



Tribune photos by George Thompson

Sixth graders from Fox School in Hanover Park tour Northern Illinois University in DeKalb Friday. It is part of an effort to motivate pupils to meet tough new academic goals.

College spirit targets test scores

Program that has youngsters planning for their university years has brought changes to a once-struggling Hanover Park school

By Mary Ann Fergus

Tribune staff reporter

Kindergartners at Anne Fox Elementary School in Hanover Park recently learned to sing "Ring Out Ahoya," the fight song of their favorite college, Marquette University. They even decked themselves out in Class of 2023 T-shirts.

Teachers at the school, which has struggled with low test scores, are betting that when it comes to thinking about college, it's never too early.

Officials with Schaumburg School District 54 hope the rah-rah songs, shirts and field trips to local colleges



Janise Ward, 13, a 6th grader at Fox Elementary School in Hanover Park, has started planning for college.

will provide the motivation for the school's 400 pupils in kindergarten through 6th grade to meet tough new academic goals.

Part of an effort launched at the beginning of the

school year, teachers, pupils and parents have all agreed to work toward academic success with college as the objective. Each child also set a list of personal goals.

Developed in California, the approach is called "No Excuses University." Fox is the third school in the nation—and the first outside California—to participate, according to school officials. The goal is to show that every child, regardless of income or other challenges, can attend college and succeed.

Janise Ward, a 6th grader, recently toured Northern Il-

PLEASE SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 2