



Daily Times file photo

Students at Feinstein Middle School in Coventry work on a science problem using district-issued laptops.

FMS selected for initiative

Coventry middle school chosen among 20 in NE for personalized program

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COVENTRY — As part of the League of Innovative Schools, the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School of Coventry has been among the 20 schools selected by the New England Secondary School Consortium and the Great Schools Partnership to participate in a new initiative that will help them develop personalized learning experiences that will address the distinct learning needs, interests and aspirations of individual students.

According to a press release, the initiative's goal is to help the schools remodel their academic programs to ensure that every graduate is prepared to succeed in post-secondary education, modern workplaces and adult life.

"Feinstein Middle School has crafted a vision of personalized learning that supports all students

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Initiative aims at continuing personalized learning

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reaching proficiency,” said Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi. “We are thrilled to be selected as part of the League of Innovative School’s Personalize Learning Initiative.”

In 2009, the New England Secondary School Consortium, which includes Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont and New Hampshire, created a League of Innovative Schools.

This league was formed as a grassroots network of middle schools and high schools committed to educational innovation and ongoing improvement.

The new initiative not only recognizes the longstanding commitment each school has made, but it will build on and accelerate their progress as the schools continue to strengthen their academic programs, share professional expertise and create more inventive, motivating and effective learning opportunities for students.

“I’m incredibly energized by the work of all our league members and even more so by the extraordinary commitment these 20 schools have made,” said David Ruff, executive director of the Great Schools Partnership. “After more than a year of intensive work and planning, the educators in these schools are developing an inspiring array of

learning opportunities that will challenge their highest achieving students and accelerate learning and preparation for young adults who have historically struggled in school.”

While each school will pursue its own improvement plan, all 20 will work to ensure that every student achieves challenging learning standards by utilizing instructional strategies such as proficiency-based learning, exhibitions, capstone projects, portfolios and personal learning plans.

The schools will also create new opportunities for students to pursue a variety of real-world learning experiences, including collegiate courses, on-the-job internships and student-

designed projects that connect what they’re learning in school to the practical issues, problems and applications that impact their communities and society.

Over the coming years, the Great Schools Partnership will provide each school with a team of school improvement specialists who will help school leaders and teachers implement their plans.

The Partnership will also increase the level of support it provides to all members which will include additional training opportunities for teachers and school leaders. All resources through the project will be available through the website at no cost.