

Teachers Get A's at CHS

Online survey lands Coventry in top 10 in state

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COVENTRY— Coventry High School has been ranked within the top 10 in terms of having some of the best teachers in Rhode Island, according to a report recently released by Niche.com, a website that ranks schools throughout the country based on statistics and reviews from parents and students.

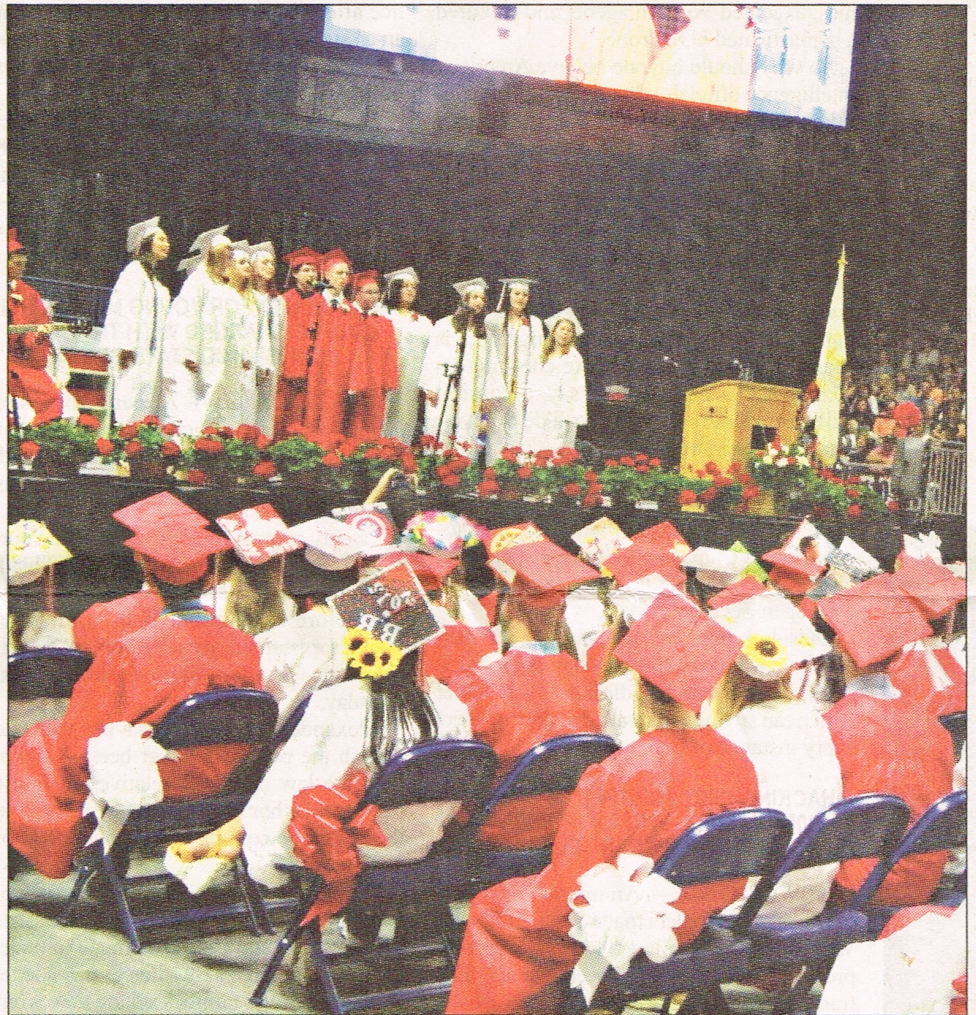
Taking the number nine spot, Coventry High was among mostly southern Rhode Island public schools to receiving high ranks. According to Niche.com, Coventry's has a graduation rate of 87 percent, which is above the national average of 82 percent.

"This survey is very accurate. We have been working hard on improving for quite a while and many students do well," Interim Superintendent Mike Convery said. "All of our teachers work hard and it is really about working with one student at a time."

There are approximately 115 teachers at Coventry High School and Convery says there are four days a year contractually for professional development opportunities. He said there is a very structured plan for the teachers which ultimately benefits the students' success.

The 2015 list of high schools in the state that was recently released had Classical High School as earning the number one spot, followed by Portsmouth High School, Narragansett High School, North Kingstown Senior High School, Exeter-West Greenwich Regional High School and South Kingstown High School. Chariho Regional High School rounded out the top 10.

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Daily Times file photo

Coventry's Class of 2015 sits at The Ryan Center during graduation in June. They and their former schoolmates surveyed helped Coventry's teachers land in the top 10 in the state in one online poll.

Teachers cast in good light at CHS

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Many of the positive comments on Niche.com were about the vocational programs at Coventry. A high school senior posted about their experience at the end of June, stating the vocational programs were their favorite experience as an Oaker, as well as the supportive administration.

“The administration, however, cares very deeply about their students, which can be hard to come by in a school nowadays,” the high school senior wrote. “If I could do it all over, I would go back to this school due to the outstanding vocational program and the teachers I got along with.”

Another review said, “Most of the teachers make the learning environments fun and educational making students actually want to come to class. They expect and stress the students to know what is expected of them and push them to do their best.”

Some negative comments were regarding specific policies that parents believed could be reworked, better communication with parents and a student’s success may be based on what teacher they get.

“Some teachers are incredible, but some do not put out effort or seem to care anymore—mainly the older ones that should retire,” one review said:

Niche.com states that Coventry High School’s nearly 1,700 students had above average reading proficiency, at 89 percent, compared to statewide scores of 73.4 percent. In addition, the survey says 64 percent of Coventry High School students are considered proficient in math and/or reading. “We have a lot of room to grow, certainly, but it is nice to be recognized for our hard work that has happened already,” Convery said.