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Classes begin at new high school in New Brunswick

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Students arriving at New Brunswick High School Monday following winter break were issued a new school supply: a map.

Monday was the first day of classes at the new 400,000-square-foot school, and special projects manager James DeWorken said school officials tried to be extra prepared to help students find their way to class.

"We had a map of the building for them and we used our student tour guides the same as we did when we had tours (of the building) in the past," he said.

Monday was not the first time the school's 1,400 students set foot in the building. Last month, each class was given a tour of the building.

Officials also delayed the start of the school day to allow teachers time to prepare.

"The teachers came in on the regular schedule, the kids were delayed to give the teachers time to get settled," he said.

Zaire Julion, a 16-year-old junior, said she liked the new facility.

"It's going to take some getting used to," she added.

Julion said some of the classrooms are smaller than rooms at the old building, which she said created a better learning atmosphere.

Other students cited the school's 2,000-seat gymnasium and the new cafeteria as favorite features.

The new school is at 1000 Somerset St., near the Franklin Township border. The old high school at 1125 Livingston Ave. will be remodeled before reopening as the city's new middle school.

The new school was funded by the state's Schools Development Authority and was finished on time and on budget by contractor Joseph Jingoli and Son. The project was managed by the New Brunswick Development Corp. (Devco).

Christopher J. Paladino, Devco's president, said Monday was a milestone in the city's history.

"It's probably one of the most satisfying days in at least my time at Devco, that the project we worked on with the city for over 10 years was opening, and it's going to impact the city in so many ways," he said.
