

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – NOVEMBER 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

- Please note that this will be my last update as Interim Superintendent of Schools in Amity. Jennifer Byars will start her duties on November 15th. I will have a brief exit report presentation at the November 12, 2018 Board of Education meeting.
- A delegation of educators from China will visit both of our middle schools on November 13th in the morning. They are part of an exchange program sponsored by Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS). Our District was chosen as an outstanding middle school model.
- The Amity Youth Survey is on the November 12, 2018 Board of Education meeting for your endorsement. If approved, the survey will be administered to all 7th, 9th, and 11th graders on November 21st. Information about the survey was sent to you on November 1st.
- The Information Technology (IT) Department has changed our email address to firstname.lastname@reg5.org from firstname.lastname@reg5.k12.ct.us. This change brings us into the 21st century. Both addresses will work until June 2019. After that date the new address must be used.
- Pat Rose of Rose Tiso & Co LLC will be present at the November 12th Board of Education meeting to summarize the recommendations made to the Ad Hoc School Safety Committee at its meeting held on November 7th. This will be held in Executive Session.

Amity Regional High School

- **Day of Dialogue:** On October 19th, the high school held a special programming called "Being the Change: Day of Dialogue" to address systemic issues and aspects of race, implicit bias and our reaction to both. This important day continued the conversation which began at the end of last school year with the reveal of the OBOA 2018 title *All American Boys*.
- **NEASC Self-Study:** The high school faculty, staff and administrators continue their work with the self-study report this year, dedicating much of the professional development day on November 6th to gathering information, review data and compiling parts of the report. The final product, which will be completed by the end of the school year, will yield a comprehensive self-reflection of the school's complete program, including curriculum, instruction, assessment, school culture, core values and resources.
- **Fall Sports:** The regular fall sports season has come to a close and we have entered in to the post season, with most ARHS teams continuing on with their season.
- **Music in Motion:** On Friday and Saturday, November 9th and 10th, the high school band and choir programs hosted the annual *Music in Motion*. This year's event was a huge success.

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.

Amity Middle School Orange

- In honor of Veteran's Day, AMSO seventh grade students collected treats and supplies and put together over 40 care packages to be sent to our servicemen overseas. We expect the packages to be delivered in time for the holidays. Eighth grade students toured the Veteran's Memorial Museum in West Haven. While at the Museum students met with veterans who shared stories and provided students with a wealth of information regarding the military life dating as far back as the colonial period through today.
- The AMSO Student Council hosted our annual Halloween Dance. More than 120 students attended in costume. Several staff members chaperoned the event and shared a wonderful evening with our students.
- AMSO participated in Mix-it-Up-at-Lunch Day, a nation-wide event sponsored by the organization, Teaching Tolerance. Students enjoyed special activities during lunchtime, and students were encouraged to switch seats and talk with someone new. By taking a risk and sitting with a new lunch table students crossed the lines of division in a safe, supportive environment; met new people; and helped build an inclusive and welcoming school community.



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