

THE TIMES

School brings everyone together

Police talk to Memorial Junior High students, parents about their roles

BY JENNIFER PALLAY
Times Correspondent

LANSING | The gymnasium at Memorial Junior High School was packed Friday afternoon with students, teachers and parents there to learn how to put the positive atmosphere from school into action when they leave the building.

During the assembly, titled Bridging the Gap, Principal Robert Zimbelman said, "We are going to pull the school and community together so we are truly, truly bridging that gap."

The assembly included community leaders and school officials who talked to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders as well as their parents.

It was an extension of the school program called Positive Behavior and Intervention Support, or PBIS, which was introduced to students the first three days of school. It encourages students to be respectful, responsible and safe.

School District 158 Superintendent Cecilia Heiberger told students she was proud of how they walked into the gym. "That's exactly what PBIS is about," she said.

She also told them to remember they are representing District 158 all the time,

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not just when they are in school.

"I need you to hold your heads high," she said.

Lansing Police Chief Dennis Murrin Jr. also spoke. He stressed the Police Department wants to work with students and parents. He told them his goal as chief is to keep them out of the police station.

"I think this message the school is sending you is very important," he said.

Angie Morgan-Murdock, whose son came to Memorial as a seventh-grader this school year, said the assembly was informative and the students were orderly.

"I love the school so far. I'm very impressed with it," she said.

She said she can see a difference even in how Memorial students walk home compared to those at her son's former school.

Detective Wilson Pierce IV, of the Lansing Police Department, addressed the roles of students and parents. He told students to come to school prepared and ready to learn, take responsibility for their actions and always be truthful.

"In the community, treat everyone's home like it's your home," he said.

He told parents their job is to show students how to be responsible, respectful and safe.

"Act the way you want your children to act," he said.

He also told them to contact the school or police if something seems suspicious and to know what their children are doing and who their friends are.