

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – May 2017

Continuously improve instruction, cultivate creativity, and enhance student engagement and performance.

Enhance the efficient and effective use of resources.

Foster a supportive climate for students and adults.

Instruction

Red, White, and Blue Schools. Amity Regional School District was recognized by the State of Connecticut Department of Education as the top performing middle school/high school in the Red, White, and Blue Schools Program.

Standardized Tests from March, April, and May. Tenth grade students completed the science CAPT at the end of March in to the first week of April. The state designated date for the SAT was April 5, 2017, and the Advanced Placement (AP) testing window is May 1, 2017, through May 12, 2017.

Middle School Debate. The Amity Middle School Bethany Debate Team performed exceptionally well at their last debate of the year on Saturday, April 22, 2017, at Eastern Middle School in Greenwich, Connecticut. More than two hundred students, comprising more than seventy-five teams from twenty schools, debated the motion: *This House would colonize Mars*. Three of our four teams went undefeated in their three rounds of debate. Six Amity debaters made it into the top thirty speakers, and three of our four teams placed in the top ten teams.

District Level Committee Meetings. May meetings included District Reading and Teacher/Administrator Evaluation.

STEAM Day. Amity Regional High School will host an exposition of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) achievements and opportunities on May 24, 2017. Fifth graders from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge will join our students and staff, as well as several community organizations to learn more about STEAM.

Mastery-Based, Student-Centered Learning. A team of administrators will attend the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Executive Round Table session on May 19, 2017, to learn more about mastery-based, student-centered learning.

Amity Enterprises. Throughout this year there has been a joint effort between FBLA and the manufacturing program called Amity Enterprises. The students are working together to manufacture and market their products. See the flyer here -

<https://www.facebook.com/amityreg5/posts/1119781821461411>.

CMT. Eighth grade students participated in the first online administration of the CMT Science assessment.

Nature's Classroom. Most Amity Middle School Bethany seventh graders attended the week-long Nature's Classroom program at Camp Incarnation in Ivoryton, Connecticut, during the first week of April. This year's trip was the 40th Nature's Classroom trip! The staff provided an alternative program at AMSB for students who did not attend the regular program.

Resources

Storage Review. On April 25, 2017, Anna Mahon, Terry Lumas, and Jim Saisa conducted a space and storage usage review of various parts of the high school building to explore ways to more efficiently store equipment and supplies. A plan is being drafted to include immediate changes and changes that will be included in long range planning.

One Book One Amity (OBOA) Tag Sale. To help offset the costs of this school-wide initiative, the OBOA committee put together a school tag sale for April 28, 2017. The total funds raised are forthcoming, but were in excess of \$1100.

AESOP and Veritime. Training and implementation for the back office setup of AESOP and Veritime is underway. Data is being reviewed in preparation for uploading into Absence Management (new AESOP name). Lists of questions for other Districts that use the software and for current staff on specific procedures is nearly complete.

Records Storage. Members of the finance department will be meeting with representatives from Xerox in May to get us started on this project.

Security. Keyless entry door access hardware has been installed on additional doors at each of the schools, as have been additional surveillance cameras. The security team at Amity Regional High School will be complete in June.

Climate

Student Appreciation Project Continues. Throughout the 2016-2017 school year, a group of Amity Regional High School teachers arranged the "student appreciation project." Each month, teachers are asked to nominate and write a note to a student who has demonstrated various aspects of our Core Values and Beliefs. Some of the subjects of the student appreciation notes include grit/perseverance, working toward positive change, demonstrating a love for learning, and empathy. The notes are then distributed to students during the final Spartan Seminar of the month.

Awareness Week. The Amity Middle School Bethany Climate Committee, AMSB Student Council, and Woodbridge Youth Services helped to sponsor Awareness Week from April 24, 2017, through April 28, 2017. The purpose of the activities during the week were to help raise student awareness about a number of different issues that young people are experiencing, as well as celebrating our theme “Be Amity!”

NCAA. The athletics and counseling departments hosted an NCAA information night for athletes and their parents.

Crepes Night. On Friday night, April 28th, over 110 high school students participated in a French Culture event.

Adult Education Graduation. Hamden Adult Education Center will host the annual adult graduation ceremony on May 24, 2017.

Parent University. Amity hosted a session for parents and community members to review the results of the Amity Youth Survey and discuss actions that the district is taking to address student health and well-being.

Shakesperience. Thirty eighth-grade students from Breakthrough Magnet School, Amity Middle School Bethany’s Hartford sister-school, visited and worked with our students on Narrative4 activities and attended the Shakesperience program. This is part of an ACES Inter-district Grant designed to improve school climate, student achievement, and leadership.

MADD. On the evening of April 27, 2017 at Amity Middle School Orange, Courtney Reed from the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving presented a free workshop - *Power of Parents* - for parents/guardians about how to talk with middle school students about alcohol.

SERCC. The Director of Pupil Services attended a workshop on social/emotional learning hosted by the State Education Resource Center of Connecticut (SERC).

Jackie’s Nine. As part of the character education program at Amity Middle School Orange, students and staff were treated to an assembly on Friday, April 21, 2017 featuring the *BMX Bikers*. They talked about the importance of practice, dedication, determination, and commitment in becoming excellent (and safe) bikers.

Senior Center Luncheon. The Amity Regional High School Transition Program hosted a luncheon for our friends at the Woodbridge Senior Center, complete with entertainment from student musicians and a student magician.

Superintendent

Instructional Leadership. I visit each school on (at least) a weekly basis and make classroom observations a regular part of each trip. To date, I have visited more than 170 classrooms (and other activities for non-classroom certified employees) across all of the buildings.

Storify. See this past month's tweets with the #AR5 hashtag here:
<https://storify.com/charlesdumais/amity-apr-may-2017>

Transition. Kathy Burke, the newly appointed principal of Amity Middle School Orange, visited classrooms with me and Assistant Principal Neil Holt as an element of her transition plan.

Service. I joined seven other school leaders from the region in the final internship event for graduate students in the Educational Leadership program at Southern Connecticut State University.

CIAC. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), the organization that represents schools and principals across the state, I have been selected to participate in the process to hire a new Associate Executive Director of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC).

Technology. I was invited to participate with a small group of Connecticut superintendents in a meeting with the educational division of Apple to explore opportunities for students, teachers, administrators, and districts to more effectively use technology.



This report is a synopsis of many of the undertakings, efforts, and achievements toward our District Goals and Objectives. It does not represent a complete and comprehensive account of all that has happened in the past month. I would encourage you to contact me directly if you have questions about items that you read or that you anticipated reading. I would be glad to discuss them.