

One of the hardest things for people to deal with is change. It is hard to change the simplest things in our life, like break a habit or a routine. I had difficulties switching schools after nine years at my private elementary/middle school to a high school. There are all the uncertainties. Can I still hang out with my old friends? Will I fit in with all these new students? Will I be able to agree with the teacher's teaching styles? Will I be all alone at lunch or in the hallways? What if I don't know anyone in my class? What if I get lost? I could go on and on with all my worries that I had before I started this year of high school.

Our school had a speaker come in and talk to us about refugee resettlement. That really got my mind going. If I was in a refugee's position of going to a new country without knowing anyone there along with not having a job, many items, or a house, I would have so many more important things to worry about that what will happen to me at a high school. I would have to be wondering about what would be happening in my "new life." Where will I live? Why can't I bring more things? I'm going to miss all our family possessions that I can't bring with me? What if we can't remember where we came from? Will our extended family that stays here be okay? Can they eventually come over to be with us? How will we earn money to pay for things? Those are just a few things that I could be worrying about as a refugee.

But as a refugee, they could also be considering themselves to be extremely lucky for being able to come over and start a new life. Refugees have to go through quite a bit to be able to be resettled. They fear for their lives and they have to prove it. They have to go through interviews and interviews to cross-reference the last interviews. They have to have health examines and do paperwork. Less than one percent than those who apply for refugee status are actually able to go through refugee resettlement to get to the United States..

Looking at all the worries and work that the refugees do go through resettlement, we should feel blessed that they were able to come to Rochester. We should welcome them into the community with open arms and give them all the help that we can. They have almost nothing. They have two suitcases and their lives. They still feel so lucky. We should still do all we can to help them fit into the community. I feel that welcoming and helping them is the least they can do. If you were in their shoes, what would you want the people in your new community to do? I think we should help them out, because that is what you would want others to do to you. Jesus said the Beatitudes, one of them being "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." We should be compassionate and someday we will be shown compassion by someone else. Also think of the Golden Rule, "Treat others how you want to be treated."

In conclusion, I see that the refugees have gone through a lot more than we have. We should welcome them and help them. I also realize that they have a lot larger concerns than I do. I worried about how high school would be, when they worry about how their new lives could be.

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