

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



Charles S. Dumais, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

charles.dumais@reg5.k12.ct.us
203.392.2106

Superintendent's Report – May 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

Spring Concerts. Music students at Amity Regional High School performed in the spring concerts over a series of three weeks. The band spring concert took place on April 26, 2018, the strings concert on May 3, 2018, and the choir concert on May 10, 2018.

Performance Assessment. Fifteen teacher participants from Amity completed their year-long training for Performance Based Assessment Design projects that were shared during a celebration exposition on April 27, 2018. The next interdistrict cohort of teachers will start training on August 6, 2018.

Evaluation and Support. The Amity Teacher/Administrator Evaluation committee is near completion of its work on revisions to the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Support Plans. An overview of the new plans will be presented to all faculty members on the minimum day scheduled for May 21, 2018.

District Committees. Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Committee, SRBI/RTI Committee, Staff Development, Technology, BOWA STEAM, and District Reading.

Disney Parent Meeting. Patricia Fitzgerald and the students attending the educational Disney trip held an informational parent dinner and meeting. The students prepared dinner and presented information about the learning/life experiences that will be part of their trip.

Curriculum Articulation. English Language Arts.

Author. Dr. McPadden co-authored a book chapter in the book "*From Head to Heart: High Quality Teaching Practices in the Spotlight*" with Dr. Nicholas Young of American International College.

Coordinator of Pupil Services. A team of teachers and administrators has conducted screening and first round interviews for the position of Coordinator of Pupil Services.

State SAT Day and other testing. On Tuesday, April 24, 2018, Amity Regional High School juniors completed the SAT (required and funded by the state). Advanced Placement testing began on Monday, May 7, 2018, and the pilot of the Next Generation Science Standard Assessment, which will be administered to all juniors, will take place between May 16, 2018, and May 21, 2018.

NELMS. Amity Middle School Bethany teachers Ms. Caroline Camera, Mr. Greg Murphy, and Ms. Marissa Nall, conducted a workshop entitled “Awareness of Global and Local Issues: A Collaborative Approach to Assessment” at the New England League of Middle Schools’ (NELMS) 37th Annual Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.

Oxford. Amity Middle School Orange teacher Taylor Bininger has been accepted into a Summer Teaching Seminar through the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The seminar, titled “The Age of Lincoln,” will be held at St. Catherine’s College, Oxford University.

CAS Middle Level Exemplary Educator Award. Amity Middle School Bethany music teacher Mr. Rob Fragione was selected as a finalist for the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) Middle Level Exemplary Educator Award.

Empowered to Lead. Amity Middle School teacher and Amity Teacher of the Year (2017-2018) Kevin Berean attended the Empowered to Lead Symposium, an annual event hosted by the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Council for Teachers of the Year. E2Lead provides opportunities for teacher-leaders, administrators, and other educators to articulate and enhance their collective power, expertise, and experience.

Published. Amity Middle School Orange teacher Ms. Elaine Hashemian will have a book of poetry published by Finishing Line Press.

Young Writers Awarded. Amity Middle School Orange student Jayne Whitmen won the Michaels’ Jewelers Partner Essay Contest sponsored by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference and Amity Middle School Orange student Anna Warholak was first runner up.

Resources

Administrative Assistant Workshop. Administrative assistants from across the district participated in the annual Connecticut Association of Schools Administrative Assistant Workshop.

Security Assessment. A building security assessment was conducted by the Orange Police Department for Amity Middle School Orange.

IDEA Grant. Amity recently submitted a request for an Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant in the amount of \$408,221.

Medicaid. Staff from the pupil services and finance departments continue to work together to establish Amity to comply with recently modified rules and regulations regarding Medicaid reimbursement for students.

Fuel Cell tour for science classes. In partnership with Fuel Cell Energy and United Illuminating, engineers conducted on site fuel cell lessons for Amity Regional High School students.

Green Leaf Schools. We are in the process of completing the self-assessment tool in all three schools. Bethany Sustainability Committee representative Dr. Jennifer Turner joined the Bethany Middle School meeting in April. Ideas were discussed for future projects, status of current projects, and possible needs for implementing green initiatives. The next meeting will be at Amity Middle School Orange in May.



Leading, Educating, Achieving and Fostering healthy, green schools for all.

Efficiency. 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, may apply for an award. Multiple completed applications from the same student are acceptable. **\$300** is awarded to a student at each of the three schools with the most outstanding suggestion in a completed application. Several applications have been received from each school and are under review.

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.

Healthy Relationships. A representative from the Rape Crisis Center of Milford presented to Amity Middle School Bethany students. The presentation/discussion focused on healthy relationships, empowering students to make good choices, and understanding the power of their words and actions.

Awareness Week. For the ninth year in a row, Amity Middle School Bethany participated in Awareness Week. The theme this year was *Diversity: Strength in Numbers* and was developed and organized by the Student Council.

Parent University. We have completed our program of Parent University events for this academic year, which included sessions on Student Organization Skills, Unified Classroom, Chronic Absenteeism, Student Success Plans, *Courage to Speak*, Internet Safety, School Safety and Security, Academic Integrity, and Experiential Learning.

Unified Sports Awards. Amity Regional High School coaches Ms. Elizabeth Grace and Ms. Patricia Fitzgerald were honored as Coaches of the Year for Unified Sports at the CAS/Special Olympics Unified Michaels Cup banquet.

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 **180** 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>



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.