

Voices

Q: What is your favorite memory from the 2008-09 school year?



This year I was given the opportunity to teach the first pre-K Dual Language class in the district. I must say that it has been a wonderful experience. I have had the pleasure of helping my young students grow and learn. I have spent my days with an eager group of 4-year-olds who are always ready to explore and have fun. I am grateful for the challenges, joys, surprises and rewards that this school year has brought to me.

--Ana Banda-Wemple, pre-K teacher, Dual Language Program, Delaware Community School



I've had many wonderful memories at Harriet Gibbons High School. One of my favorite memories this year was making it on the honor roll each quarter. This has been a wonderful achievement for me. The second memory of achievement is being nominated for the Sponsor-A-Scholar program. This has made me more determined to do my very best.

--Lavern Bennett, freshman, Harriet Gibbons High School



While it would be hard to identify any single moment from the school year as "most memorable," it was exciting to hear a couple of seniors talk about majoring in accounting next year. To think that an introductory high school class could have that kind of influence is pretty amazing.

--Chris Brown, business teacher, Albany High School



My favorite memory is when I saw the play "Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters" at Proctor's Theater. It was outstanding. I wasn't sure if the actors were African, but I knew they could dance. I wish I could dance like them. They had beautiful and distinct costumes. I knew they were part of their culture. People were carrying bowls on their heads and I thought this must also be part of their culture. I would like to thank Mr. (Charles) Touhey for giving me the opportunity to see "Mufaro's

Beautiful Daughters." I will never forget this memory!

--Etiea Cherry, third grade, Sheridan Preparatory Academy



I didn't know what I was getting myself into. Switching to a new school in eighth grade isn't easy, but it's not impossible. Within a few weeks, if not days, I didn't feel like an outsider anymore. I liked my teachers and staff. I finally had the right locker combination. I stopped walking into the wrong Spanish classroom. And I was meeting new friends. Looking back, I can pick out specific memories of this year that stand out in my mind, but my favorite

memory is the year as a whole. I'm still me, but so much has changed. School gained a certain brilliance, nothing short of magic. This is eighth grade. This is Myers.

--June Criscione, eighth grade, Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School



I have the pleasure of saying that quite a lot of events occurred this year that I'd never envisaged happening to someone like myself. I would like to highlight meeting Dayoung, a South Korean transfer student I met at beginning of the school year during a fire drill. She was the first transfer student I'd met at Albany High. "Over time one will learn from the days' past events," my grandmother would say, and from these past events I've learned more of a culture in which I take part, a skill that I've been blessed with, and the

biggest thing of all ... "no matter where you're from, no matter who we are," we all have something in common. I find that my South Korean friend has taught me a lot.

--Darian Henry, sophomore, Albany High School



My friend Olivia and I had to make a math comic strip for Ms. (Susan) Paultre's class. We made a really funny one called "El Diablo the Fighting Chicken." It was about a chicken superhero that fights improper fractions. I got to hang out with Olivia, it was fun to draw the comic strip and it looked cool when we were done with it.

**--Molly Ketterer, sixth grade,
William S. Hackett Middle School**



My favorite memory was the first day of school. The reason I picked this event is to recognize my two teachers that made this room feel like my home. They let me know that giving up will not make you succeed in the future. They focused on the importance of other children. They always made sure when I felt like falling off the rope to remember to balance myself. Another reason why I picked the first day of school is because I wasn't so sure about doing good until Mr. (Jerry)

Carafello and Mrs. (Roni) Basle changed my life. Now it's 2009 and they have made me a stronger and happier sixth-grade girl. Without them I would not be the positive person I am now!

--Anisa Wise, sixth grade, Albany School of Humanities (ASH)