

guiding light

Returning students give ninth graders advice for their first year of high school

Excited chatter echoes through the quad, nervous freshmen gather near their first class, and seniors revel in their newfound wisdom. The first day of school allowed for more experienced students to pass their knowledge onto incoming students.

Suprim Bhattarai (12) utilized past experiences to provide insight to freshmen, encouraging them to step out of their comfort zones.

"You never know what you

might be interested in until you try it, until you give it a shot," Bhattarai said. "So just try everything when you're in freshman year."

For senior Gordon Song, trying new interests helped him enjoy his time on campus and recommended new students try.

"Get involved in school activities. It helps you enjoy your high school experience when you have things to look forward to," Song said. "Get to know people

in your class because they'll be people that you're spending time with for all four years."

Meanwhile, Sophomore Xuan Li found a strategy for meeting new people in her classes.

"It's very easy to make friends by turning over to the person next to you and say, 'Hey, you don't get what's happening, [and] I don't get what's happening,'" Li said. "Just find common ground."

As a freshman, Andrew Fekete used a similar strategy, making new connections to overcome his concerns.

"I was nervous and anxious, but once I saw one of my friends in my class, I met with some of his friends," Fekete said. "I started to enjoy high school right from there."

lucky number 13 At the HOP rally, juniors Anderson Picone (left) and Ingrid Gresham (right) wait excitedly for their group of new students. Gresham aspired to help situate freshmen to the new campus, as her leader did for her. "I was inspired by my HOP leader because she was so good," Gresham said. "I wanted to make them feel like they could enjoy Homestead and enjoy freshman year."



Photo by Avery Woodman



Strut your stuff Showcasing their skills, seniors Sania Khanzode, Thea Gomard, Aditi Gosh, and Nitya Peumans perform at the HOP rally. The four were a part of IndoPak, and performed at the rally to attract potential new members. "We had people come up later at the club fair and say, 'Hey, we saw you perform,'" Gomard said. "The rally definitely worked." Photo by Avery Woodman



Photo by Kaci Freeman



Photo by Kimia Hekmatnejad

stick together After comparing their schedule with peers, Satyalahari Yerragunta (10) hugs their friend, elated to share a class this year. For Yerragunta, Round-Up brought an unfamiliar set of emotions. "Last year was different because it was a new school, new environment," Yerragunta said. "My peers and teachers who impacted me positively have changed my perspective of Homestead."

join the club To spark interest from potential members, Briana Holquin Castillo (11), a Spanish Club officer, advertises in the quad. For Holquin Castillo, the club fair was a helpful event for students to see all the clubs in one place. "The club fair is a really good opportunity for people to see the options that they have, [as well as] a place for returning students to see something that they missed," Holquin Castillo said.

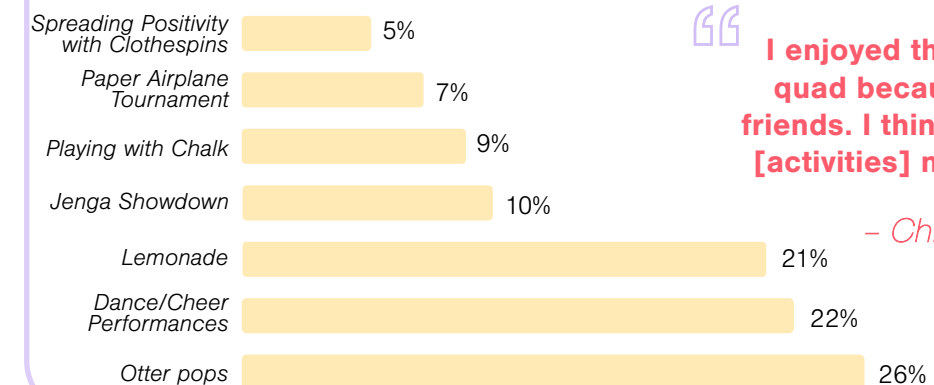
right on schedule Schedules in hand, Nora Steel (10) and Evangeline Park (10) excitedly share their new classes. At Round-Up, they thought back to their freshman year and the things they wished they had known. "Freshman year is the least busy year, so use it to explore new things," Park said. "I tried leadership, which was something I didn't think I'd ever do."



Photo by Kaci Freeman

horseplay

A survey of 193 participants reveals students' favorite back to school activities



I enjoyed the otter pops in the quad because I made a lot of friends. I think the back to school [activities] nurtures community.

— Chloe Jiang (9)