

## Schools Making Leap in Coventry

# Almeida: Coventry schools will be future ready

## Affirms pledge to utilize technology in district to promote 21st-century learning

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COVENTRY — As part of the school district's ongoing initiative to be 21st Century learners, Coventry School Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida took a pledge called the "Future-Ready District Pledge," which affirms his commitment of the district to work with students, educators, families and members of the community to become Future Ready by engaging in a wide-range of activities.

Almeida touched upon the initiative during last Tuesday's school committee meeting to give those in attendance a brief overview but offered more detail following.

"From a superintendent's position, the pledge is to confirm my commitment to the technology being used in the district," he said, "that I recognize it's a learning movement on the state

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— Dr. Michael Almeida  
Coventry School Superintendent

and federal level creating a technology environment in schools."

The signing of the pledge is really the kick-off of the national campaign to solidify the districts' superintendents' commitment.

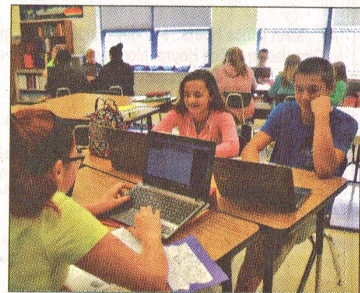
"The business world is all about using technology and we need our students to be ready to transition into that workplace and utilizing this technology will be an intricate part," he added.

Almeida explained that initiatives included in the pledge are about fostering and leading a culture of digital learning within schools through district leadership teams working collaboratively to transform teaching, and learning using the power of technology to help drive continuous improvement.

"We work together to protect student privacy and to teach students to become responsible, engaged and contributing digital citizens," Almeida offered.

It's also about helping schools and families transition to high-speed connectivity.

Almeida said future-ready districts conduct comprehensive diagnostic assessment of the district's technology infrastructure and develop a sustainable plan to ensure broadband classroom connectivity and wireless access.



File photo

Feinstein Middle School students work on their Chromebooks recently. The district supplied 3,000 of the computers to students this fall.

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# Future coming fast in Coventry

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“It’s about empowering educators with professional learning opportunities,” he said.

The pledge strives to provide everyone with access to personalized learning opportunities and instructional experts that give teachers and leaders the individual support they need, when they need it along with offering students the ability to not just consume the information but become active learners, creating and sharing content with their peers.

Almeida said the pledge continues where districts can use selected, high-quality digital content that is aligned to college and career-ready standards as an essential part of daily teaching and learning.

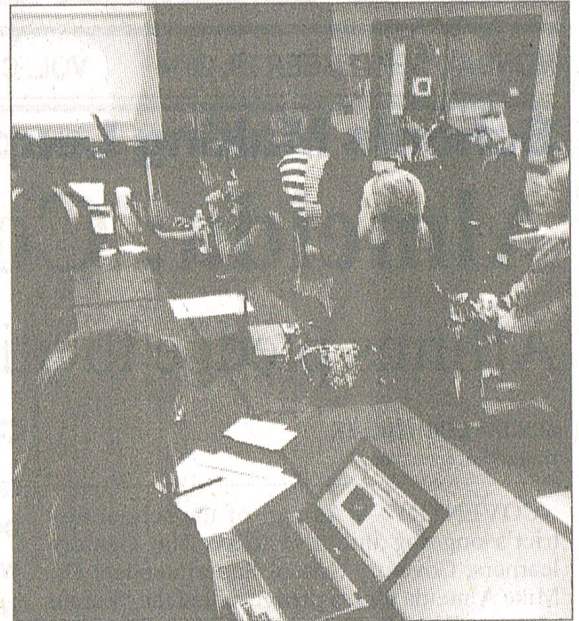
“Teachers are able to share, discover and adapt openly-licensed materials and teaching plans,” Almeida said. “Future-ready districts will make digital resources available that help access expanded college, career

and citizenship opportunities and the districts will work to design, implement and share their technology plans.”

“My experience so far, with all the initiatives in Coventry, is that everything has gone extremely well and we’ve transformed classroom instruction and the way teachers communicate with more collaborative discussion among students. We’ve truly transformed the classroom into a critical thinking environment,” he said. “We’ve had some speed bumps along the way, which is always to be expected, but we took care of things and we’re moving along.”

According to the superintendent, 3,000 Chromebooks were given out in the school district.

Almeida admitted that the only thing he knows of that needs to be improved is the need for a bigger technology staff so the district can increase bandwidth and move the schools to wireless.



File photo

As part of the open house itineraries this year in the district, Coventry parents were encouraged to bring their child's Chromebook with them to see the type of learning done.