

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Amity Community -

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the summer and time off from school. From the emails and letters I have received, you have many questions about the upcoming school year. At this time, we are still waiting for guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and CT Department of Public Health (DPH). However, I can share limited information about what you can anticipate for next school year. As with all plans for the past year, these are subject to change based on further guidance from CSDE, DPH, local health district, executive orders, and/or changes in health metrics in the region. For the 2021-2022 school year:

- All students will return to full in-person, full days of school. This includes Amity Regional High School returning students for a full day of instruction.
- Free lunch will be available to all students for the entire school year.
- Free breakfast will be provided at the high school before school and during morning study halls; grab and go breakfasts will be provided (free) to middle school students at the end of each school day.
- Middle school students will not be required to cohort for the next school year. Middle schools will return to their pre-COVID model of rotating and mixed classes.

At this time, the CSDE and DPH are working on developing the guidelines for masking/face coverings in schools. While anticipated, these guidelines are still in a development phase. The Amity Regional School District will adhere to those guidelines once set by the State of Connecticut.

The State Department of Education and the Department of Public Health have made it clear that vaccinations are the best strategy for returning schools to normal operations. ***Vaccinated students and staff will not be required to quarantine*** if they are identified as a close contact of a COVID index case. ***In order for a student to be fully vaccinated by the first day of school, a student must receive their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine no later than July 25, 2021.***

We will continue to work on our reopening plans as we receive information from the state. I look forward to sharing these updates as they come and until then, wish you all well.

Sincerely,

Jenn Byars