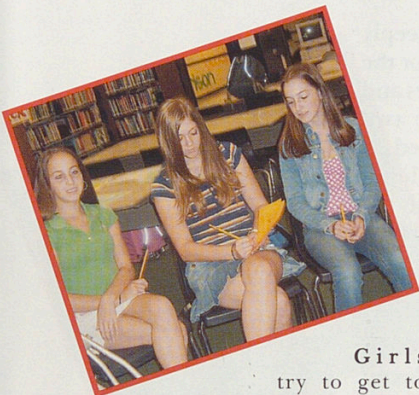


new student mentoring

Fun with some fresh starts

By: Sarah Jarnicki



Girls try to get to know each other, **Sarah Perlman, 9**, **Erin Minix, 10**, and **Stephanie Post, 9**, participate in some fun icebreakers in the IMC during the new student breakfast. During this hour lots of new friends were made. With games and discussions, everyone found someone to talk to.

Starting a new school can be really intimidating. The New Student Mentoring program, chaired by **Jaime Orent, 12**, was implemented to make the transition for new students into the district a little bit easier.

"It was definitely tough to start a new school my senior year. But at least this school has great programs that make all the new students meet each other. It's always helpful to know someone who is in the same situation as you," said **Michael Saltzmann, 12**.

The program began in early August with an assembly for all new students and their parents. Students were then invited to tour the building with specific mentors to get a better feel for the school and to get rid of their first day jitters.

"I was a new student my freshman year and no one ever showed me

around, so I thought that helping the other new students would be really beneficial," said **Jen McLaughlin, 12**.

Within the first few weeks of school the new students were invited, along with their parents, to a breakfast in their honor. The breakfast included pastries, place mats with school trivia questions, as well as a jazz trio. The students were then separated from their parents and led into the IMC to participate in some icebreaker games.

"It was really cool to meet new people and hear their stories at the breakfast," said **Megan Johnson, 11**.

New Student Mentoring had one big goal, and that was to make new students feel welcome and to have a place to go with their questions and concerns.

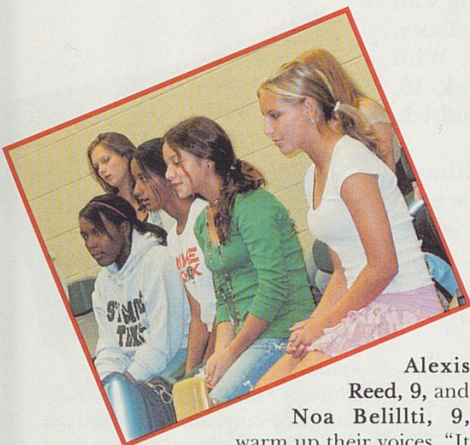
Serving up the pastries, **Jaime Orent, 12**, and **Kim Standen, 12**, help serve breakfast to new students and their parents. Everyone was also serenaded with a jazz trio. The atmosphere was welcoming and comfortable.



mixed chorus

practice, rehearse, then perform

By: Arielle Ingber



Alexis Reed, 9, and **Noa Belillti, 9**, warm up their voices. "It takes a lot of practice to have a great performance," said **Amy Smith, 9**. **Crowe** pushed his students hard to improve their voices and their performance.

Mixed Chorus was an all freshmen class who met daily to sing and work as a group.

"We work to strengthen our voices and to work together as a team," said **Mr. Duane Crowe**, adviser.

Most students in Mixed Chorus enjoyed the fact that mixed chorus was largely open to freshmen.

"Our group has been together from the beginning, and now at a new school we can grow as a whole," said **Bridget Handkins, 9**.

The students in this class put on four shows during the school year: Fall Concert, Holiday Concert, Mixed Chorus Showcase, and Spring Concert. At Mixed Chorus' first concert

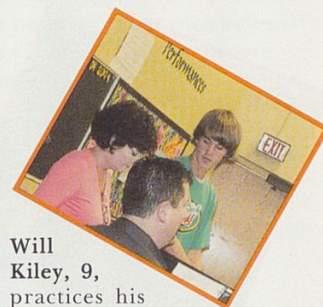
they sang four challenging pieces.

Crowe was a teacher who expected a lot from his students. Most students said that in the long run, **Crowe's** expectations were beneficial.

At the beginning of the school year, Mixed Chorus voted on three students as class representatives: **Will Kiley, Bridget Handkins**, and **Abby Evans**.

Students said that their class warm-ups were interesting, fun, and very helpful.

Their warm-ups varied from singing up the scale to breathing exercises. Although the warm-ups were at the beginning of the bell, **Crowe** was still grading his class on their effort and participation.



Will Kiley, 9, practices his solo in front of the class. **Crowe** played the piano during class time, but at performances Mixed Chorus had a pianist. This class of over 80 students had many class solos and they all did their best to succeed.