

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

November 5th Professional Learning Day: A full-day Professional Learning Day was held on November 5, 2019. Various activities were planned for participation by teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, and administrators. Teachers started their day with a district-wide presentation on components of the Teacher Evaluation Plan, followed by two separate sessions for Teacher-Led Facilitated Discussions, and choice Wellness activities. The afternoon was allocated to teachers to work on goals, professional focus topics, and evaluation reflection.

Portrait of the Graduate Conversations: During professional development time in October, the high school faculty discussed the transition to a district-wide Portrait of the Graduate and completed an initial activity to cross walk the current core values and beliefs with the current learning expectations. Initial responses are being collated and another conversation will take place in January as a follow-up conversation. In addition, high school administrators will have initial conversations with PTSO and student body members regarding the transition and how the current core values, beliefs, and learning expectations can help create a framework for the district Portrait of the Graduate.

AMSB Fall Musical: The AMSB Spartan Players presented Disney's *Aladdin Jr.*, November 8-10, 2019. Sixth grade students from BCS and BRS saw the performance at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2019. The Friday evening performance was also at a discounted price for AMSB students and staff, and included pizza, a drink, and a cookie.

Veteran's Day Program: On Monday, November 11, 2019, all 9th grade students participated in a Veteran's Day Assembly that was organized by social studies teachers Bob Catalde and Peter Downhour. The program consisted of a panel discussion with local veterans, some of whom attended Amity. In addition, Mr. Downhour set up a table in the cafeteria to highlight the veterans who are missing persons.

Curriculum and District Meetings: The November curriculum meetings for 7-12 content leaders and department chairs include TEAM (Module 5), Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), Social Studies, Music, and ELA. District meetings planned for November include District Reading, District Steering, District Wellness, District SRBI, and District Technology.

COLT Conference Participation: The entire AMSO Spanish team of teachers attended the COLT conference in October. This conference brought together World Language teachers from around the State to participate in a variety of workshops to enhance their instructions.

Resources

Computerized Middle School Honor Roll Calculations: Starting this school year, middle school honor roll calculation has been changed to a computerized system, eliminating the need for administrative assistants to review each report card by hand.

Student-Built Storage Shed: Current students in construction and engineering classes are actively working on addressing the storage-space shortage at ARHS by building a 12X24' shed in an area of the current parking lot. This shed will serve as a storage shed for athletic and other equipment.

BOWA Math Articulation: BOWA Curriculum Directors will meet on November 12, 2019 to discuss Math criteria for advancing students in all four districts.

Upgrades to AMSO Tech Ed Classroom: Eight computer tables were repurposed because they were no longer needed in a 1:1 school environment. The tables were used to upgrade the Technology Education classroom. The result was a more effective use of the space and easier access to classroom materials for students.

Climate

OBOA Fall Programing: Throughout this fall, the OBOA Committee has arranged for a series of conversations which have taken place in homeroom/Spartan Seminar groups. The focus was around the context, characters, plot, and issues presented in this year's all-school book, *Dear Evan Hansen*. The program culminated on Monday, November 4, 2019, when ARHS welcomed current Broadway star Gabby Carrubba, who stars as Zoe in the Broadway musical, *Dear Evan Hansen*. Gabby addressed a large portion of the high school student body in the Brady Center during 4th session and brought with her recent star Sky Lakota-Lynch, who played the role of Jarred through mid-October, 2019. The two actors shared their experiences of playing the characters and discussed how they actively work on caring for themselves while playing characters who are in turmoil. The pair also worked with current ARHS acting students during last session of the day in the Black Box Theater.

AMSB Be AMITY Pep Rally: AMSB held a Be AMITY pep rally assembly on October 31, 2019, which included a Halloween costume contest for scariest, funniest, most original, and best group; team-building competitions; and the recognition of the Be Amity "Accountability" Awards.

AMSB Climate Committee: The committee had its monthly meeting on October 22, 2019 in the media center. The purpose of the AMSB Climate Committee is to provide stakeholders in the school with an opportunity to discuss current trends and issues within the school community as well as implement programs and strategies to help improve the climate for all.

Sandy Hook Promise Program: The AMSB student council advisor and three AMSB students attended a Sandy Hook Promise workshop on October 23, 2019. There also was a school-wide assemble about the Sandy Hook Promise program on October 29, 2019. This presentation was specifically aimed at building empathy and empowering students to be advocates of including and inviting peers to be a part of the community.

AMSO Student Council Elections: AMSO held student council elections on November 4, 2019. The candidates running for office did a great job conveying their platforms. The student council is excited and looking forward to a great year.

Red Ribbon Week: AMSO students and staff celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 28 – November 1, 2019. Each day students discussed strategies to make positive, healthy choices while enjoying a school-wide spirit week.

Fabulous Friends Halloween: Mrs. Edward's class hosted the annual Fabulous Friends Halloween Party in the AMSO gym. Students from the high school and ACES were invited and enjoyed an afternoon of crafts and activities.

Halloween Spooktacular: Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany organized the annual evening Costume Party on October 25, 2019 at Amity Middle School Bethany – this event was well attended.

Pupil Services: During the first full week of November, the School Psychologists celebrated School Psychology Awareness Week. Unified Sports at the high school participated in a tournament at Shelton High School on November 7th. On November 5th, Pupil Services staff (School Psychologists, School Social Worker, School Counselors, and Special Education Teachers) participated in professional learning focused on transition services and risk assessment. Future *Office Hours with the Director* (7:30-8:30) are December 10th, January 8th, February 13th, March 3rd, April 24th, and May 26th.