

Google Summit coming to Coventry High

2015 event will highlight ways technology used in classrooms

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
kmiller@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — For the first time, the Coventry School District will host the 2015 Google Summit, taking place February 28-March 1 at Coventry high School.

Coventry School District Technology Director Lynne Burke, who attended a number of summits in the past throughout the country, said it was an amazing experience to meet so many people from other places and to see everyone integrating technology in new and exciting ways in schools.

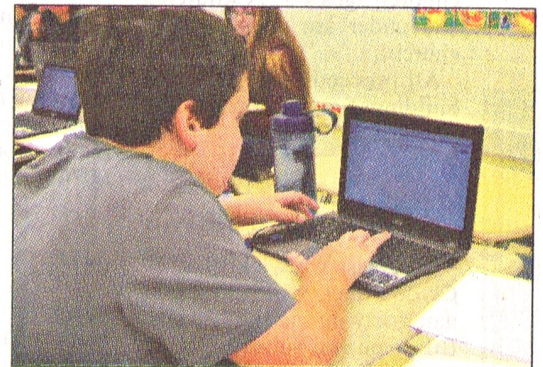
“Going online and learning what it’s

about lets you see how global it is,” she said. “Presenters will come from all over the country. It’s a professional development opportunity for anyone who wants to be involved.”

Burke said by hearing about other teachers’ experiences about what can work in the classroom, it makes her see how dynamic education has become.

“It was amazing to see yourself grow and see what you can really do with all the information you get from it,” she said.

Coventry School Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida said he is proud of his team for bringing this to the school



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

A Feinstein Middle School student uses a Google Chromebook as part of a district-wide initiative in Coventry.

See *SUMMIT*, Page A-6

Summit will be held at Coventry HS

Continued from Page A-1

district.

"We're really at the forefront of this technology and I'm so excited to see what the district is able to gain through this event," he said.

Coventry School Committee Chairwoman Kathy Patenaude is glad to see all the efforts of the past year coming to fruition with blended learning.

"It would be good for the economy to have everyone who attends stay in the area and from what I've heard about them, it's a great opportunity for collaboration," she said.

Coventry School Committee member Dave Florio believes it's a wonderful thing for the district to have such an incredible opportunity.

"It will bring about 400 people here from across the country and from other

parts of the world and they'll need hotels and places to dine so I think it'll be a great boost to our economy, not to mention the great collaboration with educators and all the information they can bring back to utilize in the classroom," he said.

"I'm very pleased how Dr. Burke has been so proactive in getting the summit to be held in Coventry," said Coventry School Committee member Ann Dickson. "It shows the value of the district's strategic plan and putting us at the forefront. Not just for teachers but to benefit the entire community."

The two-day event is high-intensity with a focus on deploying, integrating and using Goggle Apps for Education, and other Google tools to promote student learning in Kindergarten through grade 12.

Rhode Island Department of Education

Commissioner Debra Gist is also proud of Coventry and is anxious to have the summit come to Rhode Island.

"As we continue with our commitment to innovations powered by technology in schools across Rhode Island, the Coventry schools have been one of the leaders," she said. "Coventry is one of our first school districts to commit to providing access to personal electronic devices for all students, and I applaud the Coventry schools for reaching out to Google to provide workshops and professional development for teachers, students, and the local community"

There will be Google certified teachers and certified trainers, practicing administrators, solution providers, engineers and representatives from Google Education teams to answer questions, provide demonstrations and hold hands-on workshops.