

Ready to Step Up

Feinstein Middle School gives incoming students a chance to see what life is like on a bigger stage



Incoming students at the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School get the low-down from physical education teachers Amy and Dennis McGovern. Kendra Leigh Miller/Daily Times

KENDRA LEIGH MILLER
kmiller@ricentral.com

COVENTRY — What's it like to be a sixth-grader at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School?

Students who will be attending in the fall got a glimpse Monday night as teachers and peers explained a few things about how life in the middle school is at the school's "Step-Up Night."

Students were broken up into four groups and all took tours of classrooms, got some advice from current students and learned a bit

about schedules, lockers and expectations.

"The purpose of step-up night allows students to see the school, meet some teachers and talk to students and it allows parents to meet with administrators, learn about procedures and how parents can become more involved with their child's learning," said Alan Shawn Feinstein School Principal Dr. Arthur Lisi.

Feinstein is the largest middle school in the state with 1,145 students.

Lisi wanted parents to understand that students are central to the educational process.

He explained how each student is put on a

team and there are four teams per grade, which is equal to 12 teams with about 100 students on a team.

Each team has an ELA, math, science and social studies teacher and most have a special education teacher.

In addition to the four main courses, there are also support classes for students including literacy, reading and numeracy.

Lisi said the expectations each educator has for each student is for them to embrace their programs to challenge themselves, take

See FEINSTEIN, Page A-3

Feinstein hosts incoming students

Continued from Page A-1

risks, ask for help and have a growth mindset as well as embrace the difference in others, find the good in others and take care of themselves.

"Parents should expect to be able to communicate with teachers and administrators, check their child's agenda nightly, provide them with a quiet workspace, ensure they read at home and encourage them to get involved with extra-curricular activities," he said.

Amy and Dennis McGovern, both physical education teachers at the middle school, spoke to each group and explained what physical activities take

place throughout the year and what their expectations are for students.

"As sixth-graders, you'll be introduced to all activities and also have fitness testing when you come back after summer, so my advice is to stay active," she said.

Dennis explained both boys and girls' soccer and boys and girls' softball are offered but students are required to try out whereas the co-ed cross country and wrestling teams don't require try-outs.

He encouraged students to give their best to any sport they chose to take part in and reminded them of the tradition of having successful teams that

date back to the year 2000.

"We have 36 banners from different teams in that time and I hope we can continue these traditions," he said.

Some current students shared in a video what they were first afraid of when they entered the doors of the middle school.

"It's very different from elementary school," said one student, adding, "you get to do a lot more."

"At first, I was nervous because I couldn't find my way around but the students and teachers really helped me and the scheduling is different... and you get a locker," said another.