PERPETUAL SENIORS — Ninth-graders Ashian Brites, Alex Martin, Troy Moss, Logan Carter, Scott Shoemfeld and Cole Boyers pose at Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve Monday. They will be among the first to graduate high school from the newly redesigned school in 2021.

First day firsts
New opportunities await local students

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TRINITY — In both the Asheboro City and Randolph County school systems, buses took to the roads and parents and students began new routines for the new school year on Monday, marking significant childhood milestones — first day of kindergarten, first day of middle school, first day of high school, last first day of school.

For a group of ninth-graders at Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve, it was another first — their first day back at their old middle school, now opened with new opportunities in a newly designed school model. Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve ninth grade students began the day excited to take on their new roles.

“We get to be the role models,” they said proudly. As the first group to attend as high school students, they have the unique opportunity to be “seniors,” as they put it, for their entire high school career. They were the oldest group of students on campus last year as eighth-grade students, and will continue to be so through 12th grade. In addition, they get to take advantage of the Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve’s new curriculum concentration areas model.

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NEW SCHOOL MODEL — Uwharrie Middle School has been transformed to Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve, opening to ninth-grade students on Monday.

School

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“We have a lot of new things to offer this year with the way we structured the school,” Principal Anthony Grosch said. “Not just adding the ninth grade, but also the three schools within the school — leadership and communication, design and technology, and public service.” Students at the school take core classes through one of the three areas. As the school grows and grade levels are added through grade 12, the curriculum will support career interests within each area.

“All three are intentionally broad so that everybody fits in somewhere,” Grosch said.

Including Uwharrie Ridge Six-Twelve, doors opened to 17,030 students at 30 of the 31 schools across the Randolph County School System (RCSS) Monday morning. Randolph Early College High School began classes earlier this month on Aug. 3.

“I am looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year,” RCSS Superintendent Dr. Stephen Gainey said. “Our students, staff members, parents and community members continue to make the Randolph County School System a special place.”

Asheboro City Schools (ACS) welcomed approximately 4,700 students in nine locations across Asheboro, also Monday morning.

“We are excited to welcome our students for the 2017-18 school year,” ACS Superintendent Dr. Terry Worrell said. “Through collaboration and creativity, we will reach new heights in providing higher quality teaching and instruction. Every day and in every situation, we become stronger and better at serving the deserving students in Asheboro.

“In visiting our schools last week, I have witnessed the excitement and commitment to excellence of our teachers and support staff as they prepared for the arrival of our students and the school year. Along with the support of our fabulous families and communities, we will make the best school district even better!”