

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
**Bethany Orange Woodbridge**  
**25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525**



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Superintendent's Report – February 2018

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**

**Amity Transition Program Partnership with Albertus Magnus College.** The Amity team met with representatives from Albertus Magnus College. Albertus has happily agreed to our partnership and, beginning in the fall of 2018, our transition students will spend part of their day on campus. More information will follow as we solidify details of the arrangement.

**STAR Universal Assessments.** Amity Middle Schools administered STAR Universal Assessments for reading and mathematics. Teachers participated in facilitated team meetings with the STAR Data coach to review student performance and monitor progress.

**Basketball.** Tyler Thomas of the Amity Boys Basketball team scored his 1,000<sup>th</sup> point of his Amity career!

**CAS Leadership Conference.** Fifteen Amity Middle School Bethany student council members took a field trip to Trinity College for a Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) student leadership conference. Four of our eighth graders presented at one of the workshops and gave an overview of what our student council does in partnership with Woodbridge Youth Services to promote "Making Acceptance Acceptable" (the theme of the conference).

**Awareness of Global & Local Issues: A Collaborative Approach to Assessment.** Seventh grade English and social studies students are completing an interdisciplinary project based on the Performance Based Assessment Design (PADI) initiative for teachers. Students will be investigating a global issue or local perspective on issues like: access to water, healthcare, education, gender inequality, human rights, terrorism, famine, etc. The student work will be shared with parents and others at a *Global Issues Evening* on February 27, 2018.

**Volleyball.** Abby Harbinson was named the New Haven Register Most Valuable Player for Girls Volleyball. Jaiden Williams was also named to the all-area team.

**Book Discussion.** A group of teachers and administrators at Amity Middle School Bethany are participating in an after-school book group to discuss [\*On Your Mark: Challenging the Conventions of Grading and Reporting\*](#) by Thomas Guskey.

**Debate Team.** The Amity Middle School Orange debate team performed well at their most recent scrimmage in Glastonbury. The team received praise for their arguments around the motion that “This House would eliminate Executive pardons and commutations.”

**Toothbrush Collection.** As part of a social studies unit on Africa, Amity Middle School Orange students face-timed with a Peace Corps volunteer currently stationed in Madagascar. When students learned that health education is a large part of the work being done in the region, they responded by collecting over five hundred toothbrushes for remote communities in Madagascar.

**Midterm Exams.** Amity Regional High School held midterm exams from January 18 - January 23, 2018. Teachers were encouraged to take advantage of the longer exam sessions (two hours, up from the previous eighty-five minutes) to include more authentic assessment strategies such as lab practicums, mini-projects, and speaking components.

**Link Crew Cocoa and Cram.** In preparation for their first full set of midterm exams, Amity Regional High School freshmen were invited to study, discuss, and share treats with Link Crew Leaders during the annual Cocoa and Cram event held in the high school cafeteria. More than 150 freshmen worked with more than 70 Link Crew Leaders to review materials.

**District Committees.** Meetings were held for Teacher/Administrator Evaluation, Wellness, SRBI/RT, Reading, and Steering.

**Curriculum Articulation.** Meetings were held for Science and World Language.

**Calibration.** Amity administrators participated in a professional learning experience focused on midyear calibration practice for upcoming teacher/administrator midyear conferences.

**Support and Evaluation.** The Amity Teacher/Administrator Evaluation committee continues to work with Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) consultant Dr. Ellen Retelle making revisions to the Amity Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Models.

### **Resources**

**“Paperless” student registration procedure for Nature’s Classroom.** All Amity Middle School Bethany seventh grade families were encouraged to attend a meeting on Monday, January 29, 2018, to learn about the “paperless” student registration procedure for Nature’s Classroom this year.

**Cafeteria Advisory Committee.** A meeting of our cafeteria advisory committee, including several students and the Chartwell’s director, surfaced opinions and suggestions for improving the cafeteria. The group also discussed the ideas of composting and of establishing a “food bank” of unopened and unused food for the fall as part of the Greenleaf program.

**Radios.** Fifteen new handheld radios were purchased for Amity Regional High School to replace outdated and non-functional older radios. Six of the units are equipped with a panic button that will activate the lockdown sequence.

**Club Guest Speakers.** Two Amity Regional High School clubs have successfully hosted prominent guest speakers to enhance their co-curricular experiences. These visits have been at no cost to the clubs or district. Junior State of America (JSA) has organized a monthly speaker series this year where they host local, state and federal politicians who explain their roles to the students during their after-school meetings. The Amity Sports Business Association hosted CEO of Steiner Sports Marketing Brandon Steiner during an after-school meeting. These visits are made possible by the outreach and tenacity of student club members.

**Electronic Payments.** Members of the Finance and Technology departments recently met with middle school staff from both schools to develop a protocol for posting student obligations into PowerSchool and MyPaymentsPlus. Implementation is planned for this year's end-of-year obligations.

**Green Leaf Schools.** We are in the process of completing the self-assessment tool in all three schools. There is interest in greenhouses, school gardens, and composting projects! Several District staff attended a webinar concerning Food Waste Reduction. We are exploring options for composting at each school, starting with cafeteria kitchen waste. Options to implement a shared food table in each cafeteria are also being researched.



**Security Professional Development.** The District security guards attended training with the Coordinator from the Connecticut State Police Statewide Narcotics Task Force, Wayne Kowal. The program included Drug Endangered Children (DEC) and Current Drug Trends.

**Donations.** Individual and business members of the Amity community have generously donated funds to supplement equipment purchases for athletics.

**BOWA Coordination.** BOWA Directors of Curriculum met to continue discussions about curriculum alignment, STAR Assessment data, and each district's plan for recent changes to the CT Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM).

### Climate

**Special Education Orientation.** Amity Middle School staff provided an orientation session (one at each middle school) for parents of incoming sixth grade students receiving special education services. District special education personnel were also available to meet parents and answer questions.

**Woodbridge Pupil Services Director.** Amity Director of Pupil Services Mary Raiola has graciously served on the interview committee in Woodbridge Beecher Road School for the position of Special Services Director.

**Principal/Student Lunches.** Dr. Dellinger and Mrs. Burke continued their student lunch meetings with small groups of seventh graders.

**Craft Club.** The Amity Middle School Orange craft club made dozens of hats and scarves to be donated to the Veterans Hospital.

**Video Competition.** The Amity Class Act Council submitted a *Battle of the Fans* video as part of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) *Battle of the Fans* contest. Here is the link: [rmd.me/mlqa6EWTYr8](http://rmd.me/mlqa6EWTYr8)

**Science Fair.** Amity hosted the CT STEM Science Fair at Amity Regional High School. Students from all over the state competed in this event. Amity showed very well in the competition, sending Sophia Wang to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Here is a complete list of awards from the event -

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Iodyx4qmUz6NtCo-MjO1dzOrLf5HSZpRPy-Ia3BApVc/edit#gid=0>

**STEAM Day.** Please mark your calendars for the Third Annual Amity STEAM Day on May 24, 2018. Amity hosts and presents this event, and we invite our Member Town fifth grade students to join us.

**Monthly Core Values/Beliefs Focus.** Every month at Amity Regional High School has had a specific core value or belief on which to focus. The stated core values for the high school are: fairness, respect and passion. The stated core beliefs are: compassion, integrity, collaboration, communication, persistence, and inspiration. These core values and beliefs have helped direct activities in Spartan Seminar, thematic aspects to all of the newsletters/communications, and influenced the structure and activities at faculty meetings.

**Parent University.** In addition to the early sessions on Student Organization Skills, Unified Classroom, Chronic Absenteeism, Student Success Plans, and *Courage to Speak*, we have scheduled sessions to cover various topics (as identified in the District Goals/Objectives) over the course of the year.

Date	Topic
February 13, 2018	Internet Safety
March 6, 2018	School Security
April 3, 2018	Academic Integrity, Media Literacy
May 8, 2018	Experiential Learning

### **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 **140** 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-jan-feb-2018>

**Shadowing.** In early 2018 (January and February), I shadowed a student at each of the Amity schools as they go through their normal day of classes and activities. It was a wonderful experience that emphasized the high quality of the learning experience that our students have in our schools. Many thanks to Daniela Abreu, Koda Blue, and Eric Novak for letting me tag along!

**Headmasters.** As a member of this 125-year-old national association of school leaders (both public and private) since 2010, I annually participate in focused professional development on critical issues in our schools and the world with colleagues and invited experts. This year's topic was *The Shift in World Power*, included discussions with the President of the University of Maryland, the Dean of the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, and a Senior Fellow of Governance Studies at the Brookings Institute.

**Legislative Conference Call.** In order to ensure that the perspective of superintendents and the interests of school districts are shared with our state legislators, I participated in an annual conference call with Connecticut Senator Gayle Slossberg to discuss education funding, special education burden of proof, charter schools, student data privacy, the Governor's proposed budget, and many other topics.

**CoSN.** I have been invited to be a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Panel of the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), "the premier professional association for school system technology leaders."

**Budget.** The Superintendent's 2018-2019 Proposed Budget has been presented to the Amity Finance Committee and a joint meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance. Presentations are scheduled for the Bethany and Orange Boards of Finance.

**Advanced Leadership Institute.** As a member of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) Experienced Superintendents Group, I participate monthly in the Advanced Leadership Development Institute with other Connecticut superintendents to discuss and process district leadership dilemmas and problems of practice, including budget development, leadership capacity building, superintendent evaluation, superintendent effectiveness, and other relevant topics.

**Instructional Rounds.** As our teachers have engaged in Instructional Rounds, the District Leadership Team (accompanied by a teacher from each school) has conducted their first two of three visits for this year and will complete their third visit (to Amity Middle School Orange) in March. As part of our efforts to increase opportunities, coordination, and understanding with our local Universities, we have invited a Southern Connecticut State University School of Education faculty member to join us.

**Negotiations.** We are currently preparing to negotiate with the Nurses Bargaining Unit and the Paraeducators Bargaining Unit.

**Cooperative/Shared Services.** Explorations and negotiations are progressing on short term (information technology, facilities) and long term (special education, curriculum) opportunities for shared services.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuman".

*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.*