

Coventry doing things differently in summer school prog. this year

New online programs help some students cut time spent in summer school way down; to be used by all students in fall

ANITA E. BAFFONI
abaffoni@ricentral.com

COVENTRY— Placement assessments are now being taken by Coventry summer school students through a new online Edgenuity software program company that Superintendent Dr. Mike Almeida said allows a child's strengths and weaknesses in the subject to be identified. With this new software, the student's knowledge on the topic will be tested and will determine how long they will be in summer class sessions.

"We are making an effort throughout the school year to provide students with interventions and support to access more opportunity to demonstrate success and proficiency," Almeida said. "Having done that, we have cut down the number of students failing courses in middle school and high school."

"If they are making progress, the students don't have to come here [summer school], they can do it on their own on their own time through Edgenuity program on their personal computers."

—Dr. Michael Almeida,
Coventry Superintendent

There are only five out of the 1,200 students in the Alan Shawn Feinstein Middle School attending summer school with about 80 other students in the summer program this year. Traditionally, students must take an English and Algebra summer school course, according to Almeida, but with the addition to the Edgenuity program, students will be able to eliminate unnecessary course loads based on

how much information they retained from the regular school year.

It is up to the teacher's discretion whether the student needs to come to summer school for the full four-week program based on their success with the required modules, or units, that are taught. At the end of every module, an assessment is taken that acts similarly as a final test on each unit. At the other end, if a student is struggling with a module, a teacher can require mandatory full attendance for the summer school program.

"Students can go through the modules as quick as they are able to and take assessments as often as they can," Almeida said. "If they are making progress, the students don't have to come here [summer school], they can do it on their own on their own time through Edgenuity

See SUMMER, Page A-2

Program in Cov. schools

Continued from Page A-1

program on their personal computers.”

All of the assessments must be taken in person in the classroom and in the presence of a teacher to ensure the student is doing the work themselves.

Personal ChromeBooks are planned to be distributed to all students throughout Coventry Public Schools and Almedia said that in the future, the Edgenuity program will be able to be accessed through them during school hours and at home.

“It is not an amount of seat time anymore,” Hobin said. “It is all about meeting proficiency on different subject matters.”

— Michael Hobin

Principal, Coventry HS

Coventry High School Principal

Michael Hobin said the new online program is piloting this summer for different ways students can be assessed based on proficiencies they have retained.

“It is not an amount of seat time anymore,” Hobin said. “It is all about meeting proficiency on different subject matters.”

This year, the Coventry summer school program was not open for other districts as it has normally been in past years. Hobin said that with a pilot program, he didn't want to overcomplicate things because it is the first of its kind in Coventry. In the past, a different program was used by students through the credit recovery program that has the same work-at-your-own-pace model as the Edgenuity program.