

Valdete listens to instructions from math teacher Susan Cooper. Valdete later said that her classmates and teachers made an effort to be helpful.



Classmate Nazmah Jackson shows Valdete what page the class is reading.

The beginning of the school year Sept. 8 saw the children from Kosovar refugee families settling in area schools. They included Valdete and Arjeta Sahiti at, respectively, Nazareth Hall Middle School and Nazareth Academy in Rochester. Their family was one of two resettled by Rochester's St. John the Evangelist Parish. The new students faced some language problems, but said they found teachers and students helpful. Of her fellow students, 15-year-old Arjeta said through a translator, "I can't communicate with them, so I just smile at them a lot."



Ashley Brown assists Arjeta in finding her next class. Arjeta later said she felt safe and comfortable at the school.



Freshman Arjeta Sahiti, 15, goes over her first day schedule with her homeroom teacher, Sue Bouchard, at the beginning of the school day Sept. 8.



At the end of the day, Valdete exchanges thoughts of her first day of school with sister Arjeta.

**PHOTOS BY GREG FRANCIS** 

Coming next week CYO