

O'Gorman High School Link Leaders Roll Out The Welcome Mat For Grade 9 Students



O'Gorman High School started the school year by implementing a new and powerful transition program for grade nine students - Link Crew. This initiative is designed to establish a welcoming atmosphere for new students as they enter high school. O'Gorman High School has embraced this program as part of a Student Success Initiative and is currently the only school in Northern Ontario to deliver the program.

The various activities planned for Orientation Day are meant to introduce the grade nine students to each other and their twenty-seven Link Leaders, who, as positive role models, will lend their support and guidance to the new students throughout their first year. These activities, which encourage team building, a sense of belonging, and fun, are intended to break down the barriers and make the grade nine students feel comfortable in their new school.

The Link Leaders participated in a comprehensive selection and training process. These twenty-seven Link Leaders gave three days of their summer to be trained to deal with their groups and learn the meaning of the activities they were to share with their groups. Having the right students as role models for the incoming grade nine students will help create an atmosphere that will build on the Catholic values and school spirit that has made O'Gorman High School what it is today.

Link Crew...

- Increases student success by decreasing attendance issues, reducing office referrals and promoting student achievement
- Allows the Link Leaders, grade 11 & 12 students, to pass on positive traditions
- Promotes school spirit and instills values consistent with Catholicity
- Creates positive relationships throughout the school community between peers and staff
- Develops leaders within the school, Link Leaders, who have the skill set to offer support, improve student success

"The Link Leaders will help me make the right decisions. It's a good feeling to know that there are people who care about you!" Steven, Grade 9 student

