

A Learning Community

COVENTRY HIGH HOSTS ITS ANNUAL COMMUNITY NIGHT FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN THIS EVENING



LAUREN KNIGHT

lknight@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — Coventry High is calling all future “Oak-ers” to come there, for the school’s second Community Night is happening tonight.

Lynne Burke, the associate principal for student services, explained that this is the time of year that parents are weighing all of the options for their children’s high school education, including looking into the possibility of private schools.

“I believe firmly that this high school cannot be discounted in any form. It’s a phenomenal high school and residents should be very proud that they have such an outstanding high school in their community,” praised Burke.

The Community Night will begin at 6:30 tonight. The purpose of the event is to introduce parents and future students to Coventry High School and its opportunities, she explained.

“So that parents can make informed decisions – this is what the night is all about,” said Burke.

According to Burke, last year, approximately 500 people attended. The first portion of the

ABOVE: Students enter Coventry High School at the start of this school year. One of the state’s biggest high schools, Coventry can seem large and might intimidate some incoming freshmen, but the school is trying to help by holding its second “Community Night” tonight at 6 p.m.

RIGHT: 2011 student guides Ben Skov and Matthew DiChristophoro model the red “ask me” shirts worn by student helpers.

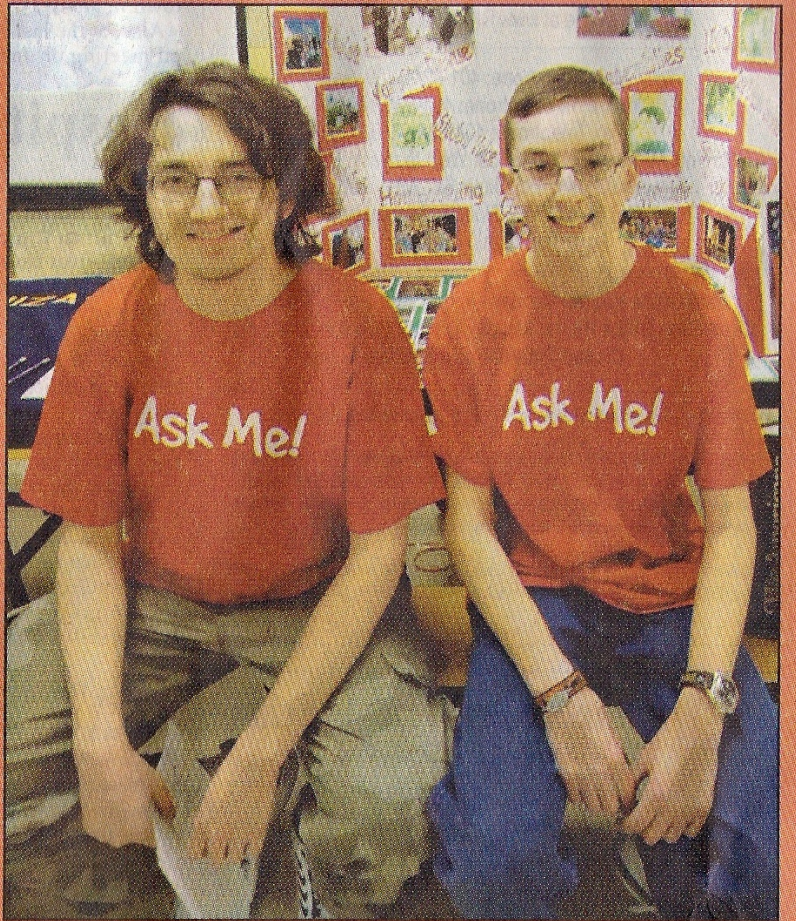
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evening is set up like a college fair, with coordinators and students waiting at tables to offer information on the school’s courses and extracurricular activities.

There will be samples of student work at each table, as well as departmental awards, specific curriculum information, and other resources.

According to Burke, potential students and parents will be allowed to see some of the school’s resources located in the chemistry labs, art rooms, biology labs, library media center and career and technical programs. Anyone interested in a tour should stop by the corridor entrance to the cafeteria.

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Community feeling for new students at CHS

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current students, clad in red "Ask Me" T-shirts, will be walking around the gymnasium to answer questions and provide the tours.

Burke also mentioned that students can learn about the

opportunities at the high school, as well as within the Regional Career and Technical Center. Students will be able to apply for the program at the Career and Technical Center in January of their sophomore year.

Coventry High School is one of 10 school systems in the state with a career and technical center. They offer automotive and carpentry classes to give students in

grades 10 to 12, a foundation for higher education or a potential future career.

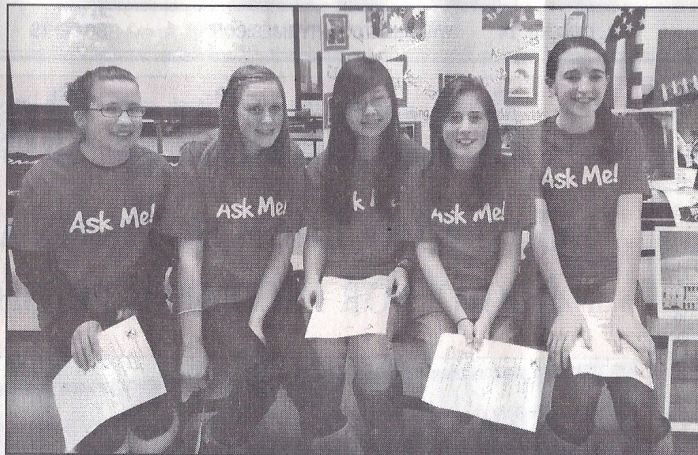
"The program is different than others," former automotive student, Sean Toolin, said in June. "I like it because it's more hands-on."

In June, one of the carpentry instructors, Scott Leavitt, told the Times that four of his students already had jobs in the field. An automotive instructor, James Thomson, told the Times that two automotive students had jobs and the rest were planning on pursuing higher education at a technical school.

Anyone interested in the career and technical programs should attend an informational session in the

auditorium at 6 p.m. prior to the Community Night. Representatives from academic teams, school activities and athletic teams will

also be available throughout the evening for further inquiries. The second portion of the evening's events will offer a presentation in the auditorium with a brief video presentation showcasing some of Coventry High's highlights, according to the informa-



File Photo

Kathryn Brouillette, Corrine Jones, Laura Chen, Alana Calabro, and Megan Lynch (l-r) were all part of the group of Coventry High students who helped visitors to the school at 2011's Community Night.

tional flyer.

The presentation will also provide a more in-depth discussion into the scheduling process at the high school. The next day, incoming freshmen can begin selecting their electives.

"This is an important beginning, as the course selection process can have a direct impact on academic success and post secondary goals," Burke offered regarding the choosing of electives, which are classes that aren't mandatory but still count towards graduation requirements.

The Community Night hopes to involve parents in this "first important step for high school preparation," she said.

The event will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is open to all incoming freshmen and their families. They are asked to enter the school through the cafeteria entrance near the flagpoles to pick up an information folder.

Coventry High School is located at 40 Reservoir Rd.