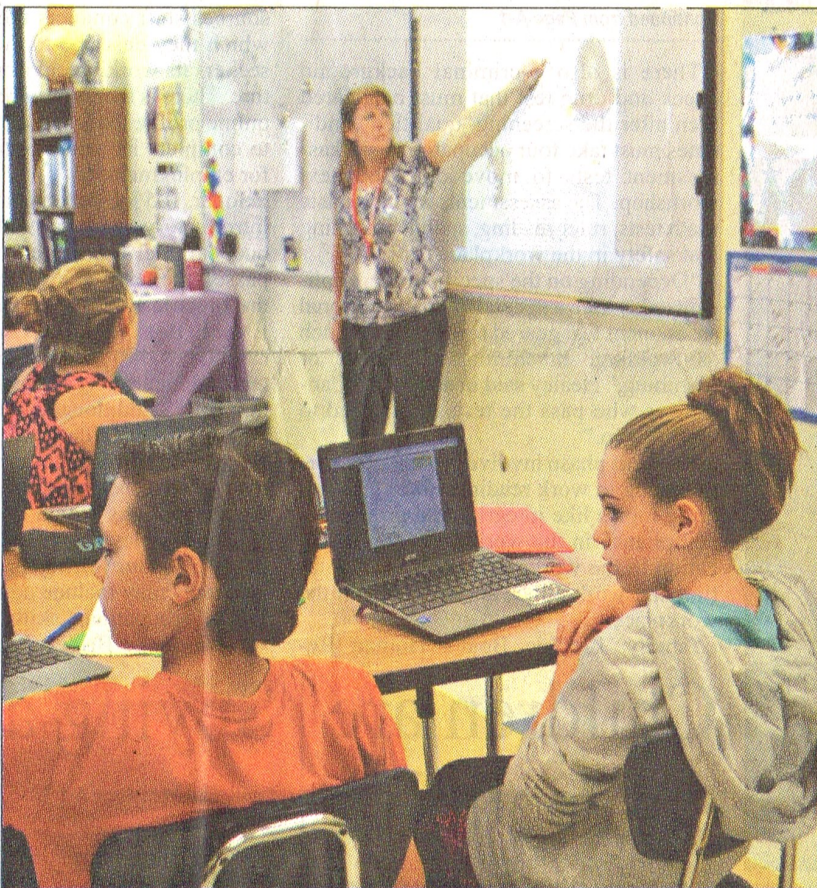


# CHROMEBOOKS TAKING LEARNING INTO THE FUTURE

## Accelerated Classes



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

Students and teachers alike are extolling the virtues of the Google Chromebooks purchased by the district as part of a 1:1 technology initiative in Coventry this year.

### Students, faculty at Coventry's Feinstein Middle School praise district initiative

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COVENTRY — Students, teachers and members of the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School are bringing learning to new heights since Chromebooks were distributed at the start of the school year.

“It’s been amazing to see the level of engagement,” said Lynne Burke, director of educational technology and information systems, who has been one of the biggest advocates for Chromebooks since the initiative began more than a year ago.

Eighth-grade Spanish teacher Ana Roche explained how her students can engage in lessons through Google maps to answer questions she poses to them on the board, such as the locations of countries like Cuba and what other countries border Mexico.

“I really like it,” said Madison Messier, a student in Roche’s class. “It helps you see more where things are and piece things together.”

Abby Paon, who teaches science, was focused on teaching plate tectonics.

“We use Chrome Classroom to warm up then we can move to all links and resources,” she said. “What was

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# Initiative draws raves at Feinstein

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once teacher-directed, has become student-directed. They're working like scientists work with much more inquiry."

"And that's part of the transition we've been talking about as this program began," Burke said. "It's a different level of engagement and everyone has really been focused on embracing this change."

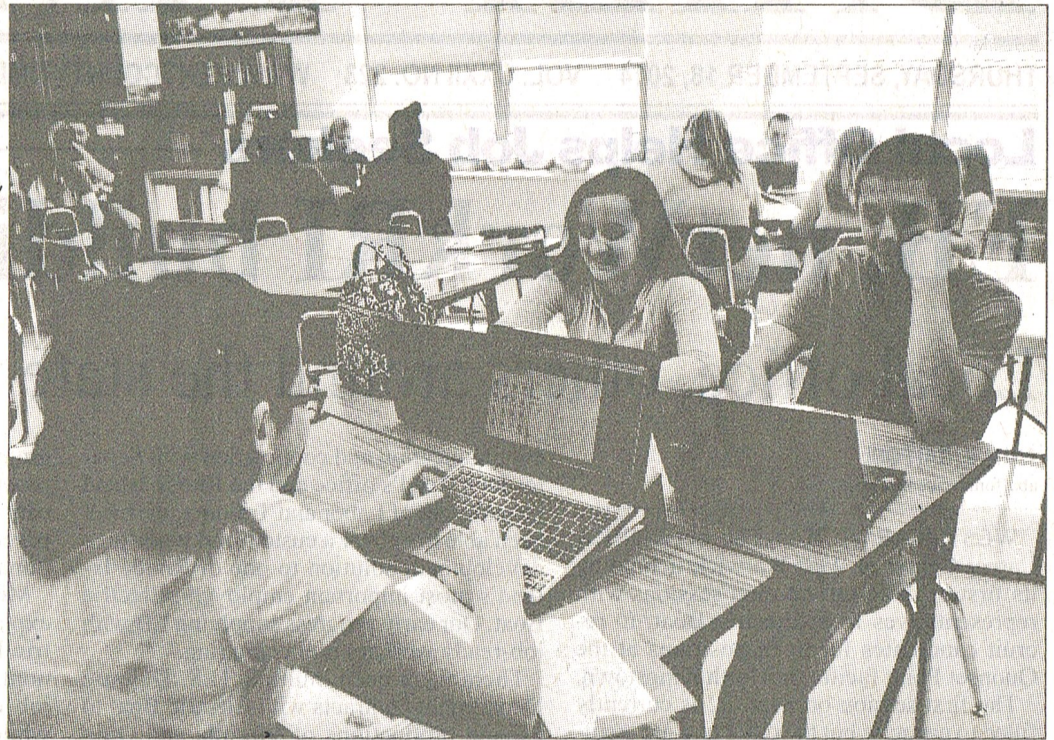
Seventh-grade ancient history teacher Tao Albrecht is amazed by all he's learned, as well as his students.

"If it weren't for Lynne pushing this, I would never know about any of this," he admitted. "We can organize anything into Google docs. This process has increased student accountability for them to rise to the occasion and they're really enjoying it."

Albrecht explained how the links and programs allow teachers such as himself, to being the lesson altogether.

"I recently proposed a problem to the students and they were asked to simulate that problem, such as being new to a civilization and surviving — what do you do?" he explained. "They could make it up as they went and brainstorm ideas and various scenarios, all through this technology."

Another teacher, Sandy Clunan, said she was speaking with a teacher the other day, who explained to her how she was able to evaluate how much her students were com-



Kendra Leigh Miller • Daily Times

**MacKenzie Contillo, Tyler Beaulieu and Hannah Quinlan work together on a science problem using the Google Chromebooks distributed to every student in the Coventry school district at the start of the 2014-15 school year.**

prehending from the lesson, in real time, through one of the programs on the Chromebook

"Within a minute, she could see which students were struggling so she knew where to go back to in the lesson," she said. "It really has been an amazing tool."

Lori LeBrun, a guidance counselor at the middle school, described how much easier her workflow has become since implementing the new spreadsheets and data.

"I have 384 students in my

care," she said. "When I did my paperwork for them last year, it took forever. Now, through Google, I just input the information and the program works the data out for me. It takes five minutes and I know who needs the extra attention so I can then inform their teachers and I can even shoot them an email throughout the day making sure they're ok, it's great."

Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi was excited to share what he has seen over the last few weeks.

"The students have been so

engaged and inventive and it's been great energy to start the year and there's been a lot of sharing going on among students, teachers and administrators," he said.

In an effort to assist their children at home and learn with them, the school is offering free Chrome classes. Any interested parents are encouraged to visit the school's website [coventrypublicschools.net](http://coventrypublicschools.net) and go to Parent Information and sign up. The classes will be offered for as long as there is a need.