



## **Incoming Freshmen Already Welcomed at Saint Viator High School**

June 11, 2010



Members of the Class of 2014 had a chance to meet their classmates at the annual welcome barbecue.

The school year has barely ended, and already Saint Viator officials welcomed their incoming freshmen to the school, for an informal barbecue. And most of the 260 class members --- coming from 50 schools across the North and Northwest suburbs --- took them up on it.

As it is, a majority of the class is enrolled in summer school courses or sports camps, but the opening barbecue offers a social event with no strings attached. No homework or workouts required.

“We believe sponsoring this event is important, for many reasons,” says Bill Sanford, recruitment director. “Most important though is for our incoming students to realize that their class is made up of students from a wide range of experiences and geographic areas.

This is a big part of why our students reach out to one another and are quick to establish new friendships.”

Nervous freshmen found their fears calmed by some 35 sophomore, junior and senior Saint Viator students --- all members of the school’s Ambassador Club --- who served as group leaders and hosts.

Freshmen opened up right away with the evening’s icebreaker, which asked them to describe what high school sport or activity they look forward to, as well as what was the one thing they won’t miss about leaving middle school.

In keeping with tradition, the freshmen also started to bone up on Saint Viator trivia --- starting with the fact that the school will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary during their spring semester --- before moving outdoors for the actual barbecue.

Groups of students moved out to the outfield of the school’s softball field to eat their burgers, before tossing around the football and Frisbee.

Mostly, students enjoyed the social aspect of the mixer, officials said. They stood talking long after the end of the event rolled around, and seemed not to want to leave.

For many, this simple evening can make some apprehension subside.

Ironically, the event took place nearly two months to the day before the school year starts in earnest, with freshmen orientation on Aug. 13.