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Horizon Science Academy of Lorain kicks off another school year

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The Horizon Science Academy of Lorain held its first day for students Aug. 12.

It served as the first day for children in kindergarten and sixth and ninth grades with the remaining grades set to begin Aug. 13.

"The goal with the kind of staggered starts is to give the kids, who are in the transitional grades, that extra day to get them ready," said Jayson Bendik, the school's assistant principal of operations and community engagement coordinator. "We are off to a quick start here in general because we have 185 days which are outlined by Concept Schools, our management company. The goal is to have the extra time to really go above and beyond for our students as we prepare them for college."

Angelica Jayaraman, the school's librarian, had a group of kindergartners in the library for the first day.

"Today is basically an introduction for the kids," she said. "We have 8,000 books in the library ranging from picture books to adult fiction to nonfiction works. Kids grades kindergarten through fifth have library as a rotation making it almost a regular class. For the older grades, the library serves as a place for them to stop by during language arts classes."

Jayaraman said the kindergarten year mostly serves as an introduction to reading.

"The goal is to have them exposed to different authors and different styles," she said. "It involves me reading to them. By the end of the year, they will start to pick the books out themselves."

Melissa Gibson, a sixth- and eighth-grade math teacher at Horizon, was with a group of sixth-graders and introducing them to what the year is going to look like.

"This year the sixth-graders will learn some fractions, ratios, geometry and



Horizon Science Academy of Lorain Kindergartners Nevaeh Tomecko, 5, left, Jacob Galvan, 6, and Izabel Wiley, 5, dosome coloring on their first day of school. Zachary Srnis — The Morning Journal

graphing," she said. "The big thing for these guys is doing their homework and practicing at home."

Gibson, while addressing her students, took time to emphasize communication and taking more responsibility for their education.

"This is an adjusting period for them," she said. "When they are in elementary school, they kind of have their hands held. When they reach this stage, they need to start asking for help and taking the necessary steps to make sure they are prepared."

"If they have a question or are confused by something, they need to ask; I don't want anyone to fall behind," she added. "This is a college-prep school, and they are always being challenged to make sure they are ready. The high school teachers here teach like college professors, so I want to make sure these students are ready for that."

Bendik said Horizon has grown impressively since it started in 2009.

"We started with 90 kids, and we now have around 800 for this upcoming school year," he said. "The growth is something I attribute to the parents' choice of deciding this is a great place for their kids to receive their education and the great group of leadership we have."

Bendik said Horizon stands out because of the college prep aspect.

"We have a K-12 building that really gears kids for college," he said. "It's not a question of if the kids will go to college, but where they will go. We actually begin working with students at the middle school level to build a plan for what it will take to go to the school they want. We are proud to say we had 100 percent of our seniors last year graduate from high school."

For more information on how to sign your child up for classes at the Horizon Science Academy of Lorain for the 2020-2021 school year visit <http://www.horizonlorain.org>--