

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
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Superintendent's Report – March 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.

March is National School Board Member Appreciation Month. Please know that our entire Amity Community appreciates the efforts you make on behalf of our students. You work with heart and heads and always consider what is best for kids. I know this role takes time and effort and I say thank you for all you give.

Instruction

SSLP/SIP Preparation: This year's SSLP/SIP is shaping up to be a great success, with 333 seniors currently enrolled in one of the two programs (328 for SSLP and 5 for SIP). The total enrollment for the Class of 2022 is 375. Seniors will spend the state SAT day of March 23, 2022 finalizing their paperwork and site placements. All final paperwork is due on March 24, 2022.

CT-STEM Fair: The Connecticut STEM Fair was held virtually during the second half of February and Amity students came away with 13 wins, more than any other school that participated. Science Research Program (SRP) students took at least one, if not two, places in every category that we competed in. Amity students swept the behavioral category and earned all four sponsorships to CSEF, the next level fair. This is both exciting and impressive as the fair severely limited the number of participants this year due to COVID. Congratulations to Ms. Piscitelli, Mr. Shamp, and all of their students.

2022 Scholastic Award Winners: Every year Amity High School enters the CT Scholastic Art Awards competition. Students in grades 7-12 can submit a selection of works in different categories. There are single artwork submissions and portfolio submission opportunities for each school as well. We are proud of the great work accomplished this year by Amity students.

2022-2023 Enrollment: Course selection for 7th and 8th grade students is underway. Students are working in collaboration with their teachers, counselors, and parents to begin planning for next year.

Lessons on Time Management: AMSO 7th grade students took part in time management lessons presented by their guidance counselor. The lesson included a variety of strategies designed to encourage students to set priorities and take on more responsibility in managing their busy schedules.

AMSB Fiber Arts Project: The AMSB 8th grade students participated in the Fiber Arts project in Social Studies classes on March 7-8, 2022. This interdisciplinary project gave students the opportunity to participate in cultural exploration and help them to gain historical perspective.

Global Studies Fair: The AMSB 7th grade students have been participating in the interdisciplinary, cross-team, global studies project in English and Social Studies classes over the past month. Students were challenged with identifying and researching a global issue and proposing a solution to that issue. Their work culminated on March 10, 2022, with an annual poster presentation symposium.

Resources

Virtual Field Trips: As a result of the pandemic, some organizations are continuing with previously-scheduled programming, but through a remote platform. This type of access, including local science fairs and field trip opportunities, allows our school to participate without the cost of bussing and other expenditures that are associated with an in-person field trip experience.

CSDE Training on IEPs: Identified Special Education and Related Services staff across the district recently completed 9 weeks of training provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) in writing high quality IEPs.

New Mandated State IEP System Coming Soon: State funded training in the new CT-SEDs program will begin in July and continue into the start of the school year. Amity has been allocated 10 spots for a Trainers of Trainer model.

Amity Staff Attends NASP Convention: School Psychologists across the district recently attended the NASP Annual Convention in Boston. Joining the over 3800 school psychologists in attendance, Amity staff will use the information learned to provide professional development and improved comprehensive mental health and assessment services.

Private School Accreditation: Mr. Brant was part of an accreditation team that recently completed an accreditation visit to Cedarhurst School. Participation in this process is highly encouraged by the CSDE and allows for Public School Pupil Services Directors to provide feedback to approved private schools.

Climate

Unified Sports Basketball Tournament: We hosted an incredibly successful Unified Sports Basketball Tournament on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 with AMSO, Milford Public Schools, and Shelton High School. Multiple ARHS winter teams came out to support their peers on the Amity Unified Team and cheered for all of the athletes competing from all schools. It was an amazing afternoon for everyone!

OBOA Trivia Night: On Friday, March 4, 2022, OBOA hosted the third annual trivia night. Multiple teams of students, faculty, and family members/parents participated in this event.

Amity Regional High School Advances to “Sweet 16” Round of IPPF Global Debate Competition: Debate teams from around the world entered the 2021-2022 International Public Policy Forum (IPPF) Competition, but only 16 remain – including a team of students from Amity Regional High School. These students analyzed and debated the role of the United States dollar in the world economy. The 16 teams that remain will compete in another written round of debates – in hopes of advancing to the IPPF Finals in New York City. Amity advanced over teams from Greenwich, CT and New Dehli, India to reach the “Sweet 16.”

Amity Investing Team Advances: The Amity Investing Team has been chosen as one of 50 teams among 1300 to advance to the semifinals of the 2021-2022 Wharton Global High School Investment Competition! Top teams will compete virtually in the semifinals in March 2022 to determine which 10 teams will move on to the Global Finale in April.

Signs of Suicide (SOS): SOS was completed over the last two weeks at ARHS through 9th grade Health & PE classes. 311 students were screened, and 49 students were immediately supported.

Say Something Program: On March 22, 2022, students from both AMSB and AMSO will participate in a virtual program presented by Sandy Hook Promise. The “Say Something” program teaches students in grades 6-12 how to recognize signs & signals - especially on social media - from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others. “Say Something” also teaches them how and why to go to a trusted

adult to get help. This is a live presentation and all students from both middle schools will participate simultaneously.

AMSO Open House: AMSO held its Open House for incoming 7th grade students on March 10, 2022. This in-person program welcomed new and returning families to Amity. Parents were introduced to the middle school program, received information about registration and got the opportunity to ask staff members questions on the transition to middle school.

AMSB Parent Orientation Night: On March 1, 2022, AMSB held the rising 6th grade parent orientation program at AMSB and welcomed our incoming 7th grade families to the Amity School District. This was the first in person parent event in the past two years and was very well attended. Staff shared the important information needed to ease the transition to middle school and student volunteers shared thoughts and ideas with our incoming parents.

Ray's Box of Sox Drive: AMSO 8th grade students are demonstrating empathy and supporting the community in the 2nd annual Ray's Box of Sox drive. Students are collecting socks in honor of a former AMSO student who passed away last year. Collection boxes have been distributed throughout the Amity Region 5 community. The students hope to collect 1200 pairs of socks to donate to local shelters.

March Madness at AMSB: March 14-17, 2022, AMSB will be celebrating March Madness with a themed spirit week. On Monday, we will celebrate Pi Day with a pep rally and a treat from the PTSO. Tuesday students are encouraged to wear college swag to rep their favorite March Madness team followed by a basketball knockout tournament after school. Wednesday students are encouraged to wear a tee shirt for their favorite band/artist and we will play Name that Tune over the PA during passing times. On Thursday, we will all wear our green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

Virtual Special Education Informational Meetings: Virtual Special Education informational meetings have occurred or will be occurring at each of our middle schools for incoming 7th grade families. The general informational meetings will be recorded and emailed home to incoming families as well.