Memorial graduate used to challenging moves

By John Swedien
Leader-Telegram staff

Graduating from high school and going to college is often the biggest transition in a young person's life, but not for Anne Odero.

A 17-year-old senior at Memorial High School, Anne already has experienced two major moves.

The first came when Anne, along with her mother and three siblings, moved to the United States in 2003 when she was 9.

Moving to the U.S. was not too hard, Anne said. She already knew English and the move happened quickly.

"Compared to Kenya it looked so much nicer," she said of the United States, noting that her native country has extensive poverty.

During that time, Anne also had to cope with the loss of her father, who was murdered when she was 8.
The second major move in her life came two years ago her family moved from Roseville, Minn., to Eau Claire when her mother took a job at UW-Stout. Anne was between her sophomore and junior years.

She said it was a tough transition because she moved away from her friends and had to try and break in with new groups at Memorial.

But she has made the transition, in part, by joining clubs like Memorial's hip-hop club and Future Business Leaders of America. She also has kept a tight focus on her studies.

"I'm keeping up but it's hard," avoiding the senior slide, Anne said.

Next year, she will attend UW-Stout. She's not sure what her major will be, but she's pretty confident it will be related to math, which is her favorite subject.

In her free time she likes hanging out with her friends and family and likes to bake.

_Swedien can be reached at 715-833-9214, 800-236-7077 or jon.swedien@ecpc.com._