

554 and Growing?

Staff Writer

August 31 saw the class of 2013, some 550 strong, pack the auditorium for their first high school assembly.

This annual rite of passage, with new principal Mr. John Goetz providing his welcome and helpful tips on becoming part of the Stamford High family, kicked off this school year. Also, at the assembly the full administrative staff, including newly appointed assistant principal and freshman class administrator, Michael Rinaldi. As grade level administrator Rinaldi will keep a close eye on the unusually large freshman class.

But this group differs from classes of others in recent years. "There were 554 four students at the assembly on August 31st and we are expecting that number to grow," said Mr. Rinaldi.

This is an exceptionally large number of students especially compared to the other grades, 10th, 11th, 12th, each having a maximum of 400 students. Mr. Rinaldi attributed this increase in students due to the redistricting of Stamford public schools and the closing of Wright Tech. The new assistant principal will not be changing anything, even with the large number of students. "I will not do anything differently, just more of what needs to be done," said Rinaldi.

The change from Dolan Middle School to Stamford High School has taken Zora Merrit a little adjusting. "This school is really big," said Merrit, "and now I am the shortest and youngest again."

Another incoming freshman, Tashnaelle Gabriel, was a bit nervous about starting here at SHS. "I was happy on the first day of school when I saw all my friends," said Gabriel, "but I was also a little nervous of losing my friends and not having them in my classes." But she said she has made countless new friends.

Still the large amount of students and number of floors made it hard for freshman to get around. "I was trying to not get lost, but I did," says Anderson Molina, a freshman coming from Scofield Middle School, "it took me an hour to find my homeroom on the first day of school." Zora Merrit had the same problem getting around the school too. "I walked into what I thought was my physical science class when I realized I was in biology class and the teacher in the front of my room wasn't my teacher. No wonder the students in the rest of the class were staring at me," exclaimed Merrit. However, Molina and Merrit can now agree that they know where to go, it just took a little bit of time to become accustomed to the odd number of floors at SHS.

Molina says, "I really don't know what my plan for Stamford high is, only the future can tell." He just knows he wants to succeed, as does every other freshman entering Stamford High. Zora Merrit is just happy to know a familiar face from Dolan Middle School. "I love Mr. Rinaldi and am glad he followed my class to Stamford High," said Merrit.

Mr. Rinaldi wants the entire freshman class to succeed here at Stamford High and gave his words of advice on day one. Mr. Rinaldi told the freshman, "The next four years are probably the most important years of your life." He wants the freshman class to understand that high school is about having fun and a good time, but also they need to focus and work hard. The high amount of students has caused some problems for students

at Stamford high, but overall the freshman are just another round of students coming in for their four years of education at Stamford High and it will go by before they know it.