

## First-day student count sees drop of 12 in Holyoke

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

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Enrollment figures during the first few days of school in Holyoke School District Re-1J dropped by 12 students from the first-day figures recorded one year ago.

Students started classes Thursday, Aug. 15, and additions and deletions to class lists were still in progress this week.

As of Tuesday morning, Aug. 20, the total enrollment for K-12 was 577, down from 589 recorded at the start of the 2012-13 school year.

That includes 320 in grades K-6, 243 in grades 7-12 and 14 in Holyoke Alternative School.

For state funding purposes, the actual student count is linked to the Oct. 1 enrollment, not this first-week count.

The funded full-time equivalent (FTE) student number counts kindergartners as .58 of a student and also counts preschoolers eligible for special education services through BOCES as half students.

First-week counts in the district dropped steadily from 2002-07, stayed steady in 2008, increased by 32 in 2009, dropped by 19 in 2010, increased by 16 in 2011 and stayed steady in 2012.

The student count at Holyoke Elementary School is 320, down 22 from a year ago. This year's kindergarten class lists 45 students, while last year's had 52.

Grades 7-12 show 243 students, up 12 from a year ago. The seventh-grade class has 37 students, and last year's senior class started with 38, for about an even trade.

Holyoke Alternative School count was reported as 14, down two from a year ago.

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This year's third-grade class is the largest in the district with 51 students. There are 49 first-graders, 47 fourth-graders and 46 sixth-grade students.

There are 37 seventh-graders for the smallest class in the district, followed by the junior class with 38 and senior class with 39.

Enrollment in individual grades during the first few days of school for 2013-14 follows:

Kindergarten 45, first grade 49, second grade 42, third grade 51, fourth grade 47, fifth grade 40, sixth grade 46, seventh grade 37, eighth grade 44, freshmen 44, sophomores 41, juniors 38, seniors 39 and Alternative School 14.

Enrollment for the first week of school in past years compares as follows to the 577 count this year: 589 in 2012, 589 in 2011, 573 in 2010, 592 in 2009, 560 in 2008, 560 in 2007, 572 in 2006 and 622 in 2005.

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