

Coventry Schools Going Wireless

Coventry High coming closer to fully wireless

Grant will cover second phase of CHS wireless installation; work is 'just about ready to begin'

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COVENTRY — Through a wireless grant for \$150,000, the second phase of installing all areas of Coventry High School, including the gym, cafeteria, some conference rooms and some rooms used for educational areas, is just about ready to begin according to Coventry School Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida.

He said the first grant, for \$300,000, was written to have wireless classrooms but now, with the other portion in place, he is excited about the doors that will open with wireless access throughout the schools.

In August, Coventry distributed Google Chromebook laptops to all of the students throughout the school district. The securing of the grants to bring wireless access throughout the school is not just an extension of that; rather, it represents a giant leap for the district, and Almeida was willing to share his excitement.

"We're ecstatic," Almeida said. "When we needed to make presentations or do other big things there were barriers when it came to internet access. Now, we can walk around the school and outside and never lose access."

Jason Martin, director of buildings and grounds for the Coventry schools,

agreed with the Almeida regarding the benefits having more wireless capability will be and that it will be an advantage to the schools. Like Almeida, Martin, too, is excited to see the next phase come to fruition.

"This grant, for \$150,000, is strictly separate from the first," Martin said. "We applied for this one on the heels of the wireless being completed from the first phase. I'm very excited. This is a real home run for the gym teachers, no pun intended, because now they'll also have internet access for their needs as well."

Martin anticipates that the work will

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Daily Times file photo

Coventry High School students are all equipped with district-issued laptops; now, the whole school is moving closer to offering wireless access from anywhere inside.

Wireless accessibility will soon be throughout CHS

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take between six and eight weeks, possibly less, depending on how easy it is to extend wires up into the ceilings of the auditorium and gym. The easier part is tying into lines that are already there.

He added that this work comes at a perfect time, given the district is hosting the Google Summit beginning January 28.

Director of Technology Lynne Burke said it's a wonderful thing for the district to be going

wireless.

"I'm really excited because our teachers use every aspect of our schools and do so much one-on-one learning and it's going to be great for all the learning events and presentations and other things that we can't do in the classroom, we can bring all the students to in the auditorium," she said.

She wanted to remind educators that registration for the Google Summit is still open and anyone interested can register by going to www.gafesummit.com.