

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

Evaluation and Support. The Amity Teacher/Administrator Evaluation committee has completed its work on revisions to the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Support Plans. An overview of the new plans was presented to all faculty members on the minimum day on May 21, 2018.

District Committees. Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Committee, Wellness Committee.

Senior Service Learning Program and Senior Interest Project Begin. More than 210 members of the senior class have begun working outside of the school at a worksite placement or within the school on a pre-approved interest project. The Senior Interest Project is an authentic learning and application activity which is being piloted this year as an alternative to the internship-like experiential learning of Senior Service Learning Program. All students will be presenting their projects to members of the school community during the week of June 11, 2018.

Performance Based Assessment. Fifteen teachers from Amity schools have been selected to participate in the second cohort of year-long training in Performance Based Assessment Design. The teachers will start training from August 6-9, 2018, with two additional full days in October and April. Amity will be joined by teachers from Stratford and Milford.

Disney. The Amity Special Education Transition class went on a five-day trip to Disney World in Florida. The trip provides students with an opportunity to have unique social interaction experiences and practice the many skills that they have learned in the program.

Music Adjudication. Amity Middle School Bethany Strings, Choir, and Band students participated in their annual Adjudication. The strings, jazz band, band, and chamber singers all received the highest ranking of platinum, and the choir received a gold ranking.

Curriculum Articulation. World Language Spanish, Special Education Vertical Alignment Elementary to Middle School, Science Curriculum, and Next Generation Science Standards.

One Book/One Amity Big Reveal. The 2018 OBOA book *All American Boys* was revealed during a presentation to the high school and eighth grade students. The book will be discussed in English classes through the fall with additional whole-school programming.

Athletics. In only its third season, the Amity Girls Golf Team secured the SCC Championship. Madeline Adzigian won the SCC championship in Javelin. Patrick Winkel was named Gatorade State Baseball Player of the Year. Boys and Girls Tennis Teams were SCC tournament runner-ups. The Softball Team was the SCC tournament runner-ups.

Spanish Honor Society. More than forty Amity Middle School Orange students were recognized for academic achievement in Spanish and inducted into the Spanish Honor Society.

Smarter Balanced, Next Generation Science Standards. All standardized testing for this year has been completed. We expect results to be released by the end of July.

Resources

Graphics & Athletics. Two high school graphics students designed, printed, and applied new decals to the athletics golf cart as part of an internship project.

Security Assessment. A building security assessment was conducted by the Orange Police Department for Amity Middle School Orange. We are awaiting the report for the event.

Greenhouse. Amity Regional High School students have begun construction on a new greenhouse at Amity Middle School Orange. The building was pre-fabricated at the high school throughout the spring and the pieces were transported to the middle school where they are being assembled into the new greenhouse. Once completed, the greenhouse will be used to provide AMSO students with opportunities to explore a variety of math and science concepts through application and authentic experiences.

Electronic Payment for School Obligations. Posting student obligations into PowerSchool and MyPaymentsPlus is scheduled for all three schools in the District this month. The high school has already had several posts of obligations and payments recorded as seniors prepared for service learning projects. Posting obligations into the Student Management System is a direct and timely method of communication. Allowing for payments in MyPaymentsPlus (same system for lunches and field trips) provides a convenient payment option. Payments are posted back to PowerSchool to remove the obligation. The electronic method provides more up-to-date information for parents.

Climate

STEAM Day. The Third Annual Amity STEAM Day was held on May 24, 2018. Amity hosts and presents this event, and our Member Town fifth grade students are all invited to join us.

Unified Sports Awards Banquet. A banquet was held to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of the partners and athletes of the Unified Sports teams from Amity Regional High School and Amity Middle Schools.

Underclass and Senior Awards Nights. More than three hundred Amity students were recognized for various achievements throughout the 2017-2018 school year, and more than \$93,000 in scholarships were awarded.

Memorial Day Parade. The Amity Middle School Bethany band participated in the 2018 Bethany Memorial Day Parade.

Albertus Magnus College. The five students who will be attending Amity Transition Academy next year toured the Albertus Magnus College Campus with their teacher, paraprofessional, and Mary Raiola. They met the various staff with whom they will be interacting and explored the many potential job sites. The morning ended with lunch on the terrace at the College.

Visiting Sixth Grade. Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Miller visited all Orange elementary schools to meet with next year's incoming seventh grade students.

Sixth Grade Visiting. Orange sixth grade students enjoyed a tour of the Amity Middle School Orange classrooms, met several seventh grade teachers, and enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria.

Special Education Orientation. Amity Middle School Bethany School Psychologist Mrs. Laudati escorted AMSB special education students to Amity Regional High School for a guided tour designed to familiarize students with the high school and to meet staff members.

Orientation and Field Day. Amity Middle School Bethany hosted the sixth grade students from Beecher Road School and Bethany Community School for their annual field day and orientation. AMSB seventh grade students were selected by their teachers to lead tours during the orientation.

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 182 classrooms (and other activities for non-classroom certified employees) across all of the buildings.

Social Media. See this past month's tweets with the #AR5 hashtag here:
<https://twitter.com/hashtag/AR5>

Leadership Institute. As part of the Connecticut Center for School Change's Superintendents Network, I joined twenty other Connecticut superintendents and members of the Harvard faculty at the Leadership Institute at Harvard University. Thought and knowledge experts in cultural education, innovation, education policy, instructional leadership, and organizational leadership led our group in reflective and transformative education exercises.

CAPSS Legislative Committee. Following the close of the latest legislative session, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents' Legislative Committee met to discuss the results of the session and to develop a draft action agenda for the next session. Our focus will include advocating for greater flexibility to follow through on innovative ideas to implement authentic learning experiences for students.

Igniting Innovation. Superintendents, technology innovators (from Apple), and educational innovators joined to explore next steps in expanding learning opportunities for students in the context of our rapidly changing conditions, situations, experiences, and environment.

Strategic Planning. As part of a series of structured learning and working sessions, I joined a team of superintendents, thought and policy leaders, educational theory leaders, and design planning facilitators to develop the vision for the future of CAPSS.

Commission for Educational Technology. As a result of the work of the Commission for Educational Technology, Google has modified its terms to comply with Connecticut Student Data Privacy laws. <https://edscoop.com/google-adds-new-terms-that-comply-with-connecticut-student-data-privacy-laws>

Administrative Retreat. The annual Amity administrative retreat is planned for June 21, 2018, and June 22, 2018. In addition to being an opportunity for our team to engage in critical reflection on the current school year and thoughtful planning and preparation for the next school year, it will also allow the interim superintendent to interact with and learn from the district's leadership team.



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.