

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – February 2020

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.

NEASC Report of Decennial Visiting Committee Released: The NEASC Decennial Visiting Team report was released to the ARHS community at the end of January. The next steps will be to work through the recommendations identified in the report and create a two-year and five-year improvement plan based on these recommendations. The report can be found here:

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1580144625/amityregion5org/m447tfjmsh9ei1hpdvsf/NEASCFinalReport-AmityRegionalSeniorHigh1-16-20.pdf>

Instruction

Pupil Services Updates: Unified Sports participated in a Unified Basketball Tournament at Foran High School in Milford on February 5, 2020. Over twenty athletes and their mentors participated. Staff from ARHS welcomed rising 9th grade parents to an informational session regarding Special Education at ARHS on February 4, 2020. A successful parent workshop was held with Laurie Markus and Kristen Berry. Over 25 members of families and Amity staff attended. Additionally, Pupil Service Directors from Amity, Woodbridge, and Orange were present. Our next parent workshop will be held in March. Future *Office Hours with the Director* (7:30-8:30) are February 13, March 3, April 24, and May 26, 2020.

Parent-Teacher Conferences in Amity: The final conference nights of the 2019-2020 school year are being held throughout February. ARHS held conferences on February 5, 2020 and the middle school conferences are on February 6 and 12, 2020.

ARHS Midterm Examinations: All students participated in midterm exams during the week of January 20th. Along with traditional exams, there were a variety of performance assessments given in various classes, including world language, culinary and visual and performing arts.

Science Research Presentations: On Wednesday, February 5, 2020, members of the Science Research Classes gave mock science fair presentations throughout the day in preparation for the upcoming CT State Science Fairs. Students will participate in the CT State Fair during the month of February.

Eighth Grade Orientation for 2020-2021 School Year: With the beginning of February, scheduling for next school year has begun! On Tuesday, February 4, 2020, the high school administration and building leadership team hosted over 600 parents and students of the class of 2024 to an orientation night which included a presentation from Ms. LaPlante, Ms. Mahon, and Mr. Goodwin; student-led tours of the building; and a “Program of Studies Fair” run by the department leaders and counselors.

Amity Middle School Outstanding Math Students: The AMSO Math Team competed at the regional Math Counts competition on February 1st. Three of our students scored in the top 15%

and are moving on to the State level competition in March. AMSB placed in third as a team and the overall first place competitor came from the AMSB team.

Geography Bee Winners: Eight students from AMSO and eight students from AMSB qualified to go to the final school round for the National Geography Bee. The winner of the school final will compete with students from around the state with the hope of moving on the State finals in March.

CAS Leadership Conference: Ten members of the AMSB student council attended the CAS Student Leadership Workshop at Trinity College on Friday, January 17, 2020. Four eighth grade students presented a workshop for other middle school students on ways the AMSB Student Council helps improve the school climate.

Classical Piano Assembly: Mr. Fragione arranged to have a classical piano assembly for all AMSB students on Wednesday, January 8, 2020. The pianists were Arianna & Robin Giesbrecht, from Classical Connecticut, a music organization that educates, entertains, and inspires.

Assembly & Awareness of Global & Local Issues: On January 30, 2020, all AMSB 7th grade students were treated to *Journey Into Africa*, an interactive dance and drumming program full of audience participation and focused on the traditional rhythms, songs, instruments, stories, and dances that are an integral part of everyday African life. This program tied into their reading of *A Long Walk to Water*, as well as the study of African geography and culture in social studies classes. The program also kicked off the Interdisciplinary Global Issues unit, in which all students will explore an issue impacting the modern world and propose solutions to the issue – culminating in the Global Issues Evening Expo on March 5, 2020.

Curriculum Meetings: Curriculum meetings for 7-12 content leaders and department chairs planned for February include the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), Social Studies, Music, Physical Education, and Health. District meetings planned for February include District Reading and District Steering.

District Professional Learning Minimum Day: February 14, 2020 is a professional learning day with students having an early dismissal in the afternoon. The focus of the professional learning session for all teachers will be the reflection process as part of the Amity Teacher Evaluation Plan. A RESC CREC consultant will provide training for all district paraeducators.

Readers Workshop Exploration: Mrs. Burke and Dr. McPadden have been visiting other DRG B schools who have implemented the Readers/Writers Workshop at the middle school level. Teachers will soon visit one of these districts to see the workshop model in action. These visits will be followed by joint content meetings with middle school reading consultants and ELA teachers to discuss the merits of the Readers/Writers Workshop Model in the middle schools.

Resources

Amity Enterprise: Thanks and recognition is extended to Mr. Rostowsky, CTE teacher at ARHS, and his students for the custom design and manufacture of metal target frames for the Woodbridge Police Department. We echo Chief Cappiello that this positive interaction strengthens the relationship between our organizations.

Partnership in Senior Lounge Renovation: The high school administration and the senior class are working collaboratively to refurbish the senior lounge. During the week of February 3rd, district maintenance staff removed old cabinetry and plumbing, and the senior class president will be working with other members of the class of 2020 to plan for redecorating and new furniture for future senior class students to enjoy.

STEAM Curriculum and Concepts: The BOWA STEAM Committee is working on a strategic plan to examine current evaluation and alignment of time spent in engaging STEAM curriculum and concepts in grades K-12.

AMSO Tools for Schools Update: The AMSO Tools for Schools committee met on February 5, 2020 to review the report regarding a recent building walkthrough. No major concerns were noted in the report. The Tools for Schools program seeks to monitor indoor air quality and address issues that impact the air quality within all our schools.

Climate

Narrative 4 Whole-School Story Exchange at ARHS: On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, the entire student body will participate in a story-exchange following the Narrative 4 format. The empathy and community building activity will take place through Spartan Seminar groups.

Diversity in Action Club: Four ARHS students from the Diversity in Action Club came to AMSB on the afternoon of January 23, 2020 to speak to the eighth grade students and conduct an activity. The Diversity in Action Club is committed to celebrating and embracing the ethnic/racial diversity of our student body and community.

AMSO Student Council Hosts Movie Night: The AMSO Student Council hosted a successful movie night. Students enjoyed spending time together on a Friday evening to watch *Home Alone*. The event raised over \$800 for the local homeless shelter.

AMSO Holds Fundraising Zumba Class: Team X is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Mariposa Foundation and support victims of the earthquake in Puerto Rico. AMSO students enjoyed some great physical activity and raised over \$300 for these worthy charities.

AMSO Advisories Reach Out to the Community: AMSO advisory groups continue to look for ways to give back to the community. Advisory projects currently underway include a dog and cat food drive for a local animal shelter and a mitten and glove drive for the Hamden Children's Center.

6th Grade Transition Meetings: There was a 6th grade transition meeting on January 28, 2020 with staff and administration from AMSB, BRS, and BCS to review the transition process for this year and to discuss the current performance of 7th grade students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL AMITY STEAM DAY ON MAY 27, 2020!

All Bethany – Orange – and Woodbridge fifth grade students are invited to attend this wonderful day and actively engage in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics activities.