

ASFMS hosts career and tech fair at Coventry High School

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COVENTRY — Close to 400 eighth-grade students, teachers and parents took part in the first-ever Career Tech Fair last Friday at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School.

Students in the 15 career and technical Programs at Coventry High School set up tables and explained to FMS students the tremendous skills and knowledge - and employment opportunities - that exist in these programs.

Eighth-grade guidance counselor Lori Lebrun explained the event was the first of several scheduled transitional events in the effort to make going from the middle school to high school easier for students.

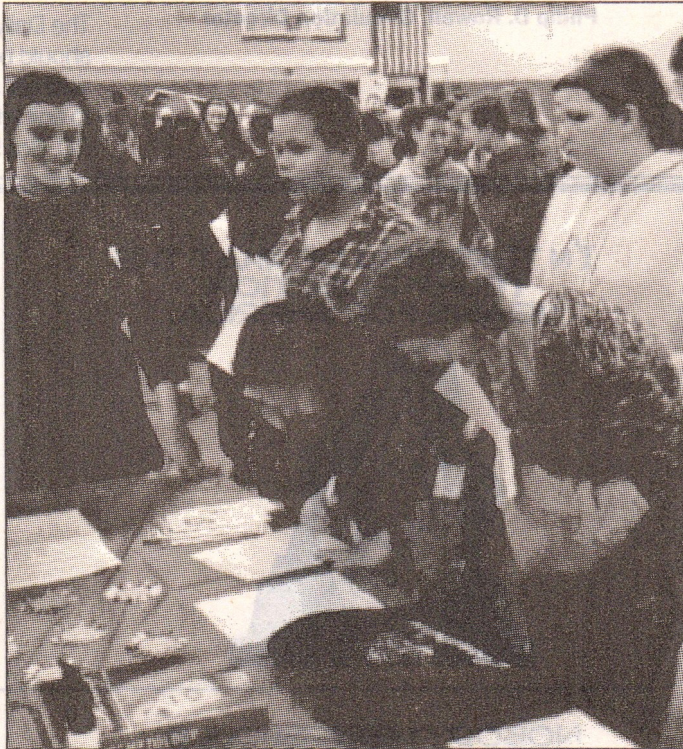
“In the past, there’s been

one event and that took place in January,” she said. “The whole purpose to have some thing now is because the high school students come and talk to the middle school students about electives and many students don’t know all the programs that are available to them.”

Lebrun explained that just because a student may choose culinary, this does not mean they want to be a chef after they graduate. Or, just because a student is involved in the Navy ROTC, this does not mean they want a military career. Both are great ways to learn life skills, regardless of the path they choose.

The second part of the fair was the panel discussion where seven high school

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students answered questions the middle school students had.

"They were great and it was good to see these students getting their questions answered, to learn how they can be advocates for themselves and to see on their faces, that they felt better," she added. "There was so much great discussion after as well in the classrooms."

"The morning ended with a panel discussion with not only CT students, but

also other high school students in the general education, honors and advanced placement programs," said Dr. Arthur Lisi, Principal at Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School.

Lori Ferguson, director of the career and technical school, said the students did everything.

"I asked them to prepare a demonstration and a display and they ran with it," she said. "They did an awesome job. They had four students per

table, some explaining the program, some working the demonstration. We had students demonstrating special effects makeup, the students in construction were showing their small model home. I felt like I was at a show at the Dunkin Donut Center and the kids in the middle school were so pumped and had no idea there was so much to offer at the high school. This will be a yearly event. It went so great."