

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

Unified Physical Education Class. This new course offering is the first of its kind at Amity, where typical peers are instructed on ways to support students in the adapted physical education class. This is not only the first full curricular unified class at the high school; it is the first elective offering in the physical education department.

Instructional Rounds Evidence Review. As part of the high school faculty meeting in February, the entire faculty participated in workshops to review and process the evidence that has been collected throughout the first semester through [Instructional Rounds](#). Teachers also worked to create [Theory of Action](#) statements regarding instruction and student activities based on their review and discussions.

Skiing. Mary Foley won the Connecticut Interscholastic Ski League (CISL) State Open Championship and is the top seed for Team CT in the next event in New Hampshire.

Amity Transition Program. On February 13, 2018, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Dumais and Director of Pupil Services Mary Raiola met with all of the parents of the students who will be participating in the Amity Transition Program in the fall to share information on the progress of plans for the program. The next meeting will be in March to discuss site specific elements of the program with Albertus Magnus representatives.

Teacher Support and Evaluation. The Amity Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Committee continues to work with CREC consultant Dr. Ellen Retelle in making revisions and updates to the current Amity Teacher and Administrator Evaluation Models. An introduction to the new plan for all staff will take place on the May 21, 2018, minimum professional development day.

District Committees. The Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Committee, Staff Development Committee, SRBI/RTI Committee, Technology Committee, Reading Committee, and the Wellness Committee all met recently.

Curriculum Articulation. Meetings were held for Social Studies and English Language Arts.

District Instructional Rounds. Our next district-wide Instructional Rounds visit will be to Amity Middle School Orange on March 22, 2018. We have invited a representative from the Education Department at Southern Connecticut State University to join us.

Math Counts Chapter Competition. Nine students from Amity Middle School Bethany attended the Math Counts Chapter Competition at Yale University on February 3, 2018, competing along with 110 students from 13 other schools. Two seventh graders qualified for the Math Counts State Competition.

Basketball. Tyler Thomas was named Southern CT Conference (SCC) player of the year for boys basketball.

Woodbridge Board of Selectmen. On February 14, 2018, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Charles Dumais, Director of Finance and Administration Terry Lumas and Director of Pupil Services Mary Raiola attended the Woodbridge Board of Selectmen meeting to provide program details for use of the Old Woodbridge Firehouse for the Amity Transition Program. The Board of Selectmen will consider taking action to fund the renovations of the facility.

Global Issues Evening. Four Amity Middle School Bethany teachers employed their Performance Based Assessment Design training to create an interdisciplinary unit on global issues. The student work was shared with parents and others at a Global Issues Evening on February 27, 2018. Teachers will present this unit at the New England League of Middle Schools Conference in April as an example of how to use learner-centered quality assessment practices and authentic, performance-based assessment tasks designed to produce and measure student learning.

Robotics and Engineering Research Program. Amity Middle School Bethany Robotics and Engineering Research Program students participated in an engineering lab day during which they finalized their research projects in preparation for the upcoming 70th Annual Connecticut Science & Engineering Fair (CSEF) being held at Quinnipiac University.

NGSS. Science teachers from across the district have been participating in focused professional development on implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Swimming. Colin Roy was named Southern CT Conference (SCC) Division I player of the year for boys swimming.

Music. Thirteen Amity Middle School Orange student musicians are participating in the Southern Regional Music Festival in Killingworth CT. Students earned their place on the select ensemble through a rigorous audition process earlier this year. The festival provided students with the opportunity to showcase their musicality alongside students from across 56 towns in southern Connecticut.

State Geography Bee. Amity Middle School Orange eighth grade student Makena Legault has qualified to compete in the state level competition of the National Geographic Bee. Makena will compete at the Connecticut State Bee on Friday, April 6, 2018, in the hopes of moving onto the national competition in Washington D.C. in May.

Teacher Preparation. Dr. McPadden participated on the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education Committee (AACTE-CT/CAPPS) reviewing upcoming legislation related to the new pre-service teaching assessment requirements.

EdCamp. Amity administrators participated in a professional learning experience based on a modified EdCamp model. EdCamp is a variety of professional learning that focuses on developing experiences through an organic, participant-driven process.

Wrestling. Ryan Roddy was named Southern CT Conference (SCC) Coach of the Year for wrestling.

Resources

Streaming Content. Through the use of live streaming technology, daily announcements and updates are now being streamed to all closed circuit televisions throughout Amity Middle School Orange.

Security Training. District security guards attended training on identification and response strategies for Domestic Human Trafficking.

Jack B. Levine Efficiency Award. The Jack B. Levine Efficiency Award of Excellence was established to encourage students to look for cost savings and efficiencies at Amity Regional School District No. 5. All students in Grades 7 through 12, inclusive, of Amity Regional School District No. 5 may apply for an award. Applications are due in schools April 27, 2018.

BOWA Coordination. BOWA Directors of Curriculum are scheduled to meet in March to continue curriculum alignment discussion specifically related to the end-of-year grade six common math assessment and World Language.

Security Communication. The fifteen new radios that were purchased for Amity Regional High School to replace outdated and non-functional older radios have been programmed, activated, and issued. This includes six additional radios with the panic button that will activate the lockdown sequence.

Elective Selection. Our Technology Department has created an online registration system for seventh grade elective and elective alternatives for next year's schedules, saving both time and physical resources.

Climate

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.

Team Breakfast. After reading *A Long Walk to Water*, Amity Middle School Orange seventh grade students hosted a breakfast fundraiser to raise money for Water for South Sudan. The organization was founded by the book's author, Salva Dutt, whose mission is to provide clean water for the people of South Sudan.

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

Date	Topic
April 3, 2018	Academic Integrity, Media Literacy
May 8, 2018	Experiential Learning

Restorative Practices. Middle school assistant principals Neil Holt and Thayer Doyle attended comprehensive professional development in Restorative Practices featuring JoAnn Freiburg from the Connecticut State Department of Education. Restorative Practices is designed to help establish conditions for developing and nurturing a culture based on quality relationships among all school community members and positive community building.

Principal/Student Lunches. Amity Middle School Bethany principal Dr. Dellinger continued February lunch meetings with small groups of seventh graders to check on how they are doing and to become more familiar with them.

C.R.O.M.E. Club. Danielle Parillo, Amity Middle School Bethany school counselor, started a new club called Community Recognizing Open- Mindedness and Expression (C.R.O.M.E.). The club supports inclusion, self-expression, and acceptance.

Food Drive. The Amity Middle School Bethany Student Council and Leo Club held a February food drive to benefit the Woodbridge Youth Services Food Pantry. More than three hundred food items were donated.

Sock Hop. The Amity Regional High School National Honor Society held its first annual sock hop dance. They collected more than 700 socks, raised more than \$2000 to donate to Columbus House of New Haven, and had more than 150 students attend and dance their socks off.

OBOA Movie Fundraiser. Faculty and students members of the One Book One Amity (OBOA) Committee hosted a fundraiser and community building event at the Seymour Cinemas. Amity Regional High School Community members were invited to come see a private screening of the

newly released feature film *Every Day*, which is a film adaptation of the 2017 OBOA community book of the same title.

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 **150** 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-feb-mar-2018>

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

Superintendent Network. As our teachers have engaged in Instructional Rounds, I have participated in Instructional Rounds with superintendents from across the state – most recently visiting the Derby Middle and High Schools.

Negotiations. We have reviewed bargaining agreements and have initiated the formal process of negotiations 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.

Strategic Planning. I participated with superintendents, assistant superintendents, thought leaders, and university leaders in the inaugural session of the Strategic Planning Team at the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS), facilitated by the Connecticut Center for School Change.

CAPSS Technology. At our most recent meeting, we worked with Connecticut State Department of Education Chief Performance Officer Ajit Gopalakrishnan regarding the feasibility of a statewide student management system. The committee will be meeting with Ajit regularly to better coordinate work of superintendents and the Department of Education on technology issues.



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.