

High School Principals Start New Year By Doug Logan

The first year as a principal of Colleyville Heritage High School is underway for Becky Prentice. She is learning what it takes to do the job.

“You do team building, get to know the belief system and get to know the kids,” Prentice said. “You also get to know the culture.”

Prentice has been with the Grapevine Colleyville ISD for 15 years. Her teaching career started at Grapevine High School as a math teacher. She has spent a number of years at the middle school as assistant principal.

“You have to get to know the feel and culture of the school and the teachers,” Prentice said. “I am seeking to understand everybody.”

The same aspects are understood by Grapevine High School Principal Jerry Hollingsworth who begun his second year there.

“It’s wise to spend time learning the surroundings,” Hollingsworth said. “It is mainly important to understand the culture.”

Hollingsworth also sees the value of the traditions of a school that has been in existence for a century.

“As a principal I want to be a good steward of the history, of what it means to be a mustang,” Hollingsworth said. “I also want to make the school as accessible to students and parents as possible.”

Though there are traditions, there are always changes to be made. Both principals agree on one thing about the changes.

“We will always try to improve. We also are looking at any program that is focused on the student,” Prentice said. “Focusing on TAKS and making sure our students are recognized for their success.”

Hollingsworth wants others to look to Grapevine High School in the lead.

“We’re always changing, trying to stay ahead of the curve. We are leading the change.”

He also mentioned the Campus Improvement Plan that is a guide for the school staff and community to discuss changes that need to happen on the campus.

Some programs the principals are focusing on are Grateful Dads, Extended Day, and Project Twist. Grateful Dads is a project to get more dads involved in the high school.

Two dads stand at the front door of the high school and greet students as they walk in the door.

“It’s great to see dads interacting with students,” Hollingsworth said.

The Extended Day program allows students the time to receive help after school with work or to make up a test. Students go to the library, which is opened later for them. The library is opened Monday through Thursday from 4 pm to 5 pm.

At Colleyville Heritage High School a new program helping freshmen bridge the gap from 8th grade to the high school. The mentoring program places some upperclassmen with the freshmen to help them become acquainted with the new school.

Both high schools also had a good opportunity before school started to get together and trade ideas.

“We did teacher development with both high schools,” Prentice said. “The teachers were able to share ideas back and forth. We put teacher from the same subject area with other teachers from a different school so they could learn from each other as well.”