

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

Welcome to 2021-2022: AMSO is looking forward to welcoming 350 students back to school for the 2021-2022 school year. AMSO students received their schedules and bus information on Monday, August 16, 2021. The staff of AMSB is looking forward to welcoming 350 students back to school for the 2021-2022 school year, including our 160 new to Amity 7th graders. AMSB student schedules were also released on August 16, 2021 and can be used during tours as students navigate the halls. The ARHS Link Crew will welcome the class of 2025 in its annual full, in-person Link Crew Orientation Day on Friday, August 27, 2021.

Reader's Workshop Professional Learning: Consultant Maggie Roberts provided Middle School ELA Teachers and Reading Specialists virtual training in the Readers Workshop Model for two full-days in June. The focus of this training was to learn about the structure of the Workshop Model and to work collaboratively in preparation for summer curriculum writing. The group designed the Launching Unit and lesson plans for the beginning of the new school year. Books continue to arrive for our Readers Workshop and bookcases are filling up with novels just waiting to be read.

Summer School Success: As part of the federal grant monies that were provided to school districts to respond to issues presented by COVID, the Amity Regional School District operated a summer program for students in need of a boost of academics. Programs for rising 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students were provided in-person for 4 days per week through the month of July. Instruction in reading, writing, math, and science was provided in a small class setting. Supported credit recovery was offered to rising 10th – 12th grade students.

Extended School Year: From July 6th to August 6th, Amity provided Extended School Year services to nearly 70 students. We recognize and thank all of the staff who worked tirelessly to make ESY a success. For identified incoming seventh grade students, this was their first experience at Amity and the staff went above and beyond to make the entire experience a positive one. It would be remiss if we did not thank B & B Transportation for all their hard work in ensuring timely and accurate transportation of our students.

ATA Graduation: Amity Transition Academy will be hosting their first annual graduation celebration on Friday, August 27, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. We will be honoring six students who are aging or aged out of the Academy between July 1, 2021 and January 31, 2022.

ARHS Building Leadership Team Summer Meeting: In early July, the high school department chairs, content leaders and administration met to review aspects of the 2020-2021 school year and map out plans for the coming year, including curricular revisions, piloting the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate,

incorporating restorative practices into classroom practices and various logistics regarding the upcoming school year.

Social Studies Articulation: The Social Studies Content Leaders, Department Chair, and Dr. McPadden attended a Social Studies Curriculum Articulation meeting on August 9, 2021. A variety of topics were discussed including scheduling time for 7-12 teachers to review resources provided at the various anti-racist professional learning over the summer. These workshops included *Attack on Anti-Racist Education in Connecticut*, a panel discussion facilitated by Daniel HoSang from Yale University; *Diversity and Inclusion Conference* through University of Missouri Columbia; and *Educational Equity Summit: Learning and Leading for Systemic Racial and Social Justice* sponsored by The Connecticut Association of Schools and The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. Ms. Anna Mahon, Ms. LeeAnn Browett, and Ms. Tasia Kimball, as well as Amity student Melinda Lu, were invited to be panelists at the latter.

Resources

Thanks to the Custodial and Maintenance Staff: Thank you to our custodial and maintenance staff for all of the hard work and preparation in getting both buildings and grounds ready for the 2021-2022 school year. Your hard work is noticed!

ATA Back on Campus: Amity Transition Academy will be returning full-time to Albertus Magnus College starting August 30th. Additionally, we are working with the University of New Haven to secure classroom space to provide additional opportunities for our students and meet the needs of our growing transition academy.

Supporting Beecher Road School: We would like to thank our School Psychologists and School Social Workers who volunteered their time at the end of last school-year to support Woodbridge Public Schools during a significant mental health need.

Preparing for Reader's Workshop: Andrea Drewry, Literacy Coach for both AMSB and AMSO, spent several days this summer organizing book orders, bookcases, and resources in both middle schools. High school volunteers seeking community service hours were busy at work organizing book bins and stamping books for the implementation of Readers Workshop in the middle schools.

Climate

No Place for Hate: Members of the high school community (teachers, students and administrators) have met with Michelle Pincince from the ADL to learn about the *No Place for Hate* designation to continue our work in creating a more equitable and just school climate. According to the website, *No Place for Hate* is an initiative that helps school community members work toward "combating bias and bullying as a means to stop the escalation of hate." The organization of this work will begin in early fall.

CT School Psych of the Year: Congratulations to Mr. Eric Bacik, School Psychologist at AMSB (formally at AMSO) who was named School Psychologist of the Year by the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists. Mr. Bacik was presented his award on July 23, 2021 in front of family, friends, and colleagues. Mr. Bacik will be the official nomination from the State of Connecticut for the National School Psychologist of the Year award.

AMSO Welcomes New 7th Grade Students: The AMSO device pick-up is August 17, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 pm. In addition to the device pick-up, students can have a "mini-tour" of the building and practice opening their lockers. A parent information session to introduce the middle school model will be presented in the gymnasium. To round out the evening, Orange Youth Services sponsored an ice cream social to welcome the students back to school.

AMSB Device Pick Up: The AMSB device pick-up is August 18, 2021 from 5:30-7:30 pm. In addition to the device pick-up, students can have a “mini-tour” of the building that will be led by 8th grade student volunteers.

In-Person Adult Education Resumes: A variety of summer classes for adult learners offered through the Amity Adult Education Program were well attended. The Amity Summer Theatre Camp was also in full swing after not being able to provide the camp due to COVID during the 2020 summer months. Our Director of Adult Education, Mr. Phil Dolan, is busy working on a fall schedule, including bus trips offered by Hamden Adult Education and Valley Regional Adult Education.