

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – October 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

University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award: Congratulations to LeeAnn Browett for being selected for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award. Established for more than 30 years, entering first-year students nominate an educator who has influenced them, challenged them, or helped them. LeeAnn was selected from hundreds of letters submitted by first-year students.

NEASC Accreditation Decennial Visit Complete: The 2019 NEASC Decennial visit took place in September (22nd-25th) and was a huge success. The chair of the committee shared some brief remarks with the faculty on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 25th and affirmed that Amity Regional High School is an amazing place. The full report will be returned to the school principal by mid-year (late January) and will be shared with the full Board and BOW Community at that time.

Pupil Services: October is Mental Health Awareness Month and October 10th was World Mental Health Day. Our School Psychologists, School Counselors, and School Social Workers are striving to increase the overall mental health and well-being of all our students. Unified Sports has begun at the middle, high school, and collegiate levels with upcoming matches scheduled in soccer. Amity will be hosting a soccer tournament during the month of October. In addition to Unified Sports, Unified Theater has started and students will be working towards a performance in the late winter/early spring. The final *Coffee with the Director* for the fall is scheduled for October 18th from 7:30-9:00am. Future *Office Hours* (7:30-8:30am) are October 28th; November 7th, December 10th, January 8th, February 13th, March 3rd, April 24th, and May 26th.

High School Options at AMSB: On Friday, October 4th, 8th grade students attended a mandated presentation regarding area high school options. Representatives from Common Ground, ECA, Platt Tech, and Nonnewaug high schools spoke to our students.

AMSB Washington DC Trip: One hundred thirty seven 8th grade students registered for the annual Washington DC trip, which took place from October 16th through October 18th. This is the second year the trip has been held in October; the trip was moved from spring to fall last year in order to balance major school events more evenly throughout the year.

Peer Tutoring at AMSO: The AMSO Peer Tutoring Program has resumed. Twenty-six 8th grade peer tutors received extensive training by the guidance staff. They are looking forward to working with 7th grade students providing assistance in all subject areas.

AMSO Government Day: Eighteen AMSO students shadowed Orange town employees on Government Day on October 16th. Students learned about the valuable services the town provides. We wish to thank the Orange town officials for hosting this wonderful learning experience for our students.

Co-Curriculars Augment School Curriculum: Throughout the beginning months of school, many ARHS clubs and activities have taken place that supplement the school curriculum, including the 2019 Physics Olympics hosted by Yale University where a 4-person team of Amity seniors competed and placed 3rd in the “Angle Management” event. The debate team has begun competing; Junior State of America is planning for their fall state conference; the math team has begun to prepare for competitions, inductions for MuATH (Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society) and the inaugural induction for members of the Harold Freedman Chapter for English Honors (English Honor Society) has taken place. Each of these activities is based on advances, or highlights skills, taught and learned in Amity Regional High School classes.

2019 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge: AMSB and AMSO students participated in the 2019 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge and both Amity Middle Schools will be recognized for the outstanding quantity of students’ summer reading at a ceremony to be held at the Connecticut State Library.

Resources

Recognition and Thanks: Special recognition and thanks is given to Mr. Edward H. Karoll for his generous donations totaling \$48,684.41 to the Amity Regional School District No. 5-Bethany Memorial Scholarship Fund. Scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded to one male and one female Amity graduate who reside in Bethany and attended four years of study at ARHS.

2020-2021 Budget Preparations: Members of the Amity faculty and staff are working diligently to create a comprehensive, fiscally responsible budget for the 2020-2021 school year.

WYS Support: AMSB continues to work cooperatively with Woodbridge Youth Services, which hosted a “Back to School Blowout Party” for AMSB students on September 20th in the gym.

Security Offices Get Finishing Touch: The finishing touches have been put on all three new security offices. Countertops that were no longer being used were repurposed to provide custom storage and desk space in the security offices.

Climate

Sandy Hook Promise Partnership: Amity Regional School District No. 5 will be partnering with Sandy Hook Promise through a regional Department of Homeland Security Grant. This partnership will include two student programs – “Start with Hello” (Fall 2019) and “Say Something” (Fall 2020). It also includes a student suicide awareness and prevention extracurricular program – SAVE Promise – which will be implemented at each of our three schools during this fall and winter. Additionally, there is training for staff and students on “Signs of Suicide.” Identified Amity staff will participate in the training, which will then be rolled out to all faculty and students.

Link Crew 9th Grade Tailgate: On Friday, October 18th, the Link Crew held their annual “Freshman Tailgate,” where link crew leaders and 9th grade students had a cookout on the practice football field (adjacent to the main stadium) before the home football game. Students enjoyed hot dogs, drinks and chips while listening to music and playing games on the field. Afterwards, all 9th grade students and link crew leaders who attended the tailgate were invited to attend the game free of charge.

Intradistrict Girls’ Volleyball Game & Fundraiser: The AMSB Girls’ Volleyball team conducted a “Dig Pink” fundraiser at their game on October 10 vs. AMSO and raised \$400 to support the Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital.

AMSB PTSO 5K Color Run: The AMSB PTSO organized a 5K Color Run fundraiser on Saturday, October 5th and raised over \$2,000.

2019 Club Day: ARHS held the annual Club Day on Thursday, September 26th where over 90 student-led clubs were on display for members of the ARHS student body to browse. This fall tradition has a festival-like atmosphere and is a clear demonstration of the multitude of passions and interests of the ARHS student community.

Anti-Defamation League Presentation: AMSO 7th Grade students participated in Speak Up training by the Anti-Defamation League. Students were candid about both the strengths and the weaknesses regarding how students treat one another. Further discussions are being planned through advisory.

Transition Lunches at AMSO: Mrs. Burke and Mr. Holt have begun having lunch with small groups of 7th grade students. The casual conversations center on building rapport and getting student feedback regarding school activities and programs.

AMSO Parent Coffee: The AMSO administration had their first coffee and conversation with parents September 25th. The focus of the conversation centered on the transition to middle school. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback regarding the middle school program. Parent coffees are scheduled every other month and will focus on areas of interest based on parent input.

October 16th Special Programing: On October 16th, ARHS held the annual Pre-ACT (for 10th) and PSAT (for 11th) grade students during the morning hours (from 7:34-11:10am). Ninth grade students participated in a Link Crew activity focused around building relationships and a positive community and 12th grade students took their various class pictures and participated in two workshops: 1) sexual harassment and 2) financial literacy and preparedness for after high school. All grades attended the “Start with Hello” presentation from Sandy Hook Promise.