

School begins at St. Bruno's in Whittier

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WHITTIER –

Summer's over and school is starting but that was OK for at least some of the youngsters beginning school Tuesday at St. Bruno's Catholic School.

"I do miss summer being with friends all the time," said Jeffrey Salas, 11, of Whittier. "But I'll be going to Catalina with my class."

About 310 kindergarten through eighth-grade students lined up early Tuesday morning and were taken off to their classrooms by their teachers at St. Bruno's.

There were at least as many parents to see them off to class on the first day of school.

Daniel Rangel of Whittier brought his daughter, Alexis, 8, a third-grade student, to the school for her first time.

"I wanted her to have a friendly environment,"

Rangel said of the decision to go to St. Bruno's.

St. Bruno's is growing this year, said Angela Ippolito, its principal who enters her second year in the job.

"We'll have two kindergartens and two first grade classes," Ippolito said. "It's a great school." The school will have "Smart Boards," an interactive white board for its classes. It also has science and computer labs, she said.

St. Bruno's also just received a six-year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, she said.

This year the school will have a new computer reading program where children can read books and use the computers to take a test and see how they're doing, Ippolito said.

For some parents, the first day of school also looked good.

"I get to stay home and I don't have to listen to them anymore," said Rosanna Islas of Yorba Linda, who brought her 7-year-old daughter, Arianna, to school.

For Arianna and others, the first day of school was about meeting friends.

"I get to see all my friends," said Giuliana Roio, 7, a second-grader like Arianna Islas.

But Joey Medina, 11, of Hacienda Heights, said he will miss summer.

"I like summer," Medina said. "I get to stay up late."

There was some good news for those missing summer. Tuesday was a minimum day and school was out at noon.

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