

Competing for the spirit stick, senior Emma Potter cheers for her class during the first day of school assembly on Aug. 12. "I love pep assemblies," Potter said. "You get to hang out and have fun with your friends while bonding as a class." *photo by macy williams*

Oreo on his forehead, chemistry teacher Peter van Ophem attempts to move an Oreo without his hands into his mouth on Aug. 12 during the first day of school pep assembly. Van Ophem competed against other staff members. "It is harder than it looks," van Ophem said. *photo by macy williams*



that's the
SPiRiT
Assistant Principal Laura Brogdon hosts first staff-led assembly on Aug. 12

In victory, senior David Dominguez lifts physics teacher Rylie Clark at the first day of school assembly after Clark won the a round of basketball shootout. *photo by macy williams*

Reaching for the prize, senior Audrey Statler places an Oreo on business teacher Cody Fothergill's forehead on Aug. 12 during the first day of school assembly. "I hoped I wouldn't embarrass myself with this silly game," Fothergill said. "I hoped I would get lucky and somehow win as it was a ton of fun to be a part of." *photo by macy williams*

that's just the **BEGINNING**

Freshmen Mentor Program organizes first day

The sun warmed freshman Kendall Hervey's skin as she walked towards the entrance of her new school.

"The Freshmen First Day was pretty cool," Hervey said. "[The mentors] offered help if you didn't know where you were going and just made it better."

The day started off with the mentors standing in a Tunnel of Love for the freshmen to enter through. As the freshmen entered, they were led into the Fieldhouse for an introductory assembly where they learned the expectations and rules.

The freshmen were then led to their assigned seminars by their mentors. After getting to their seminars, the mentors gave a layout of the day including picking up a free t-shirt and tours throughout the building.

"I felt small in a way," freshman Brandon Ramos Gomez said. "The school is big. It made me feel overwhelmed since there were a lot of people in such a big place."

After the main tour of the school, students got time to walk to all of their classes to get comfortable with their schedules.

"My favorite part was going to my classes and seeing what they're like," Hervey said. "The hardest part was getting used to high school and figuring everything out. The size is a big change."

For the freshmen mentors, the day started early in the morning at 6:45 a.m. with donuts. The mentors ran stations, seminars and gave help to whoever needed it.

"The first day was fun," senior Josiah Blomker said. "Usually freshmen on the first day are shy but the freshmen in my seminar weren't shy at all. They were really interactive and talkative which made it a lot of fun."

The day wrapped up with a pep assembly, where they played tug of war. The dance and cheer teams also came out to perform fight song and teach traditions.

"I liked the pep assembly," Gomez said. "There were a lot of people and it was kinda chaotic but I had fun since my friends were there." *story by lea cruz-ayala*



Using his strength, freshman Rylan McWilliams pulls on the rope during tug-of-war during the Freshman First Day assembly on Aug. 11. "At first I was scared my team was going to lose," McWilliams said. "But after [Pep Club] told us to go, my team quickly started pulling the rope further and further until we won." *photo by macy williams*



Face glowing with excitement, sophomore Briley Perry encourages the freshmen on their first day, Aug. 11. The Freshman Mentor Program helped introduce the freshmen to teachers during the assembly. "I was encouraging the freshmen who decided to participate," Perry said. "I wanted them to feel welcomed on their first day." *photo by macy williams*



Outside the Fieldhouse, senior Reesa Avalos welcomes freshmen into school through the Tunnel of Love on Aug. 11, the freshman first day. "I was really excited to see my younger sister's friends," Avalos said. *photo by macy williams*

Hands in the air, junior Talia Humfeld cheers during the Freshman First Day assembly on Aug. 11. "The freshmen were a little timid at first," Humfeld said. "Once they got the hang of how it worked, they were so hype and excited. Seeing them experience their first pep rally is why I became an FMP." *photo by macy williams*

point of **VIEW**

Freshman Mentor Program hosts annual Freshman Volleyball Tournament on Aug. 14



"I liked the volleyball tournament because I got to see my friends and hang out with them for a little while and I enjoyed cheering on other classes just to hype them up."

Mia Galindo Can, 9



"I really enjoyed the Freshman Volleyball Tournament because everyone in my seminar was super into it. We all dressed up as Minions, and Dr. Yang was Gru. We won best theme."

Emery Bailey, 10



"I really enjoy the freshman volleyball tournament every year. It's a great way to kick off the year and get everyone laughing."

Sara Kahn, 12