

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – April 2021

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

CAS-CIAC Student Equity Advisory Board: Amity Regional High School is represented by Melinda Lu and Colby O'Connor on the CAS-CIAC Student Equity Advisory Board (SEAB). They recently participated in the [SEAB Video Project](#) and showcased the wisdom, courage, and hope of so many of our student athletes around the State of Connecticut.

Guided Study Program Initiative: The ARHS School Psychologists and Counseling Department have organized and begun a support program for students who are struggling academically or with engaging positively in school. Counselors nominated any students they feel would benefit from this program, which has been meeting from 1:00-3:00 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays throughout the month of April as a pilot. The program will continue for the month of May if participation and responses are positive.

Rotations Return to the Middle Schools: AMSO and AMSB students will resume rotating between classes. Allowing students to move from class to class provides students with physical activity as they transition between classes. The movement from class to class also provides a brain break and assists students in transitioning from one academic discipline to another. This is also excellent preparation for the expectations we will have for all students for the 2021-2022 school year.

Reader's Workshop Preparation: The middle school ELA teachers and reading consultants will meet for a joint meeting in April to continue discussing a group focus book: *A Novel Approach* by Kate Roberts. Other items for discussion will be the upcoming Readers Workshop training scheduled for May 12, 2021 and planning for summer curriculum writing.

SSLP/SIP Update: As of April 9, 2021, 235 members of the Class of 2021 have registered and begun the process of arranging for site placements/projects for the Senior Service Learning Program or Senior Interest Project. This is roughly 65% of the senior class.

Music Performance Returns to the Middle Schools: Students in band will once again begin to play instruments in school and students in choir will begin singing in class. The plan to return to allowing students to perform aligns with the most recent state guidelines and was approved by the Orange Health Department and Quinnipiack Valley Health District.

Nature's Classroom at AMSB: We are excited to be bringing Nature's Classroom to Amity Middle School Bethany this year for our 7th AND 8th graders! This in-school "field trip" will take place over several days in April and May for our 7th and 8th graders, separated by team.

Unified Sports: Unified Sports at ARHS is continuing in April with an event on April 20th focusing on events created by the Health Promotions class at ARHS. A special thank you to Wendy Carrafiello, Bernadette Schwartz, and Eric Rothbart for their work on this.

Amity Transition Academy Update: Students at Amity Transition Academy will return to community based vocational experiences the week of April 19th. The transition back to vocational experiences is being coordinated with our local health departments and the individual employers. Amity Transition Academy will be hosting a virtual open house on April 21, 2021.

Pupil Services Update: On April 9, 2021 the BOWA Directors and Coordinators of PPS met to continue their work regarding alignment and coordination of services. PPS Coordinator Kristi Bellara will be facilitating a BOWA wide Speech and Language meeting on April 26, 2021. As a group, BOWA PPS is looking to provide our related service providers increased non-evaluative clinical supervision meeting times. On April 8, 2021, Pupil Services Director Tom Brant co-facilitated a discussion regarding the School Psychology Guidelines during the School Psychology Communities of Practice hosted by the RESC Alliance.

District Meetings: District meetings scheduled for April include the District Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) and a joint District Wellness & District Health and Safety Committee.

Resources

Master Scheduling Approach: In an effort to make the most efficacious use of our resources, the ARHS administration team will work collaboratively with counselors and department chairs to create a master schedule that is built on student requests and needs. This may result in a shift in teaching assignments and sections.

Spring Professional Learning: The reimagined professional learning for Amity teachers was planned with successful facilitation on March 19, 2021. PDEC along with a smaller subcommittee of members organized a day that included groups working on various areas of inspiration. Each group shared a brief summary of their plan, project, and/or prototype. AMSB will continue their work and sharing on their make-up day in June.

BOWA Math Articulation: A BOWA Math Articulation meeting was held on April 6, 2021. All four districts had representation by superintendents, directors of curriculum, math specialists and math teachers. The focus of the meeting was to develop unified BOWA math placement criteria for placing students into seventh grade Advanced Math. A subcommittee with a representative from each district will meet to further discuss and plan the week following spring break.

Climate

The Amity Youth Survey 2021 will be administered to all students in grades 7, 9, and 11. The survey is given every two years, allowing for Amity administration to review cohort results and current behavioral trends across the grades taking the survey. The third administration of the survey is planned for May 2021. Once the data is completed, the full report will be shared with the Board of Education at a future date. Administration of the survey will be in collaboration with BOWDAAC. BOWDAAC is the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug and Alcohol Action Committee. Jessica Simone is the new Director of BOWDAAC and is working closely with Amity and the administration of the 2021 Amity Youth Survey.

ARHS End-Of-Year Celebrations: The student class councils, faculty advisors and administrators are actively working toward organizing and planning end-of-year celebrations for the Classes of 2021 and 2022. Preliminary plans for the Class of 2021 include senior class picnic, on-campus prom, in-person senior awards night, and graduation. Plans for the Class of 2022 include an end-of-year class celebration and more class-specific experiences for the 2021-2022 school year.

ARHS Student Created Video for Return to School: Students created a welcome-back video for the return to full in-person learning with contributions from faculty, administrators, and other students. The video was one of hope and continuous encouragement to fight the pandemic through mitigation strategies; this video was shared with the entire school community through newsletters that weekend.

Spring Sports Returns to the Middle Schools: Having successfully completed the winter basketball season, AMSO and AMSB students have begun their baseball, softball, track, and volleyball seasons. Each team has a full roster of students and is looking forward to competing with area middle schools.

Paraprofessional Appreciation Week: April 5-9, 2021 was Paraprofessional Appreciation week. We are grateful for our amazing 31 paraprofessionals in Amity! Additionally, this month our paraprofessionals completed training with ACES regarding courageous conversations and implicit bias.

Earth Day at AMSO: The AMSO community will be participating in an “Earth Day” celebration on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. This event will include activities such as gardening, school grounds clean up, backyard games, nature walks, birdhouse and picnic table construction, and more. The goal is to help beautify and maintain the surrounding environment and to educate students about the importance of preserving and protecting the condition of our planet.

AMSO launches Rays Box of Sock: Students on Team T created collection boxes to be distributed throughout the area to collect new socks for a local homeless shelter. Ray’s Box of Socks is a way students are choosing to give back to the community in honor of their teammate Ray Heenie.

AMSB Continues Celebrating the Small Things: AMSB continues to celebrate the small things by acknowledging fun “national days” with support from our PTSO. The students and staff recently celebrated National Tootsie Roll Day by handing out tootsie rolls, and the National Day of Laughter where the day was spent telling dad jokes over the PA system!