

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – May 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

Mandated State Assessments: During the first and second week of May, AMSO and AMSB will conduct the Smarter Balanced Assessment for students in grades seven and eight and the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment for students in grade eight. Students in grade eleven at ARHS will take the NGSS during the week of May 17, 2021.

SSLP/SIP: On May 17th, for the first time in two years, over 200 Amity seniors will leave the school halls and classrooms to explore possible careers or interests through our Senior Service Learning Program (SSLP) or Senior Interest Project (SIP). Placements for SSLP range from engineering firms and local businesses to early learning centers.

Field Trips Return to ARHS: In April, the AP Environmental Earth Science students participated in an off-campus walking field trip to the Wepawaug River at the Alice Newton Memorial Park Blue Trail System to complete a sampling survey lab from the streams. The purpose of this trip was to assess the wellbeing of the streams and ecosystems of the local forest.

Student Award Recognition Ceremonies: Throughout the months of May and June, ARHS students have been and will be recognized at school, local and state levels through various organizations, including the SCC Scholar Leaders, The CIAC Scholar Athletes, The CIAC Art Awards and the CT Law Day Program. Our students continue to demonstrate impressive skills!

Shakespeare Comes to Middle Schools: Students in AMSB and AMSO will participate in the Shakesperience workshop. This production is held to foster an appreciation of literature through live theatrical performances. Students participate in interactive workshops designed to enhance their understanding of the themes and life lessons presented in many of the works by Shakespeare that are still meaningful and relevant to life today.

Middle School Debate Team Goes to State Level Competition: Congratulations to members of the AMSO/AMSB debate team who will be participating in the online State level competition on May 22, 2021.

NASP School Safety and Crisis Preparedness PREPaRE Training: April 28 – 30, 2021, Amity School Social Workers, School Psychologist, and Pupil Personnel Services Director completed training in the NASP School Safety and Crisis Preparedness PREPaRE Curriculum. The district will be continuing to train mental health staff and administration in the PREPaRE Curriculum in the coming months.

Pupil Personnel Services Update: Middle School Special Education teachers are completing their yearlong professional development in high quality structured literacy instruction through CREC. Unified

Sports continues to take advantage of the nice weather and will be hosting an activity on May 12th. We are thankful for the hard work of our athletes, mentors and coaches!

District and Curriculum Articulation: District and Curriculum Articulation meetings scheduled for May include the District Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), District Steering Committee, ELA Curriculum Articulation, and a Joint Middle School meeting for ELA teachers and Reading Specialists.

Resources

BOWDAAC Youth Survey: All students in grades 7, 9, and 11 will be taking the online Youth Survey during the second week of May. The survey is administered every two years. The administration of the survey is being scheduled in partnership with the Alliance for Prevention and Wellness and the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug and Alcohol Action Committee (BOWDAAC). The goal of the survey is to learn about attitudes and behaviors about alcohol and other substance abuse. The results will also be instrumental in examining curriculum and instruction. New to the survey this year, is the inclusion of some Covid-19 related questions. A parent communication was sent on May 5, 2021. Survey results will be shared at a future BOE meeting once the data is complete.

GSP Pilot Program: Led by school psychologist Linda Decesare, the counseling department has staffed an after-instruction guided study program 3 days per week (T-Th) throughout the month of April for students who have been struggling academically or whose social/emotional difficulties have impacted their academics. Counselors, interventionists and peer tutors have stayed with these students from 1-3 in the cafeteria to work on academics and study skills.

AMSO Students Collect Bottle Caps: Students are continuing to collect bottle caps in support of efforts to preserve and care for local and worldwide water ecosystems. Students will work in collaboration with Sound Waters Education to collect another 1 million bottle caps to bring awareness to caring for our waterways.

Climate

Amity Gold Pen Awards: The Amity Gold Pen Awards recognition celebration was held on Thursday, May 6th at 2:45pm in the ARHS cafeteria. A teacher from each school has been chosen in recognition of their value to the Amity community! This is a truly significant award, honoring teachers chosen by their peers. The 2021 Gold Pen Award winners are:

- Andrea Drewry, AMSB Reading Consultant
- Eric Bacik, AMSO School Psychologist
- Vicki Hulse, ARHS Library Media Specialist

PRIDE Week: During the final week of April, the ARHS student organization PLAHD (People Leading Against Homophobic Discrimination) sponsored PRIDE week at ARHS where flags were presented around the high school and informational flyers were posted.

In-Person ARHS Unified Sports Returns: For the first time in over a year, ARHS Unified Sports had an in-person activity on Wednesday, April 28th where members of the Amity Advocates class served as partners for our athletes and arranged an obstacle/activity course by the pond. It was an awesome time for everyone involved!

Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremonies: The 2021 Stepping-Up Ceremony for AMSO Grade 8 will be held on June 7, 2021 beginning at 1:30pm and the commencement ceremony for the 8th graders of AMSB will be held on the same day at 4:00pm. Both ceremonies will be held at the Amity Regional High School lacrosse field with a rain location in the ARHS Main Gym. Appropriate protocols will be observed as we celebrate this milestone for our students and their families.

AMSB to Visit Holiday Hill: Due to the recent easing of COVID restrictions, the 8th graders of AMSB will be able to attend the annual class trip to Holiday Hill. The outdoor outing is sure to be filled with fun team building activities, and plenty of food.

AMSB 8th Grade Party: The PTSO and Woodbridge Youth Services are sponsoring an end of year celebration for our 8th graders on June 4, 2021 at 5:00 on the Woodbridge Green. There will be a DJ, food truck, and fun activities to celebrate a successful year.

AMSO 8th Grade Team Building Trip: AMSO students will celebrate the end of their middle school experience by participating in a variety of team building activities designed to encourage students to work collaboratively toward a common goal.

Woodbridge Youth Services Sponsors ADL Training: Selected students from the AMSB 7th and 8th grade will participate in the ADL Bystander to Ally training, sponsored by the Woodbridge Youth Services. This year, due to COVID restrictions, the training will be conducted virtually.

Teacher Appreciation Week ARHS: The first full week of May is National Teacher Appreciation Week. This year's celebration at ARHS followed the student-chosen theme of "Amity Teachers Help Us Grow." Students honored ARHS teachers with Wordles, posters and painted the rock at the campus entrance. The administration gave every educator a plant as a thank you for helping the school community grow through this very difficult year and the PTSO and AEA sponsored food activities.

Teacher Appreciation Week AMSB: This past week we celebrated our teachers at AMSB with several exciting treats for our staff. The PTSO sponsored the Ice Cream Emergency truck and served a wonderful lunch for our teachers. We also had a visit from the Caseus Cheese Truck and ended the week presenting our teachers with a small token of appreciation from the administration.

Teacher Appreciation Week AMSO: Our thanks to the AMSO PTSO for providing teachers and staff with a delicious lunch. Teachers also enjoyed surprises in the mailbox daily to satisfy their sweet tooth, encourage self-care and an active lifestyle.



One of Amity's CIAC Scholar Athletes - Allison Su – enjoying her pizza that Mrs. Mahon sent since they were unable to attend the traditional in-person dinner typically held at the Aqua Turf.



AP Environmental Earth Science students participated in an off-campus walking field trip to the Wepawaug River on the Blue Trail at the Alice Newton Memorial Park.