

Moving

for their next class assignment. Room numbers and teacher names were taped outside the doors.

According to Jayme, the walk-through was a good idea, because it's "much better to do it now rather than at the beginning of the year, when I'll be nervous. It takes the strain off of next year."

Jayne and other incoming freshmen just spent time with English teacher Jennifer Goshorn, watching a short video about issues such as teamwork, attitude and respect.

"We'll do this," Goshorn said after the video. "...We'll be respectful of each other, we'll care for each other and do our very best every day."

During the subsequent 15-minute period, down in the classroom of English teacher Jim White, a group made up mostly of Power eighth graders listened to the instructor's welcoming comments and tips for high school success.

The first task was for students to stand in a semi-circle, in alphabetical order. A few of the kids procrastinated, however.

"Come on guys, get into the group," implored White. "That's what this is going to be like next year. We're going to be a group."

White asked the class if anyone was nervous. The kids didn't respond.

"Test your honesty right now," White said. "Some of you are uncomfortable right now... I'm nervous, I never had a first day of school in June before."

The teacher discussed what English 9 will focus on, such as "being curious" and inquisitive about "what goes on in a story. If you come in with that kind of an attitude, we'll have a great year."

Eighth graders also listened as White mentioned that the freshmen will be required to build a parade float for Homecoming Day festivities in October. To do so entails kids getting to know kids and working together on such endeavors.

"The faster you choose to make connections with other people in this school, the faster it will seem like home to you," the teacher said.

After the bell rang, 14-year-old Ben Kosowan, a Power eighth grader, had civics, health and auto mechanics classes to go to.

"It's nice," Ben said, about the prelude to high school. "If it was the first day it'd be all hectic."

Downstairs, social studies teacher Katy Lloyd gave some helpful advice to visitors about what it takes to pass a high school class.

"Show up, do your homework," Lloyd said. "That's the key. Of course, if you want to get an A or a B,



What's up: Teacher Jennifer Goshorn explains next year's goals.

"...We'll be respectful of each other, we'll care for each other and do our very best every day."

Jennifer Goshorn, following showing of video
—Teacher

Activities

prep students

for North and

Harrison

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Students didn't walk through their fall schedules at Harrison and North high schools, as they did at Farmington High. But there was a myriad of activities intended to give next year's freshmen a good forward glance.

Harrison Assistant Principal Mary Brown said 275 current eighth graders took a guided tour of the campus, participated in a panel discussion with students now at Harrison about what they might expect and consumed a pizza lunch on Buller Field.

Brown said the students also completed a sheet asking them how well they knew Harrison High School history — including how Buller Field got its name.

According to Brown, the football field was named after the late Jack Buller, a "well-loved" assistant principal at Harrison who died of heart disease at age 42.

"They now have a fresh start on what they need to be successful," Brown said.

The incoming students and their parents also will be invited to attend an orientation on Aug. 24, with topics including how kids will use personal planners.

Over at North, an estimated 300 students came over for the morning, said Linda Lanigan, assistant principal.

Lanigan said seniors — graduating today at Compuware Arena in Plymouth — led groups of 16-20 eighth graders on a tour of the high school.

Along the way, the younger kids saw examples of programs and activities, including peer mediation and drama.

"They got to talk to the seniors, and they were asking questions that they don't necessarily want to ask to an adult," Lanigan explained.

Along those lines, a senior class video was shown to the visitors, providing further insight from the student perspective.

One area that seniors couldn't adequately discuss was block scheduling, simply because it doesn't begin until the fall. Lanigan said orientation on the block will take place at the beginning of the 1999-2000 school year.

"I thought it went very well," Lanigan said. "I think next year's freshmen (are) going to be a great bunch of kids."

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