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Media Advisory

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REACHING NEW HEIGHTS: East Baton Rouge Students Take Off On First Day Of School

Special events signifying high hopes for the 2008-2009 school year occurred at campuses throughout the East Baton Rouge Parish School System today, August 7, marking the first day of school. About 44,000 students descended on the System's schools by car, bus and foot power and were greeted by principals, teachers, parents and volunteers. School personnel made sure hundreds of students at each site had breakfast, were organized by grade and sent to the right class. About 3,350 teachers awaited students today at East Baton Rouge schools. Of those, 52 percent have advanced degrees.

At Northeast Elementary School (first photo), students were greeted by a hot air balloon, while Mayor President Melvin "Kip" Holden (second photo) welcomed students Mardi Gras style at Villa Del Rey Elementary School. He was joined by Metropolitan Council member Martha Jane Tassin. Westdale Heights Academic Magnet School teachers and volunteers directed students from buses (third photo) and cars to their assigned classrooms. And balloons adorned the hallway at the new Capitol Elementary School (fourth photo), where about 560 students enjoyed approximately 75,000 square feet of space on the first day of school.