



Superintendent's Report – January 2022

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

Visual and Performing Arts Showcases: As part of the instruction and assessment experience, students in visual and performing arts classes are afforded the opportunity to showcase their work and talents throughout the school. During the month of December, many visual arts displays have been arranged and presented in the hallways of the high school. Additionally, all of the performing arts programs— theater, choir, orchestra, and symphony—held performances during December. These experiences offer students authentic opportunities in the visual and performing arts realms.

Upcoming Midterm Exam Period: For the first time in 2 years, ARHS will hold midterm exams during the week of January 18th. During this time, students will be assessed on the material and content covered throughout the first semester. This is an important part of the comprehensive high school experience as it helps students exercise many dispositions exhibited in the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate, including learning how to best prepare for comprehensive exams, be organized, plan their preparation, and collaborate with peers in the preparation process.

Junior Planning Night: The ARHS Counseling Department held the annual Junior Planning Night via Zoom on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. This is the annual kick off for 11th grade students and their guardians/parents to the post-secondary planning process, specifically focused on the college application and admissions process.

Parent Teacher Conferences: Parent teacher conferences for the middle schools will be held on February 3, 2022 (in person) and February 9, 2022 (remote). Both conference sessions will begin at 5:00 and will conclude at 7:30. Signups through PowerSchool will be open soon.

AMSB In-Class Activities: The technology classes recently tested their water-powered rockets under the direction of Mr. Berean. The activity was a culmination of weeks of work, studying the physics of aerodynamics and propulsion. The 8th grade is just finishing their electricity labs. These engaging lessons took place over the past few weeks and introduced students to the physics of electricity.

Internet Safety Presentation: Officer Scott Driscoll will be at AMSB on January 31, 2022. He will deliver a presentation to the 7th and 8th grade students on internet safety and creating a thoughtful digital footprint.

AMSO Drama Club: Auditions were held for this year's production of Mary Poppins Jr. Over 50 students will be participating in the show this year. The play is scheduled to open on March 18, 2022.

Orange SROs Internet Safety Presentation: AMSO students attended an internet safety presentation by AMSO School Resource Officers Detective Bailey and Detective Knepper. The presentation provided students with information on how to stay safe while navigating the digital world. To complement the student workshop, and encourage continued conversation at home, an online parent webinar with Detective Bailey and Detective Nepper was held on January 6, 2022. The webinar provided parents with information on the latest trends on social media and tips on how to encourage responsible behavior while online.

January Professional Learning Planning: Planning for the January 13, 2022, minimum-day for professional learning will include various training sessions for the afternoon. A session with Dr. David Schroder, University of New Haven Professor, will provide *Training Diverse Populations* for members of PDEC, Middle School Advisory Leaders, and Spartan Seminar Leaders. The District Crisis Team will complete the online National Incident Management System Training (NIMS). There will be a session for teachers focused on social emotional awareness through collegial conversations on the impact of teaching and learning through the pandemic. Strategies and ideas will be shared by members in each group.

District Committees & Meetings: Curriculum Articulation meetings scheduled for January include District Reading and Joint English Language Arts (ELA). District meetings scheduled for January include District Technology, District Steering, Professional Development, and Evaluation Committee (PDEC), Scientific Research-Based Interventions Committee (SRBI), and District Wellness. On January 12, 2022, ACES Curriculum Council will provide information on the new CSDE mandated elective course for the African American/Black Latino/Puerto Rican course.

Resources

State to Implement New IEP: Staff from all three buildings will begin weekly virtual training on the new Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and writing high quality IEPs. The training sessions are 90 minutes duration, beginning on January 12, 2022, and running for 8 consecutive weeks. The training is funded by the Connecticut State Department of Education and provided in partnership with SERC and the RESC Alliance will support the implementation of the new IEP and Connecticut Special Education Data System (CT-SEDS) on July 1, 2022.

Teacher Coverage: Thank you to the many members of the Amity staff who have stepped up to help cover in the week after break so that we could keep our schools open, continue to support our students, and conduct school in a safe and efficient manner. Your work and collegiality is appreciated!

Green School Initiative: As part of an effort to support to bring food waste collection and composting in school, the ARHS Environmental Club is working to partner with a local food usage agency, Haven's Harvest, to gather and donate leftover and unused food from lunch waves. We are hoping to begin this effort during the 2nd semester of this school year.

ATA Appreciation: Thank you to Albertus Magnus University for allowing our program at the University of New Haven-Orange to temporarily relocate to the Albertus Magnus campus. Our University partners have provided outstanding accommodations and job opportunities for our students throughout this school-year.

Climate

Link Crew Cocoa and Cram: We are excited to have the annual Link Crew Cocoa and Cram program available for 9th grade students to help acclimate and prepare them for midterm exams. This event will take place on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 in the high school cafeteria.

NHS Exam Prep for Sophomores: In an effort to help support the 10th grade students, who have never taken high school exams, the National Honors Society will be running study sessions after school the week before midterms. This is open to all 10th grade students.

8th Grade Parent Night: The 8th grade parent night at ARHS is scheduled for January 28, 2022 at 6:00pm. We encourage all of our middle school parents to attend this evening and learn about all that Amity High School has to offer our students.

Signs of Suicide Assessment: Amity Middle Schools will participate in the signs of suicide assessment. This will be done in early January for 7th grade and early February for 8th graders. The assessments is conducted in an effort to identify any support students may need, and connect those students to the resources that we have available at Amity and in our community.

Leo Club Donations: The ARHS Leo Club collected over 1000 food donations for holiday basket donations this holiday season.

Middle School Winter Sports: The middle school basketball teams are off to a great start. The student turnout for home games has been excellent and the Amity Athletics spirit is alive and well in our middle schools. We are looking forward to the intradistrict game of AMSB against AMSO.

Spirit Week: The week prior to break was full of spirit at AMSB as students and staff took part in our spirit week. Students and staff participated by wearing funny outfits, dressing like a teacher for the day, wearing team colors, and the always favorite pajama day! AMSO students and staff showed their school spirit December 20-23, 2021. Students enjoyed wearing pajamas, showing off their holiday sweaters and ending the week wearing their Amity gear.

PTSO at AMSB: Many thanks to the AMSB PTSO for the snacks and hot cocoa prior to the winter break! The students took a few moments to pick up a special snack and some hot chocolate on the day before break and spent a few moments outside talking with friends and enjoying a treat before getting back to work!

Amity Orange PTSO: Our thanks to the PTSO for providing delicious treats and beverages for the AMSO holiday luncheon. Their support and kindness is very much appreciated.