**Program introduces Helena’s 6th graders to middle school**

WEB helps students transition with the aid of 8th grade leaders

**WEB GROUP**

Every summer’s end is a new beginning, a new school year’s beginning. Wednesday was the first day of the 2022-23 school year for many grades in the Helena Public Schools.

Helena Middle School has about 700 students for the 2022-23 school year. About 238 of those students are going into sixth grade—their first year at a middle school. Sixth graders at HMS, the sixth graders come to middle school. Both Helena middle schools have the program to welcome their sixth grade students to middle school.

Before classes begin for higher grade levels, sixth graders come to the school for an orientation. At HMS, the sixth graders were sorted in 27 groups, and each WEB group had two eighth grade leaders in bright yellow shirts, who led them through activities, showed them the school, and more.

Eight-grade leaders Kate Hall, Ellie Zipfel and Emily Temple enjoyed helping the sixth graders out the few days, especially because they had the chance to do WEB as sixth graders themselves because of COVID-19.

“We never had WEB leaders in sixth grade, so we never got to experience what we did today,” said Hall. “It was interesting getting in and learning from them.”

“Each group gets a bag with signs hanging around. We stuff the bags they get. We do all of it. Eighth-grade leaders and cousins Brook Stancliffe and Sebastian Brost are excited for classes this year. Everyone is looking forward to band class and playing the clarinet. Sarbu is looking forward to the instrument at the end of the day.”

Electrical vehicle use increases in Montana

But lacking of charging stations makes long hauls difficult in state

TOM LATER

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BILLINGS — There was some buzz about Helena’s Valley Electric Cooperative having an electric vehicle used in Montana. Even in the utility world “EVs” are still pretty new in Montana.

The co-op’s vehicle is even kind of sexy. It’s a Ford Mustang Mach-E, the fastest versions of the vehicle can do 0 to 60 mph in 3.7 seconds, the most economic-minded versions can travel up to 300 miles on a single charge.

The Where Everybody Be- longs (WEB) Program was created to help introduce sixth grade students to middle school. Both Helena middle schools have the program to welcome their sixth grade students.

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Electric vehicles have been on the rise in Montana since the 1950s and says the VA has signed a new law clarifying for college, President Joe Biden has signed a new law clarifying for college.

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