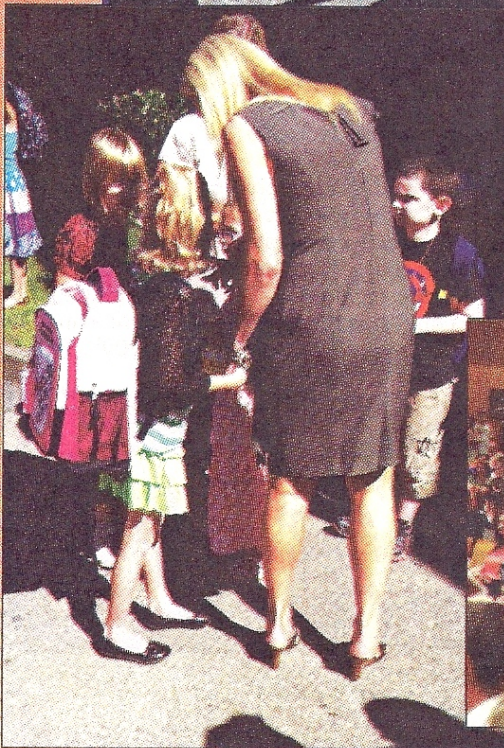


BACK TO SCHOOL

COVENTRY STUDENTS RETURN TO THE CLASSROOM



Jessica Boisclair Daily Times

Elementary students received help from teachers and older students, while incoming freshmen at CHS benefited from an introductory program Monday night (bottom right) to help them navigate the school better on their first day.

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COVENTRY — Last year, school was postponed five days due to Tropical Storm Irene, but this year the sun was shining as students awaited their buses early yesterday morning.

As students filed into Coventry schools for their first day — some veterans of the process, and others new to the scene — administrators greeted them with smiles.

Aside from some minor glitches with the busing, the first went smoothly for the Coventry school district.

Assistant Principal at Coventry High School, Brooke Macomber explained that “this was the smoothest opening I’ve seen at this school in years.”

She explained that teachers, administration and students commented on the cleanliness of the high school on opening day. She said she commends the custodians for their hard work during the summer.

“Teachers came in on Monday and had two days of professional development and they were ready to go,” she said.

Even though they were new to the school, freshmen found their classes with ease.

Macomber said Coventry High School administration hosts the Freshmen First Night event to assist the freshmen with their transition to the high school one of Rhode Island’s largest.

She said 500 people filled the auditorium Monday night to welcome the freshmen.

“They go to a presentation and they are given

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Schools open without a hitch

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maps," she said. "During the event they can go around and try and find their classrooms so they can navigate the next day easier."

While the high school is the first to start the day, the elementary schools begin and end later than the rest.

Principal of Tiogue Elementary School, Louise Seitsinger explained that when the students arrive at 8:25 a.m. they are brought to the playground to meet their teachers.

"We have 400 students and it ran pretty smoothly," she said. "I have a great deal of support from my staff."

Kindergarteners were given the most attention to help them feel comfortable in a new school.

She said the school holds an orientation for its youngest children on Aug. 24.

"I get to talk to the parents, along with



A pair of friends catch up outside of Coventry High after the school's first day of classes let out yesterday afternoon.

Jessica Boisclair • Daily Times

my school nurse and it's a nice overview and I think parents also feel comfortable," she said. "I talk about expectations and what we're looking for in terms of attendance and starting off their educational experience in the right way."

Kindergarteners are given name tags on the first day, shaped like baseballs, apples

or school buses, which coordinate with their teacher. The tag lists their bus number to ensure they return home safely.

Seitsinger said the school sponsors safety patrols, made up of its fifth graders, to bring the kindergarteners to their buses when the last bell rings.