

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Chase County Schools is just one body shy of breaking a 600-student enrollment for the 2013-14 school year.

In enrollment numbers updated Wednesday morning, Supt. Brad Schoeppey said the K-12 Chase County Schools has 599 students attending classes.

That's 17 students higher than the 2012-13 year, and the most students since the 2003-04 school year when 606 were enrolled the first week.

Schoeppey said he expected enrollment to be up, based on last year's big kindergarten class, who are now first graders, and a small class of 29 that graduated last May.

This year's kindergarten class has 42 students, well above the 29 seniors who graduated in the spring.

But Schoeppey said four to five new senior class students this year are also affecting the increase.

"That the most unusual to get that many new in the senior class," he said.

He said he wouldn't be surprised if the CCS enrollment eventually does eclipse the 600 mark.

The school's enrollment number on Oct. 1, which will be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Education, is what will be the official 2013-14 enrollment, Schoeppey noted.

That figure is used for determining financial items such as state aid, as well as athletic and activity classifications.

The first grade class and senior class, both with 61 students, are the largest in the school this year. The sophomore class of 34 is the smallest.

Now a week into the school year, Schoeppey said things are going very smoothly.

That contrasts to last year, when major changes were made in the lunch counting process for students going through the line, as well the bigger emphasis on fruits and vegetables in the menus. That made for a few rough first weeks of school last year.

That's not the case this year.

"It's been a very easy start to the school year," Schoeppey said.

2013-14 enrollment

Kindergarten	42
First grade	61
Second grade	48
Third grade	41
Fourth grade	45
Fifth grade	43
Sixth grade	47
GRADE K-6 TOTAL	327
Seventh grade	37
Eighth grade	51
Ninth grade	49
Tenth grade	34

Eleventh grade 40
Twelfth grade 61
GRADE 7-12 TOTAL 272
GRAND TOTAL 599

10-year total enrollments

2003-04 606
2004-05 577
2005-06 571
2006-07 547
2007-08 518
2008-09 518
2009-10 543
2010-11 563
2011-12 560
2012-13 582
2013-14 599

Source: CCS Supt. Dr. Brad Schoeppey as of Aug. 28, 2013.