

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

Standardized State Testing Completed: Standardized State testing for Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Assessment were administered during the month of May. The SBA assessments were administered to students in grades 7 & 8 in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. The NGSS assessment was administered to students in grades 8 & 11 in Science. Amity had an average participation rate of 97% for SBA, 95% for 8th grade NGSS, and 96% for 11th grade NGSS (those numbers include remote and in-person learners).

10th Grade Career Fair Program: In lieu of an in-person career fair for 10th grade students, virtual interviews were conducted with Amity alumni and organized to be accessible to students during a special homeroom session in mid-May. The following message was sent to faculty/staff to also share with current students:

“We typically host a career fair for them each year which brings in local community members to talk about their careers. Due to COVID and restrictions, we had to go a different route. The use of Zoom has allowed us to open these [presentations](#) to a wider audience so we focused on Amity alums this year and are excited to present about 25 interviews with our former students. It's amazing to see what they are up to these days and get a chance to learn from them. They all mention the impact teachers and staff at Amity have had on their lives so I hope you can take some time to watch. It's another reminder what a difference you make in their lives every day.”

2021 AP Exam Administration: The Advanced Placement (AP) exam administration was altered this year to include both in-person and virtual testing. Despite the disruption, Amity Regional High School still had roughly 370 students who sat for over 700 exams. Huge thanks to the AP testing coordinators for managing the testing throughout the entire month of May.

AMSO End of Year Showcases: Several AMSO students shared their talents through virtual performances in June. The virtual presentations and performances highlight some of the outstanding work students did in the creative arts this year – including visual arts, musical performances, and the literacy magazine.

Reader's Workshop Implementation Continues: Middle School English Teachers and Reading Specialists will meet virtually on June 21 and 22, 2021 to continue Readers Workshop training. The focus of this training is to learn about the structure of the Workshop Model and to work collaboratively in preparation for summer curriculum writing. Andrea Drewry has been appointed as the middle school Literacy Coach for both AMSB and AMSO. Mrs. Drewry will provide Readers Workshop coaching to the ELA middle school teachers as part of the implementation of the Readers Workshop Model.

Hamden Adult Education Graduates: A virtual graduation was held on May 27, 2021 for 8 Amity students who successfully attended the Hamden Adult Education Program and attained their Amity Regional High School diploma. Dr. McPadden attended the virtual celebration.

AMSB Shakesperience: AMSB 8th graders all took part in the Shakesperience production on May 25, 2021. The students were able to be full participants in the event where they were the actors who helped literature come to life. The event connected the learning in the classroom to hands on activities and fun was had by all.

SAILS and Unified End of Year Round Up: Students from the middle school SAILS, high school SAILS, and Amity Transition Academy joined together for a day of field and vocational activities. Unified Sports celebrated a successful year with a final end of the year practice. Unified Sports was able to compete in several interscholastic activities throughout the school-year; our student athletes loved the ability to be with their peers!

ESSER II Summer School Programs: Plans are being finalized for several summer school programs supported by ESSER II Funding. These include programs for current 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, as well as free credit recovery programs for high school students. Additionally, a counseling support program for school reintegration for disengaged learners will be run throughout the summer and immediately prior to the start of school in August.

ARHS Counselors Visit Rising 8th Graders: During the final days of the school year, ARHS school counselors visited both middle schools to meet their incoming 8th graders, answer questions, and allow our Class of 2025 to put faces to the names of their counselors. The event, organized by Jill LaPlante and Eric Rothbart from ARHS, matched students with their future high school counselors and allowed for the sharing of information and student questions. These counselors will stay with their students for the next four years, and this meeting was a wonderful way to begin building the student-counselor connection.

Resources

Multi-Use of Parking Lot Tent: In order to prepare for end-of-year activities, the district provided a tent that was erected in June. We have been able to use it as a multi-functional space, holding both senior and junior proms, senior breakfast, and musical rehearsals and its anticipated shows in the tent throughout the month of June.

CSDE BSE Grant Awarded: The Pupil Services Department applied and was awarded a \$20,000 stipend through the CSDE BSE in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Targeted professional development is being planned to support mental health, school engagement, and reading supports/recovery as it relates to the pandemic. These stipend funds will be used to provide professional learning and clinical supervision to School Psychologists/Social Workers/School Counselors on Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) through a partnership with Dr. Rebecca Kamody at the Yale Child Study Center. Additionally, professional learning will be offered to staff on structured literacy with Dr. McCombes-Tolis from Fairfield University.

AMSO Repurposing Furniture: The AMSO is repurposing alternate seating in the media center to better utilize the additional space that was made available due the removal of outdated computer table bookcases that are no longer in use with the one-to-one device program. The additional space will be utilized to increase student collaboration across classes and teams.

Climate

End-of-Year In-Person Activities: Due to the hard work, organization and forward planning of many staff and students, we held many end-of-year activities that have become traditions at ARHS including: senior picnic at Holiday Hill, senior prom, junior prom, senior awards night (in person), the BOE recognition ceremony, senior breakfast, graduation rehearsals, the A.C.T. musical, and in-person graduation for the Class of 2021!

Diversity in Action Plaque Installation: On Monday, June 7, 2021, the Diversity in Action Club revealed the newly-mounted plaques at ARHS to display our commitment to inclusion and honoring diversity. The plaques are located at the entrance to the school in the vestibule and the rear athletic entrance.

AMSO Moving Up Ceremony: Congratulations to our 8th grade students for moving on to high school. The ceremony was held on the high school lacrosse field. We appreciate the PTSO for providing the decorations and water for our students.

AMSB Stepping Up Ceremony: The 8th graders of AMSB participated in a drive-up ceremony on June 7th after some last-minute changes. Though it was not the in-person ceremony that we all had hoped for, the event was well received and allowed for administrators and teachers to spend a few moments of reflection, laughter, and celebrations as we wished each student well on the next four years of their educational journey. Best wishes to the new Amity High School class of 2025!

8th Grade End of Year Treats from the AMSO PTSO: Thanks to the AMSO PTSO for purchasing Amity t-shirts and the school yearbook for every 8th grade student. These gifts made for a festive day as students enjoyed signing yearbooks while all wearing Amity gear.

June 2nd at AMSB: All 8th graders were welcome to participate in our annual trip to Holiday Hill. The staff and students had a wonderful day and beautiful weather to participate in games and outdoor events as they celebrated their hard work and kinship after a difficult year of school. All 7th grade students participated in a field day event at AMSB. This traditional way to celebrate all of the hard work students have put in over the year was a wonderful way to restore some normalcy for students. The class had a series of events that were organized by the teachers and helped to build teamwork and communications skills.

Supportive End-of-Year Song Parodies: As a result of the March professional learning day, ARHS teachers Michael Cofrancesco and Deb Demeo created two versions of the song “I Will Survive” (originally sung by Gloria Gaynor): one for seniors and one for [faculty/staff](#).

ACT Summer Camp Runs Again: The Amity Theatre Camp is in the process of registering students who would like to participate for an exciting program of theatre, song, and dance this summer.

May Development Day-Link Crew: For the first time in 2 years the newly elected Link Crew Leaders were able to complete an in-person initial day of training called “May Development Day.” This offers the leaders a chance to participate in ice breakers and get to know each other through the lens of being leaders together. Their formal training will take place in August prior to the official Link Crew Welcome for incoming 9th graders on August 27, 2021.



Diversity in Action Plaque Installation – June 7, 2021