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STUDENTS' SAFE HAVEN



SCHOOL SPIRIT: Brave kids from evacuated Stuyvesant HS show IDs to get into Brooklyn Tech yesterday. N.Y. Post: Joey Newfield

Ground zero HS relocates to Brooklyn

By JESSIE GRAHAM and CARL CAMPANILE

Shaken students from academic powerhouse Stuyvesant HS relocated across the river to rival Brooklyn Tech yesterday to recover from the World Trade Center disaster.

Nearly the entire student body of 3,000 attended a two-hour orientation session in Tech's auditorium. Classes begin today.

Many of the students — who saw the Twin Towers topple from classroom windows at 345 Chambers St. — donned red, white and blue clothing. The school is now dedicated to cleanup efforts, and is not expected to reopen until next month.

It's the first time students have seen each other since the tragedy, because their parents have kept them under close watch.

"It was hard being home all day. We just saw the disaster over and over again on the news," said 16-year-old Mathew Varghese.

"It feels good to try to get back to normal. School is a safe haven for us now — psychologically, too."

Varghese — who saw the first tower crash from his Intel research class — has three friends who have missing parents. He said it was his first opportunity to see them again.

"I've got to give them a big hug," he said.

Many students were accompanied by nervous parents. Some families had never set foot in Brooklyn before.

During the assembly, Principal Stan Teitel applauded the students for their calm evacuation on Sept. 11.

But there's some tension between the two academic rivals.

Several changes had to be made so Stuyvesant and Tech kids could attend the same school without running out of space.

Brooklyn Tech classes run from 7 a.m. to about 1:20 p.m. with 37-minute classes, and Stuyvesant runs from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. with 30-minute classes, beginning today.

"Except for the fact that the Stuyvesant administration is a bunch of prima donnas, things are working out fine," charged Brooklyn teacher and union representative Howard Gleish.

But Stuyvesant math department chairman Daniel Jaye praised Brooklyn Tech's math faculty for being gracious hosts.

"My staff was greeted with an incredible buffet of food and kindness," he said. "When I got there, there was a desk for me, a computer and keys to offices."

Students from seven other ground zero schools also were reassigned yesterday.

Schools Chancellor Harold Levy said that all things considered, it went well.

Meanwhile, UFT president Randi Weingarten said she's pushing to reopen the seven affected schools as soon as possible: PS 150, PS 234, PS 89/IS 89, PS 721, Stuyvesant, HS for Leadership and Public Service, and HS for Economics and Finance.

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