

“WELCOME TO O’GORMAN - WELCOME TO SUCCESS”

Ashley Morrisette (left) and Rebecca Pineault (right) help Natasha David customize her locker.

That was the message shared yesterday by O’Gorman High School Principal, John D’Alessandri, at the Grade 9 Orientation Session. The event was designed to ease the transition into high school by establishing a sense of familiarity and belonging for the new students.

D’Alessandri welcomed the students to the O’Gorman Family by introducing them to the teaching and support staff. “You have joined a family and a team today that is dedicated to making sure that you will achieve,” stated D’Alessandri. “Our motto this year is all about your success. We will support you in the classroom as you build the skills that will lead you on this path. I look forward to meeting each of you individually. Welcome to O’Gorman. Welcome to Success.”

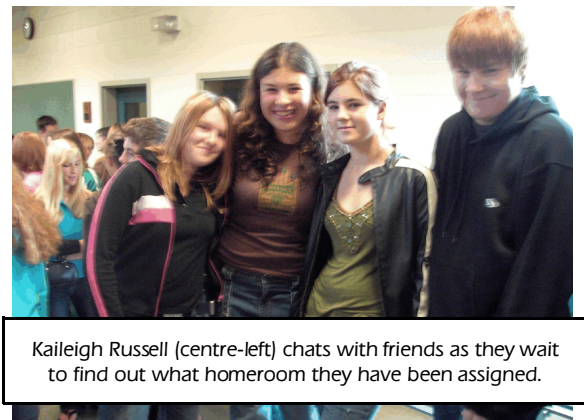
The group was then introduced to Pastoral Care Worker, Mike Buhler, who provides spiritual support services and organizes social justice based activities for students at O’Gorman. He led the group in prayer calling on the minds and hearts of all students to be open to the grace of the holy spirit to guide them through challenges. He followed with some thought provoking comments. “The reality of the big questions in life is our faith,” explained Buhler. “God calls us to love and to connect with family, friends and God in order to discover the meaning of our own life. It is often difficult for youth to confront their faith. In a Catholic school, that seed is planted. You will learn that life is about more than a career. It is about how you connect to people and to life through love.”

Dan Loreto, Head of Special Education, opened the door to anyone looking to tap into their support services. He reminded students that everyone needs something at some point in their learning journey to reach their potential. He assured them that everyone would get what they need, and that support is available for all students, regardless of their academic level.

New student Kaileigh Russell was excited to take part in the orientation session and can’t wait to begin her secondary education. “It’s a chance to get used to the school so you won’t panic the first day,” stated Russell. “It’s good to get to meet the teachers so they won’t be total strangers. We are getting to walk around the school and find where the classes, cafeteria, and gym are so we won’t be running around in circles next week.”

Immediately following the assembly, students gathered in the foyer to receive their timetables and locker number. They then explored their new home with a final stop in the cafeteria for refreshments and to chat about their hopes and dreams for the 2005-06 school year. Over 200 parents, new students and staff members filling the Sylvia Gravel Theatre for the Orientation Session.

For more information, contact Mélanie Bidal-Mainville
Community Relations Officer



Kaileigh Russell (centre-left) chats with friends as they wait to find out what homeroom they have been assigned.



Guidance Secretary Laurette Whissell (bottom left) helps students find their timetables



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