

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – June 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.

Important Dates!

- **Amity Middle School Bethany 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony – June 13, 2019, 1:00 pm**
- **Amity Middle School Orange 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony – June 13, 2019, 1:30 pm**
- **Amity Regional High School Graduation – June 14, 2019, 4:00 pm**

Instruction

Underclass and Senior Awards: During the month of May, special achievements – both academic, and social and civic – of Amity Regional High School Students were celebrated during the annual Underclass and Senior Awards nights held on May 21st and May 30th respectively. The senior awards night includes the scholarship presentations. \$108,124.04 in scholarships was given to members of the senior class. Congratulations!

PTSO Teacher of the Year: Every year at the senior awards night, the PTSO recognizes the accomplishments of an outstanding Amity Regional High School teacher. This year's PTSO Teacher of the Year is Chris Borelli. Chris has been an integral member of the ARHS social studies department and faculty at large since 2000. He teaches American Government and Economics as well as the very popular senior elective Critical Issues. He also co-led a NEASC Standard committee this year—Standard #1: Core Values and Beliefs—and led a small committee of ARHS faculty to revamp Spartan Seminar, the advisory program at the high school. Congratulations, Chris!

PADI Presentations: Teachers from the high school joined other teachers from the District and as well as teachers from Milford and Stratford to share their successful projects from the 2018-2019 school year based on the Performance Assessment Design Initiative training. The share out, which occurred on Thursday, May 30th, was an awesome opportunity for collaboration and brainstorming for the 2019-2020 school year.

Science Research Symposium and Student Achievement: On Friday, May 17th the Amity Science Research Program held the annual Science Research Symposium, where students from all of the classes, both introductory and advanced, presented their research projects from the 2018-2019 school year. Awards were also given out and a special recognition was given to junior Sophia Wang, who was competing at the National Science Intel Competition in Arizona. Sophia won her division, beating out contestants from 70 countries.

Spring Concerts: The AMSB Spring Concert was held on May 2nd and the AMSO Spring Concerts were held on May 21st and 22nd. Students performed a repertoire of songs that highlighted their growth in their musicality and skill this year. Thanks goes out to our middle school music teachers for putting together their end-of-year shows.

AMSB Music Adjudication: On May 29th, Mr. Orie's choir, Mr. Fragione's band, and Mrs. Lee's strings classes all participated in their annual adjudication. The strings, jazz band, band, and chamber singers all received the highest ranking of platinum, and the choir received a gold ranking.

Spring Assessments: Seventh and eighth grade students in both middle schools completed the STAR & Smarter Balance Assessment (SBA) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math in May. The eighth grade students also took in the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) test during the month and the CT Physical Fitness Assessment. 72% of students at AMSO met all 4 standards of the assessment and 76% of AMSB students met all 4 standards.

2018 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge: AMSB and AMSO were recognized as top-performing schools from the 2018 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Only six middle schools in CT were recognized. Our schools will promote and participate in the 2019 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge this year as well.

4th Annual Christopher Hickerson Cabaret Courtyard Concert: Thanks to Mr. Orie for organizing the 4th Annual Christopher Hickerson Cabaret Courtyard Concert on June 4th in the AMSB courtyard. The evening featured small ensemble choral groups from Bethany Community School, Beecher Road School, and local Chamber Singers as well. The outdoor event was a nice opportunity for students to perform one last time before the year comes to an end.

8th Grade AMSB Capstone Symposium: The first AMSB 8th Grade "Change the World Symposium" was held on June 6th. This was an exciting evening of sharing student learning and innovation!

Amity Adult Education: The Amity Adult Education summer online catalog begins in July. Amity partners with ACES for credit recovery due to loss of seat time and/or failure to pass a core course. The space is provided to ACES for the program in ARHS for the month of July. ACES Director William Rice met with Amity administrators to discuss the logistics and the perimeters for credit recovery. All information is posted on the ACES and Amity District websites.

Amity STEAM DAY 2019: All fifth graders from the Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge Elementary Schools were invited to participate in the 4th Annual Amity STEAM Day on May 29th. There were 25 engaging booths for demonstrations and hands-on activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). The variety of booths included a pendulum activity, an arcade game created by the CTE students, catapults, pottery, an elliptical pool table, robotics, 3-D printing, pulleys, go-carts, drones, rockets, theatre, and bee keeping. Booths were facilitated by 27 Amity teachers from both middle schools and high schools, as well as over 100 Amity students, including those students in Science Research. Over 350 elementary students participated in this awesome event. Thanks to all who assisted, but special appreciation goes to key organizers Cathy Piscitelli, Dameon Kellogg, Kevin Berean, and Marie McPadden.

Resources

New Clocks and Bell System: The newly-installed clocks and bell system at the high school have led to a more consistent synchronization of the school day. The new bell system allows easy access to programing and a more uniform clock system throughout the building.

PTSO/Spartan Players Fundraiser: The AMSB Spartan Players and the PTSO sponsored a fundraising event at New England Brewing Company on May 19th. Music was provided by West Rock, Dr. Keith Smolinski's band. Approximately 100 people attended and \$4,000 was raised. All proceeds will benefit the purchase of new microphones for the Spartan Players and profits will be matched by the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation.

Climate

Amity Unity Week/Becoming an Ally Training: During the week of May 20th, the Amity Club Council, led by junior Ameya Menta, sponsored the first annual Amity Unity Week. The week began with a special homeroom sharing the purpose of the week's focus, as well as a powerful video of Amity students sharing their thoughts and feelings about embracing diversity. There were various activities and focus days throughout the week, including the Becoming an Ally training run by representatives from the Anti-Defamation League. The week concluded with a Community Assembly for the entire school held in the Paul D. Mengold Gymnasium.

Becoming an Ally District-Wide Convene: On Wednesday, June 5th, students from the 3 Amity District Schools convened at the high school to collaborate and brainstorm about how to put their training in to action. Led by the building administrators, students worked in small and large group settings to share their reactions to the ADL training and create concrete plans for how that training can help contribute to a safe and positive school and District environment.

Cultivating Cultural Competencies Training: Plans have been made for a Leadership Training based on Cultivating Cultural Competencies presented by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge have also been invited to bring a team to participate.

Amity Regional School District Peace Rock Project: Students at Amity Middle School Bethany, Amity Middle School Orange, and Amity Regional High School have been working to paint symbols of peace, harmony, and unity. Throughout Amity Region 5 schools, The Peace Project was installed in outdoor areas across the district. The Peace Project highlights the school community's wishes to live in a community of support and peace. This is a District-Wide initiative and has been led by parents and faculty, including ARHS Art Teacher and NAHS Advisor Jess Zamachaj.

Memorial Day Parades: Many thanks go to the ARHS, AMSO, and AMSB marching bands for their participation in and support of the Orange and Bethany Memorial Day Parades.

Jackie's Nine Event at AMSO: Perfection on Wheels, a nationally known BMX stunt show troupe, performed exciting tricks and stunts for students. The theme of the show centered on perseverance and determination. The presenters did an excellent job connecting the Jackie's Nine character traits to their success as BMX riders.

Racial Bias in Modern Literature: Two 8th grade students from AMSB held an event to raise awareness for the racial bias in modern literature. The event presented as many racially diverse books as possible for people to browse through. It was held at the Clark Memorial Library on May 21st. Students presented their research into this subject. The event was designed to raise awareness for both the issue and the library itself.

AMSB End of Year Special Events: On May 29th, approximately 114 7th and 8th grade students from the Mandarin Chinese and General Music classes took a trip to see New Britain Bee's play a minor league baseball game against the York Revolution. Also on that day, students from the band, choir, and strings classes took a trip to Six Flags Amusement Park. The annual 8th grade end-of-school field trip to Holiday Hill was on June 4th and the 7th grade field day was held on June 7th.

6th Grade Orientation & Field Day at AMSB: The school guidance counselors organized an orientation program for incoming 7th graders on June 4th. Following the orientation program, where students are given a tour of the school by current 7th graders, the 6th graders had a field day program at AMSB run by 6th grade teachers.