8, and Jeongyoon, 7.

Why he's in the news: Han is the principal of the Central New York Korean School, 1800 E. Genesee St., Syracuse.

I became principal of the CNY Korean School because: I was a graduate student here and in 1995 community leaders and those who had children all together founded the school.

We felt it was important to keep the Korean identity and Korean language. It was the best way to teach our children. I served as a secretary, and then they asked me to serve as principal in 2005.

What I like most about this position is: I can really contribute with a really rewarding outcome. It's hard because every Saturday 9 a.m. to noon, you have to be available to work with the teachers and you have to worry about finances. I feel this is . . . the best work I can do for the community in Syracuse.

The Korean school is important to the community because: Korean culture is becoming very popular mostly in Asia and also in America, and in this globalizing world, it's one of the missions

for us to provide a fair opportunity for everyone to learn about this, which is why we offer cooking classes and Korean School days promoting holidays and culture.

What I like best about my community: The community doesn't seem to have real bias or prejudice. It's kind and recognizes different identities. It's a nice living environment for children, clean, not too much industry and good education.

What I would like to change about my community: I want to have more active contribution and involvement from different communities, maybe from different ethnic backgrounds. Not for the sake of showing off, but for the need.

When I'm not working I like to: I enjoy outdoor activities like running around Green Lakes State Park. That's one of my most favorite things to do.

My idea of a great night is: I love getting together with my friends having food together and talking. Church activities with the Korean Church of Syracuse have been a big part of my life.

My dream job would be: Any kind of work to contribute to the reunification of North Korean people.

I never in my wildest dreams thought I would: End up living about 20 years in Syracuse working with the community.

I would like to recognize two people: We all work together on a Korea digital library project. They are my former teacher and now colleague, Stuart Thorson, and my colleague, Thomas Harbin. Three of us together are working on the relations between Syracuse University and Korea.

The person I most admire is: My mom. I am what I am because of my mom.

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