



Photo by KALEIGH JOHNSON

JV sixth grade students Sarah Shea, right, and Ella McCrum get their social studies books out as they begin the day's lessons. Though in sixth grade, these students, along with the rest of sixth grade, are getting used to their classrooms being in the high school building this year.

JV sixth grade moves to high school building

By KALEIGH JOHNSON
JVHS Reporter

The start of any new school year is an exciting time for both teachers and students. This year, the start of school was a particularly exciting time for the sixth graders as their classes were moved into the high school building.

The teachers making the moved included Anita Smith, Brian Sparr, Jim Rivello and Dan Kraft. So far, the reaction from both students and teachers is very positive. The students themselves enjoy being in the high school as well.

The transfer process included help from many members of the community. During the summer, the school hired seniors Devin Deihl, Quinn Zinobile, Nolan Reihart, Tristan Henderson and Garrett Funk to help get the rooms ready. They assisted in moving furniture and materials from the elementary to the high school and painted the nearby hallway to liven up the area.

The high school principal Michael Estep, some high school teachers and the junior/senior high guidance counselor Hope Smith did a great deal of planning and preparation prior to the move as well as a few members from the maintenance and custodial staff.

A lot of discussions were had in regards to this move.

Superintendent Mike Zinobile was confident the transition would not only be smooth, but beneficial to those involved. "Adding additional space to the elementary would have been a significant cost to the district. With moving the sixth graders into the high school, we were able to create additional space at the elementary and completely accommodate the needs of our sixth grade students and faculty in the junior/senior high school. It was a very smooth transition from one building to another," stated Zinobile.

Some of the rooms being used for sixth grade classrooms were previously health classrooms. Those teachers have now moved into a "renovated" classroom in the old wrestling room.

Health teacher Scott Maslan-

interaction with high school students. Their classrooms are localized in one area of the building and their schedules follow a different time line. They also still get recess.

When speaking with sixth grade students, they were all eager to share how excited they were about the new arrangements.

John Paul Espy stated: "I love being in the high school. I like how the classrooms are closer together. It feels like I have more freedom and I even have own locker."

"I love the lunches in the high school," added Mike Hutchison. "There is more variety of food, drinks, veggies and fruits in the high school than in the elementary school." Another student, Alyx Luther, added: "I love the mashed potato bowl lunch choice. It's my favorite."

Even though they changed from one school to another, the lessons and activities have stayed consistent. There have only been a few challenges presented to both the teachers and the students. Brian Sparr, sixth grade math teacher, has found that the lengthened class periods have impacted his teaching.

"Now that the classes are an hour and a half, it has affected the pace of my teaching," explained Sparr. "I am further into the math book than I have been in past years. But, I have been able to utilize online programs such as XtraMath and GetMoreMath, which have been very helpful with skill development for my students."

As part of the move, the students were given Chromebooks that stay at school, which was a big change that enabled teachers like Sparr to get more creative and inventive with lessons and materials.

Some of the teachers thought it would have been hard to get used to the move, but they have adjusted well. Anita Smith commented that her class is adjusting really well. "They say they don't want to go back to the elementary school even if they had a chance. They fit in here," stated Smith.

Sixth grade teachers and