

## Learning Takes a Leap in Coventry

# Chromebooks delivered, distributed to Coventry students

### Devices will help Coventry meet host of educational goals; students keep laptops for 3 years

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COVENTRY — Chromebooks have arrived for students in grades six through 12 in Coventry, with a flurry of unpacking and dispersing to students and parents in the high school cafeteria Friday morning.

Miranda Smith and her dad Jason picked hers up. While she was a bit apprehensive, her dad, a technical guy, said he'll end up checking it out too.

Lynne Burke, director of educational technology and information systems, was thrilled to see parents and students so excited to pick up their devices.

"We had a line out the door and around the corner of the school this morning at 7 a.m."

she said. "We have 18 pick-up stations to move the line along. Teachers have been in training all summer every Tuesday to be ready for this, we called it 'Tech Tuesday' and they learned a variety of things along with all the Google apps, which is all more follow-up from Mays training. This is 21st century technology and it's an amazing thing to watch. It combines communication, collaboration and creativity and we want to get our kids at a higher level of skill."

Jen Carlos, secretary to the school superintendent, explained the process when students pick up their device.

"All the information for every student in the district is in this Aspen computer program," she said. "We pull up their name, check to make sure we have their paperwork then scan

the code on the box and that's it."

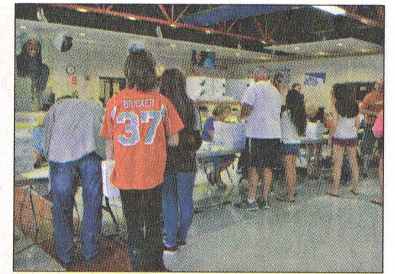
Carlos was amazed at some of the comments from parents, some who had taken multiple forms of transportation just to make sure their child received their device.

"It brought tears to my eyes," she said.

Burke described it all as a testament to what parents will do to make sure their children have what they need to succeed.

Educators, parents and school officials compared notes in January through multiple meetings as they discussed the pros and cons of integrating classroom and supplying students with Chromebooks on a three-year plan.

The goals, in part, are to create an educational culture and learning experience that is



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While there were long lines early in the day, the process of obtaining and registering Chromebooks was simple.

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characteristic of various models of blended learning, enhance collaboration between teachers, students, parents, personalize and differentiate instruction, improve student engagement and achievement and expand teaching and learning outside the classroom.

Some of the plan's objectives include integrating software, application and technology devices into teaching and learning, utilizing technology devices for testing purposes, developing teachers and support staff who will embrace and integrate technology in the curriculum and developing technology-rich classrooms.

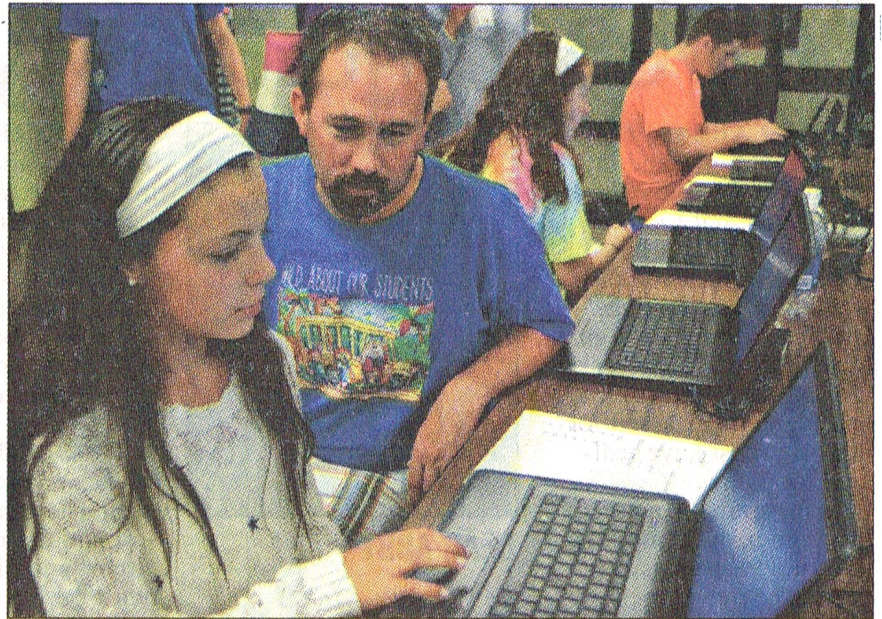
Once they had their devices, students went to an adjacent room where they logged into their school accounts to sync that account with their new Google account.

Hunter Grenier had some help from her father, Rob, who is a teacher in West Warwick and has some experience using a Chromebook.

"I'm excited but a little nervous too," she said.

One parent, Dawn Fusco, said the process of picking up the device was seamless.

"It was very organized and effective, she said. "We waited five minutes, it was great."



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**Jason Martin, director of building and grounds, assisted Hunter Grenier with her password to get her started.**