



Lauren Knight-Daily Times

A pair of students involved in drama at Coventry High puts on a show for visitors to the school at its second annual Community Night Wednesday evening.

## Community Night a hit

### Prospective students and their parents get a chance to see what Coventry HS offers

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COVENTRY — Coventry High School understands that it's the time of year when parents start shopping around to find the right high school for their child, which includes considering a private school. Yet Lynne Burke, the associate principal for student services at the school, believes that with what Coventry has to offer, it shouldn't be discounted from the decision.

It was a full house in the school cafeteria for the second annual Community Night Wednesday. Students and faculty stood beside tables and displays showcasing the school's classes, extra-curricular activities, and career and technical programs to help aid in the decision-making process.

"I've said for years, every good thing about Coventry is due to its size and every difficult thing is due to its size. We have a tremendous number of opportunities for kids," said Principal Michael Hobin.

He added that the parents' choice for a school, however, is all their own.

"Every child should be where they belong, I'm a believer in that," he said. "We just want to make sure parents are making an informed decision since they may not know that we have these things to offer."

One of the main draws is the Regional Career and Technical Center. The program is open to not only Coventry students, but also to students who live in North Kingstown, Exeter and West Greenwich, according to Hobin. After completing the ninth grade, students are offered the opportunity to transfer if they select a career center track, the Principal explained.

Eleventh-grader Nick Shoesmith is a student

# Night shows people what goes on at CHS

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explained that he and his classmates are currently building chairs and letter holders, and that the seniors have had the opportunity to assist with an addition on a house in Coventry.

"I began being interested in

carpentry from my dad — he was a carpenter," said Shoemsmith. "Ever since he introduced it to me, I have loved hands-on work."

Shoemsmith said he would recommend any student interested in carpentry to come to career and technical center in Coventry. As a result of his ex-

perience, he plans to pursue a career in the field after graduation.

Coventry also offers experience with its career and technical programs, including cosmetology, automotive classes, EMT and health courses, electronics, culinary arts and other courses. Some students have worked to obtain certification as a result of their coursework.

Guidance Counselor Amy Siemmas explained that the department provides students services, including assistance on college applications, SAT preparation, and parent nights, as well as a speaker series for the juniors and seniors at the school.

According to Donna Hutson, the school-based coordinator, the activities are designed to bring as much exposure to a variety of career options. Already this year, students have heard from Cranston Mayor Allan Fung, as well as representatives from the Hospital Association of Rhode Island, General Dynamics and the Rhode Island State Police during the series.

On Wednesday night, students also gave information on the elective classes at Coventry High School. Students Allie Custodio, grade 10, Marisa Fascio, grade 9, and Erin O'Connell, grade 10, demonstrated what they have been learning in their culinary courses as they were rolling pasta dough and pressing it through a pasta machine.

In addition to learning about homemade pasta, they have learned about vegetables, grains, fruits and desserts, they explained.

"It's real good experience," they said. "You use it everyday for cooking at home, thinking, 'I can make this now.'

"And you can make it homemade instead of buying it,"

added Fascio.

Twelfth-grader Rebekah Picard explained that culinary arts class is not the only opportunity for students to explore new foods. The World Language Club will take the occasional field trip to an authentic restaurant offering ethnic foods. The most recent trip, she recalled, was to an Indian restaurant in Providence.

"It was fun because it was something that I wouldn't have gotten to try otherwise," said Picard. "I had naan bread which is basically a flat bread with different sauces and dips."

Once a year, the school offers a trip for language students to practice their skills first hand. This November, students visited Quebec City and Montreal in Canada for their trip, according to Picard.

"It's exciting because we got to actually use a second language — or try to," she said with a laugh.

Another club at the school is DECA, (Distributive Education Clubs of America, explained Michaela Johnson, grade 11) Through a program with Johnson and Wales, students are able to select their area of interest and compete with other students in the state.

Last year, Johnson competed in accounting and received a third place medal. She explained that the club spans across a variety of subjects, including hospitality, automotive and even fashion. She noted an upcoming project in February for DECA is a fashion show.

Other extra-curricular activities at the school include music and drama programs. Tenth-grader Jody Desrosiers attributes much of her love for acting to Coventry's drama department.

"It's a fantastic drama department," she said.

The school presents two shows per year, typically offering a musical in the fall. With so much practice time, she said that the cast becomes "a whole new family."

Even students who do not enjoy acting find it is a fun activity at school, she said. However, personally, Desrosiers prefers the time spent in the classroom, she said.

On Wednesday night, the drama department had four students dressed up and showcasing their best pantomiming for the crowds.

"It's not something that we do regularly," explained Desrosiers. "We wanted to give people a little taste of how much we love to perform."

For more information on the classes, extra-curricular activities and career and technical programs, contact the high school at 822-9499.

## LOTTERY

The winning numbers in the Rhode Island Daily Lottery drawing yesterday were:

**5-7-4-6**

The winning numbers in the Wild Money drawing yesterday were:

**9-13-16-20-21**  
**Extra Ball: 01**

# DAILY TIMES

A publication of Hometown Newspapers

Online at [www.RICentral.com](http://www.RICentral.com)

Main Telephone: 401-821-7400

Circulation Telephone: 401-821-1818

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Advertising: 401-789-9744

Main Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Circulation Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Closed Saturday and Sunday

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 589, West Warwick, R.I., 02893

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Circulation by home delivery is \$2.85 for one week; \$11.40 for four weeks; \$22.80 for eight weeks; \$37.05 for 13 weeks; \$74.10 for 26 weeks; \$148.20 for 52 weeks.

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