

1. Junior Ellie Marckmann graciously receives a pin to represent her high academic achievement for the second consecutive year from principal Brent Riessen. The academic award ceremony was held Aug. 26 for the previous academic year.
Photo by Seth Andrews



2. Showing a stoic face and great ease while twirling a flag, senior Kelsey Kramer leads the color guard. The color guard began practicing during the summer and on this first practice the freshmen struggled to understand twirl basics.
Photo by Anna Lam



3. Juniors Elea Kaptain (background) and Barbie Sullivan (foreground) march in the Johnston Green Days parade in June. The color guard performed with the marching band as the quintessential element of a good parade.
Photo by Kelsey Acheson



4. Playing the saxophone during a marching band practice, senior Paige Vaden marches with precise form. The marching band played in full sunshine with no shade on the football field.
Photo by Gabby Ledesma



5. Senior Monte Friestad directs TSA toward making an election ballot to choose officers during a meeting in the industrial tech lab.
Photo by Hannah Van Zee



6. Senior drum major Andrew Boge directs the marching band at dusk during the first parent show after a week of band camp. The performance two days before school started had a great attendance of parents; director Patrick Kearney was overjoyed by the apparent amount of support the marching band had.
Photo by Anna Lam



7. Members of the yearbook staff, seniors Amanda Jensen and Swathi Somisetty and juniors Alex Reiher and Megan Buckallew are a mess of movement in conference room B while packaging yearbooks being sent out to last year's seniors by post. The yearbook staff spent about two weeks distributing books after receiving them.
Photo by Kate Allender

Members of debate club started recruiting before the school year. Once school started they began practicing preparing speeches to be able to do so on the spot, in this instance, whether or not Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber are the best celebrity couple. "One of the biggest goals of the program is to build comfort and confidence in public speaking," Riley Deustch said. He is team leader seen in all three photographs.
Photos by Hannah Van Zee



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Pointing down the hall, junior Erica Thacker, a student ambassador, indicates the entrance at end of the English corridor to a group of new sophomores unsure of their new environment on the eve before school starts.
photo by Hannah Van Zee

LOST IN TRANSITION

Marckmann organizes ambassador program to lead new students

The first day of school, the halls were looking a little brighter than usual, and not just because of students' still-glowing summer tans and sun-streaked hair. It was the bright yellow of 32 neon shirts flashing through the halls, worn by student ambassadors with one mission: to make the new students and incoming sophomores comfortable on their first day at the high school.

The student ambassadors were part of a new program headed by guidance office secretary Sarah Marckmann. "The main goal of the ambassadors program is just to make sure that the kids feel welcome," junior Luke Johnson, one of the student ambassadors, said. The ambassadors' job, however, involved more than just being friendly.

An important part of their role was to help new students find their way around the building. The night before the first day of school, along with helping parents find their way to orientation and passing out schedules and maps, ambassadors gave tours to the sophomore class. "[Giving tours] was so hectic," junior ambassador Sarah Caporelli said. "There were 30 kids to two ambassadors. After that night, my eye was twitching and my cheeks burned from smiling so much."

The next day, on the first day of the school year, the ambassadors had a different focus: assisting students who were completely new to the district. With the help of their eye-catching attire, ambassadors spent the day leaving classes five minutes early and arriving five minutes late to escort new students to their next class, sitting with them at lunch and simply helping

the students get integrated into the school. "Our primary concern is that they get through the lunch room safely, and also trying to get them connected with clubs or activities," said Marckmann. "Just some way to get people plugged in."

The nice thing was, the ambassadors were easy to spot and ready to be of assistance. "I think when you wear those shirts, people know that you're approachable," said senior ambassador Alise Williams.

Many new students appreciated how the program worked as well. "I like how they use students instead of teachers," sophomore Ivy Smith, a new student to the district this year, said. "It's easier to relate to the students." There did happen to be a few glitches in the program, though.

When new senior Blake Young arrived in mid-October, his ambassador took him from class-to-class on his first day, just as planned. However, when the passing period from seventh to eighth period rolled around, Young's ambassador forgot to show. Young knew he was taking a woodworking class, so he searched around and managed to find his way there. "That was the one I wasn't sure where my classes were so I was tardy," Young said. "I thought I was in the wrong class, but it all worked out."

Despite some mistakes, both ambassadors and new students alike agreed that the program succeeded in its goal and there is always room for improvements in future years. "It's not exactly as I had pictured it in my head, but it's something," Marckmann said, "it's a start."



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Spread by Hannah VanZee & Seth Andrews

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