



SCHOOLS OPEN TO EXCITING FIRST DAY

By Ron Barry

Just like baseball, there's something about opening day.

A spin around the elementary schools in the Crockett County School District found colorful welcoming displays, flashy bulletin boards, polished floors, excited children, and a corps of dedicated teachers, staff, and administrators ready to get off to a solid start.

At Gadsden Elementary, new construction on six additional classrooms continues as students will already begin to enjoy a new, larger cafeteria and a sprawling new playground. Principal Marsha Foust is just as excited that a new redesign of the parking lot will provide one-way traffic in and out, thereby making the location safer and easier to control.



"It's going to be so much easier for parents to drop off and pick up their kids," Foust said. "We're also thrilled to have the new School Resource Officer, a lot larger space for the cafeteria, the beautiful new mural on the wall, and those additional classrooms under construction."



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At Maury City Elementary, the shiny halls were featuring a variety of colorful bulletin boards, educational posters, wisdom-filled quotes, and other encouraging words as students entered for Day One of the school year.

Principal Christine Schwartz was busy in the cafeteria area going over rules and procedures with a couple of classes.



On the northern end of the county, Friendship Elementary was buzzing with activity as the teachers and staff had already had a busy week riding in a caravan to distribute books to students, and also visiting the places of business of their sponsors and partners.

After cleaning out some storage and the library area, leaders collected books, games, posters, and other materials and decided to give them away to interested students rather than toss them away. Principal Cindy Nolen said it made a lot more sense, especially if the students wanted the materials.

Along with the Crockett middle and high schools gearing up to begin their academic and athletic calendars, the elementary settings illustrated the time and effort put into a warm welcome for the students. This story is accompanied by several photos that show much of the work and dedication applied to that effort.

