

Photos by Matthew Scott

CLASS OF 2000

"screw up and do something stupid" during her first day at Geneva DeSales High School on Sept. 4.

"I had one of those dreams where you go into school and everybody stares at you," said Meghan, 13, from St. Michael's Church in Newark.

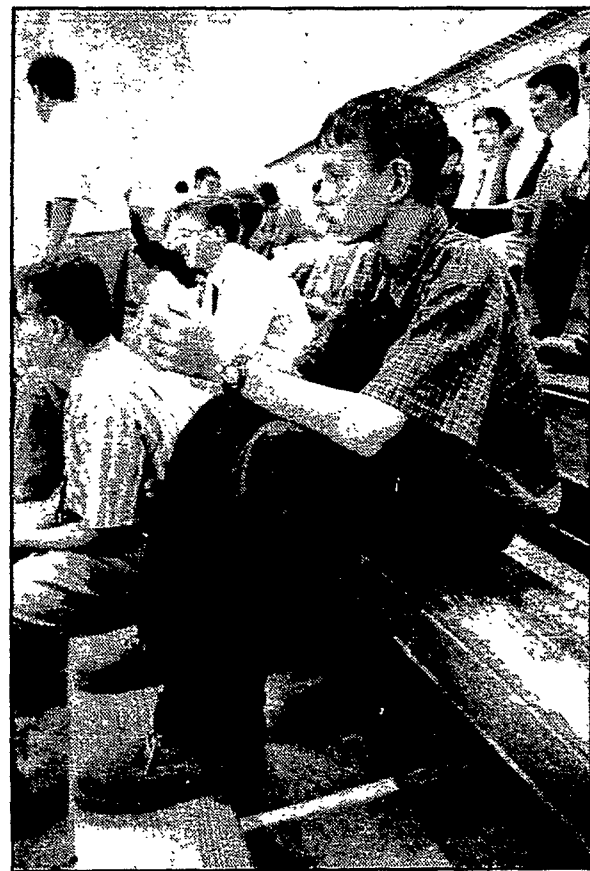
However, all three freshmen said they quickly overcame their fears. Tyler attributed part of his adjustment to his brother, Cade, a senior at McQuaid. Cade has assisted him, he said, by driving him to school each day and also introducing him to school officials.

"I'm surprised that he's been helping me," Tyler said. He jokingly explained that when they're at home, Cade — like many other big brothers — is more prone to teasing him than supporting him.

Meghan noted she was put at ease because some Geneva DeSales freshmen were classmates with her last year at St. Michael's School in Newark.

"I have a friend in every class," she said.

Meghan began classes immediately on her first day at DeSales, while Tyler and Loc went through one-day freshman orientations at their respective schools Sept. 4. The first full day of classes



Above, Tyler Lemcke awaits the start of the welcome assembly on his first day at McQuaid. At left, Meghan Root finds her new locker and, below left, anxiously looks into her new homeroom.

social challenge."

Tyler knows all about the academic challenges of which Father Betti speaks. It took no longer than his opening hour of high-school classes for Tyler to get socked with a heavy dose of reality.

"My first class was English, and I got four or five or six pages of homework. I said, 'Whoa!'" Tyler remarked as his first school day neared completion. "It's seeming like it's going to be a difficult year. I had a feeling it was going to be a hard school."

At the same time, Tyler seems to be equipped with the necessary supply of self-assurance to survive life as a high-school freshman.

"I think I'll be able to handle it," he said.

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for all students at McQuaid and Kearney was Sept. 6.

Loc remarked that her orientation at Kearney "helped out a lot." The day, she said, included visits to the school's classrooms, chapel and auditorium; presentations by teachers and other BK school officials; and meetings with student peer ministers.

Tyler went through a similar orientation on his first day of high school. According to Father Fred Betti, SJ, a freshman instructor at McQuaid, these orientations help



ease the anxiety that most freshmen feel from being in a new environment.

"It's a very difficult transition. It can be difficult for some kids," Father Betti said. "It's a big academic challenge, and also an immense

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