

# AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge  
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## Superintendent's Report – May 2019

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

**Great Schools Designation:** Amity Regional High School is one of 41 Connecticut high schools and one of 1,713 national high schools to receive the 2019 College Success Award for 2019. This award is based on ensuring that students are prepared for college, enroll in college, and succeed once they get there.

**State Mandated Smarter Balance Testing:** Some students in grades 7 & 8 in both Bethany and Orange have already started Smarter Balance Assessment testing; most students will complete the testing in May. This is the required state assessment for students in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

**Spring STAR Assessments:** Students in all three schools have or will soon be completing their spring STAR assessments. The results may be used to support placement decisions, guide individualized interventions, and inform pedagogy and instructional practices for next year.

**Senior Service Learning Program (SSLP)/Senior Interest Project (SIP):** On May 20<sup>th</sup>, roughly 290 seniors will embark on their culminating experiential learning activity for the final few weeks of school. After completing their projects or experiential learning placement, each student will also give a presentation based on their findings or experiences during the week of June 10<sup>th</sup>. Invitations to members of the Board of Education will be sent before the end of May.

**NEASC Update:** On April 29<sup>th</sup>, the ARHS faculty voted to approve the final 3 standard reports on the NEASC Self-Study. At this point, the standard reports are complete and the next and final step of the self-study is for the entire faculty to be presented with and vote on the overall critical strengths and critical needs on May 20<sup>th</sup>. After that step is complete, final planning will continue for the visiting team visit, which will begin on September 22, 2019.

**AMSO Spartan Players Production of *Legally Blonde Jr.*:** This year's production received rave reviews from parents, teachers and students. The show was very well attended with over 200 tickets sold each night.

**ARHS Performing Arts Concerts:** Throughout the month of May, the orchestra, choir and band performed their spring concerts. This culmination of their year-long work was a wonderful demonstration of their skills and passion.

**AMSB hits Broadway:** On Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, approximately 50 eighth grade students from Mr. Orié's elective "Entertainers" class took a trip to see *Dear Evan Hansen*.

**AMSO Outstanding in the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade New England Math League Contests:** AMSO ranked #1 in the Fairfield/New Haven Area and had the #1 student in the region.

**Amity Middle School Welcomes Orange 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** On Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 180 Orange 6<sup>th</sup> grade students took a tour of the building, heard presentations by 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, enjoyed a snack in the cafeteria and saw a dress rehearsal of the school play. The event is designed to help students prepare for their transition to the middle school.

**Social Action Symposiums:** Throughout the months of April and May, teachers who participated in the Performance Assessment Design Initiative training have been completing their student symposiums, including social action symposiums, collaborative presentations and debates. These projects have been open to the entire faculty and presented in a variety of locations including the library and the presentation room.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Visit Nature's Classroom:** During the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>, all seventh grade students at AMSB participated in either the Nature's Classroom Program at the Incarnation Center in Ivoryton, CT or participated on our Alternative to Nature's Classroom program at AMSB.

**Easter Eggstravaganza:** On April 25<sup>th</sup>, students from AMSO hosted an Easter Eggstravaganza. Students from the Amity High School Transition Program, ACES, and Sidekicks from AMSO were invited. The students participated in a variety of Easter themed activities and hosted a brunch for all.

**Adult Education Summer Planning:** Amity partners with ACES for credit recovery due to loss of seat time and/or failure to pass a core course. Space is provided to ACES for the program in ARHS for the month of July. The ACES Director met with Amity administrators to discuss the logistics and the perimeters for credit recovery. Information will be posted soon on the ACES and Amity District websites.

**Science Curriculum Articulation:** BOWA Curriculum Directors met on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to continue the discussion around science in grades 6-8. Dr. Keith Smolinski, AMSB science teacher, shared information regarding meetings held with sixth grade teachers to experience exposure to 7-8 science curriculum, extended resources for teaching, and the Next Generation Science Standards Interim Assessments for grades 6-8. A template developed by the Amity Science teachers was also shared with the elementary participants. Meetings will continue in 2019-2020.

## **Resources**

**Special Services Parent Workshop:** On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Amity hosted a workshop for parents of special needs students on "Supports and Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." The presenters included staff from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), Probate Judge Honorable Beverly K. Streit-Ketalas, Rebecca Iannantuoni, special needs attorney, and Michael Beloff, financial planner. Over 30 parents were in attendance for the informative presentations. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive.

**Hamden Adult Education Graduation:** Amity partners with Hamden Adult Education for students from Amity, Hamden, and North Haven who attend GED classes in order to obtain a high school diploma. The graduation is planned for May 28<sup>th</sup>. Amity students who have successfully completed the program will receive their Amity diploma.

**Round 4 of the School Security Competitive Grant:** Amity was approved for \$36,091.17 in Round 4 of the School Security Competitive Grant Program. The application submitted included all three schools; we were awarded funds for Orange. Opportunities to offset the cost of the projects will continue to be explored. A list of the schools in the State that were awarded funds can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Press-Room/News-and-Announcements/05-06-2019-SSCGP-Announcement>

**Jack Levine Efficiency Award:** The 2019 call for applications was sent to students and parents in the Amity community. Thirty-one applications were submitted from throughout the district. Staff will be reviewing the submissions and bringing them before the Board in June.

**Bethany Memorial Scholarship Established:** District staff met with Mr. Edward H. Karoll and received \$32,464.18 to establish the Bethany Memorial Scholarship at Amity High School. Mr. Karoll taught at ARHS for 31 years. An additional \$16,000 will be added to the fund. This scholarship will be awarded to one Bethany male and one Bethany female student each year.

**WellsAT-I Administration:** The District Wellness Committee will review the WellsAT-I, a Wellness School Assessment Tool-Interview to match WellsAT 3.0. The assessment interview tool protocol will be facilitated in each school and at the District level to monitor how the Wellness Policy is being implemented. Results will be shared once the interviews are completed.

## Climate

**Amity Awards of Excellence Announced:** Vittoria Fielosh was named Amity's Teacher of the Year and Barbara Cassesse was named for the Amity Award of Excellence. Both will be honored at the Board of Education dinner on May 30<sup>th</sup> and at the Senior Awards Night later that evening. Vicki is a special education teacher at AMSO and Barbara is the secretary in the AMSB library/media center.

**Gold Pen Award Winners Selected:** Joy Romero (ARHS), Tom Foley (AMSO), and Marissa Nall (AMSB) were recognized as the 2018-2019 Gold Pen recipients on May 8<sup>th</sup> at a reception in the ARHS cafeteria. This program was inaugurated as a means to recognize teachers who are dependable, hardworking, committed to students, and whose contributions to Amity are valued by their peers. The true significance of the award is that they are chosen by their peers for recognition.

**Amity High School Students Visit AMSO Faculty:** Members of the ARHS PLAID group attended the May AMSO faculty meeting to discuss the challenges of navigating through middle and high school as members of the LGBTQ community. The honest, open discussions highlighted continued need to promote tolerance and acceptance of individual differences.

**ARHS Climate Weeks:** The first annual ARHS Pride Week was a great success during the week of April 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>, the Club Council will be hosting an Amity Unity Week, which will focus on inclusion, diversity and building a positive community. These organized weeks demonstrate the collaborative work between administration and students.

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** This year's theme, as chosen by the ARHS Student Government, was "ARHS Teachers Make Their Mark." The students ran the faculty meeting, teachers were given individual USB chargers with the Amity logo on it and the statement "Be the 'Charge'." A huge thank you to the ARHS PTSO for the food they provided throughout the week.

**AMSO Students to Meet Sharon Robinson:** Eleven AMSO students have been selected to attend the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Franciscan Sports Banquet on June 4<sup>th</sup>. While at this dinner, students will meet with Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson and author of *Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By: Becoming Your Best Self*. In addition, students will hear motivational speeches by other notable honorees including Connecticut's own Jim Calhoun and Jay Wright, Head Coach, Villanova Men's Basketball.

**Rape Crisis Center of Milford Presentation:** Jillian Marino from the Rape Crisis Center of Milford spoke to all seventh graders at AMSB on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and all eighth graders on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The discussions focused on healthy teen relationships and forms of sexual harassment.

**AMSB Awareness Week:** The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Amity Middle School Awareness Week, sponsored by our student council and Woodbridge Youth Services, was held from April 29<sup>th</sup> through May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The theme this year was "Diversity: Embrace it, Feel it, Celebrate it."

**ADL "Bystander to Ally" Training:** On April 30 the Anti-Defamation League conducted "Bystander to Ally" training for selected AMSB 7<sup>th</sup> graders.