

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



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Superintendent's Report – August 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**

**Spartan Seminar and OBOA 2019-2020:** As with last year, both the Spartan Seminar and OBOA programs will have a prominent presence throughout the school this year. Advisors for both groups have been meeting throughout the summer to work on curriculum, programming and whole-school planning. The focus of the Spartan Seminar program will, once again, be around the social and civic learning expectations in an effort to formally work toward achieving our school's mission statement. The OBOA programming will reflect important issues that are raised in this year's summer read *Dear Evan Hansen*, including being true to yourself and your community, respecting proper use of social media, suicide prevention and healthy connections among peers.

**New Staff Orientation:** On August 14 and 15, 2019 teachers, paraeducators, student teachers, and student interns will participate in various induction activities including a narrated bus tour through Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge. The bus tour will be narrated by Brad Cohen.

**Restorative Practices Training:** Amity administrators will attend a two-day training in Restorative Practices followed by a one-day training in legal issues related to CT public schools. ACES consultant Rachel Cobb will present the all-day Restorative Practices training on August 19 and 20, 2019. Attorney Marsha Moses will present the legal issues updates to the administrative team on August 21, 2019.

**Preparation for 2019-2020 School Year:** There has been enormous work throughout the summer, overseen by departments at the high school, on curriculum updates and newly-written curriculum. Some examples include English III curriculum update reflecting performance-based midterm and final exams, updates to the visual and performing arts elective course "Guitar and Its Role in American Music" to reflect alignment with the National Core Arts Standards and textbook alignment in social studies.

**NEASC Accreditation Visit:** As mentioned at the end of the 2018-2019 school year, the self-study for ARHS is complete and we are eagerly anticipating the accreditation team's visit from September 22 through September 25, 2019. The members of the team will spend almost 4 days working through the full self-study and interviewing various members of the school community, shadowing students and reviewing resources to offer feedback on the self-study, our school programs and, ultimately, determine accreditation for Amity Regional High School.

**Amity Tops in Niche.com Ratings:** Amity Regional School District No. 5 was rated the top school district in New Haven County for 2019-2020 and 4th in the state of Connecticut by Niche.com. AMSO mirrored the district ratings, ranking as the top middle school in New Haven County and 4th in the state.

AMSB was ranked 2nd in New Haven County and 13th in the state. ARHS also took the top spot in New Haven County and is ranked 16th in the state among all high schools.

**Extended School Year:** Between July 8, 2019 and August 2, 2019, approximately 60 students attended Extended School Year (ESY) services as recommended by their PPT. A special thank you to Kristi Bellara for coordinating ESY services and to all the staff and students for their hard work throughout ESY.

### Resources

**Amity Adult Education and Summer School:** The Amity Adult Education summer was a great success. Amity also partnered 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. Students from Amity and neighboring districts participated.

**Amity Adult Education Fall Catalog:** The Fall Catalog is ready for printing and will be distributed to households in Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge.

**Global Compliance Network:** Plans are being finalized for the roll-out of the Global Compliance Network (GCN) Online Mandated Trainings. The GCN platform will operate on a three-year cycle to provide statutory mandated training to staff members for completion in a timely manner. This system will also track the completion of trainings for the District to be in compliance.

**Repurposing or Disposing of Furniture and Supplies:** An aspect of the summer is to review old textbooks to determine their usability and, if they are not proper for student use, to look to sell or dispose of them. This is also true for furniture (throughout the district) so as to properly utilize space and resources throughout the building.

**Coffee with the Director:** Dates have been scheduled for informal drop-ins with the Director of Pupil Services, Mr. Tom Brant. The dates are as follows: August 16th from 8:30-10 a.m., September 13th from 8-9:30 a.m. and October 18th from 7:30-9:00 a.m. Coffee with the Director will occur in the Presentation Room at Amity District offices. Finally, Mr. Brant will have open office hours from 7:30-8:30 on the following dates: September 3rd and 19th; October 2nd, and October 28th.

### Climate

**ARHS First Day of School Kick-Off 2019-2020:** As with past year, the first day for students on August 28, 2019 will be a kick-off celebration and welcome which will include the “Spartan Stories” program. This is an annual program where we welcome successful and notable alumni back to school for them to share their stories about how their experience at Amity Regional High School helped shape who they are today. They also share how the core values of fairness, respect and passion, along with the year’s theme (which will be revealed on the first day of school to the entire school community) are all emulated in the work they do as adults. This year’s Spartan Stories speakers will be 1999 alumni Darren Haynes and 2008 alumni Margaux Farrell, both of whom are successful television news journalists.

**Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation - 17th Annual Evening for the Arts:** The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation provides many enrichment opportunities to the students in Amity Regional School District No. 5. Please consider joining them for the Evening for the Arts on September 7, 2019. The Amity Creative Theater will be part of the evening performances.

**Cultural Competencies Training:** The leadership training based on Cultivating Cultural Competencies was presented by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) in late June. Orange and Woodbridge each sent a team to participate with Amity teachers and administrators. Small teams from each Amity school will be completing a follow-up training in Fall 2019.