

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
*Bethany Orange Woodbridge*  
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**James A. Connelly**  
*Interim Superintendent of Schools*

**SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – OCTOBER 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.*

**District**

- Congratulations to Sheila McCreven for being awarded the prestigious Certificated Board of Education Member designation.
- Two transportation problems that involved Amity Middle School Bethany have occurred recently:
  - The bus accident on October 5<sup>th</sup> involving 3 vehicles was reported to you. I will be scheduling a debriefing with all staff, bus company, and Project Choice representative to review the response to the accident.
  - A coach bus carrying Amity Middle School Bethany eighth graders to their Washington DC field trip broke down in Maryland. Students were removed from the bus at a rest stop until a “rescue” bus arrived to continue them on their trip. They missed a small portion of the tour. Dr. Richard Dellinger, who accompanied the students on the trip, did an excellent job of informing the parents and my office. The students on all three buses were scheduled to return home October 12<sup>th</sup> between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.
- Amity Regional High School Girls’ Hockey team will be using the Louis Astorino Ice Arena in Hamden starting this season. They used the rinks in Shelton in the past but have run into playing time and fees issues. The team is a cooperative team with players from Amity, Cheshire, and North Haven with Amity as the “host school.”
- Scheduled plan for the October 19<sup>th</sup> early dismissal minimum day that is building-based is described below:
  - Amity Regional High School:
    - Teachers will complete/upload the student work information through Google for the NEASC Self-Study
    - Work on goal setting for SLOs or Professional Focus Area
    - Receive support on the Teacher Professional Growth Plan
    - NEASC Steering Committee will work together
  - AMSO and AMSB:
    - All staff will work on their Professional Focus and Goal Setting as directed by Richard Dellinger and Kathy Burke.
  - District Nurses
    - The Professional Development plan for district nurses will be to meet at the High School. Kendra Luth suggested that they bring their lunches and they could all eat together.
    - Kendra Luth will share important information that she learned at a nurses’ conference last week.
  - All Paraprofessionals
    - All paraprofessionals will be given continued professional learning by CREC consultant, Mitch Orkin.

**Amity Regional High School**

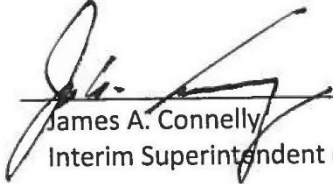
- The October Faculty meeting's learning activity was a book discussion about the One Book One Amity title, All American Boys. Teachers discussed the book, their reactions to the book, and the impact the themes have on our high school community in small groups of 12-14 faculty members/group.
- October 10th was a special programming morning for the High School:
  - Ninth grade students participated in Link Crew activities including watching a movie about "being the change" (Cool Runnings), participating in small-group activities, and then convening for the final 30 minutes as a full grade in the Brady Center for some final community-building activities.
  - Tenth and eleventh grades completed the PACT and PSAT respectively.
  - The 12th grade students had their class panoramic and aerial pictures taken, learned about important senior activities such as preparing for graduation (cap and gown orders) and Senior Service Learning Program/Senior Interest Project, and then had 2 speaker sessions: 1) post-secondary financial planning/literacy and 2) a presentation on sexual harassment from Milford Rape Crisis.
  - Students resumed the final 3 class periods for the day.
- The PTSO met on October 11th for their October meeting. The main agenda item was a community-based discussion around the book, All American Boys and featured School Resource Officer, Frank Sapione. Faculty, parents, students, and administrators attended.

**Amity Middle School Bethany**

- On September 26th we conducted a Practice Lockdown drill with the help of Tfc. Dave Merriam, the Bethany Resident State Trooper. The drill lasted approximately 30 minutes and was taken very seriously by the staff and students. We also conducted a fire drill on October 5th during a lunch period. This was a recommendation from the security audit, and this drill was also assisted by Tfc. Dave Merriam.
- On October 9th the entire school participated in a day of making connections through Narrative4 story exchanges and team building activities. Seventh and eighth grade students were paired up to share their stories and then participate in a variety of team-building activities to promote acceptance and help develop a positive school climate.
- 116 eighth graders went on a field trip to Washington DC October 10th through October 12th. Their itinerary was packed with a number of educational visits to places like Mount Vernon, Library of Congress, Capitol Building, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam War Memorial, and many more. (See updated under **District** section.)

**Amity Middle School Orange**

- AMSO had their first lockdown last week. It was evident that the students were familiar with lockdown procedure and took the drill seriously.
- Eighth grade students enjoyed a trip to the Klein Memorial to see “Ben,” a one-man play on the interesting life of Benjamin Franklin. This was an interactive enrichment opportunity, which supported eighth grade Social Studies curriculum.
- Representatives from Platt Technical, Common Ground, and Trumbull Agriscience high schools met with eighth grade students on Friday, October 12th. Students were given an overview of the various programs and options available to them as they prepare to move on to high school.
- Each month teachers will recognize students for demonstrating a specific Jackie’s Nine character trait as part of our character education program. For the month of September we recognized eight students who showed exceptional team work for the month of September.



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