

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – April 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

March 23rd Special Programming Day: Our SAT/Pre-ACT testing went extremely well in large part as a result of the practice session on March 11th. Sophomores and juniors were focused throughout the testing. Ninth grade students actively participated in the workshops based around our No Place for Hate efforts and had the opportunity to discuss and reflect on their own strengths as members of our school community. Seniors completed their preparations for SSLP/SIP/post-graduation. The day was a resounding success!

2022-2023 Scheduling Process: As a follow-up to last month's presentation to the BOE regarding scheduling, the process for scheduling the 2022-2023 school year is fully underway as the administrators, department chairs and counselors review requests, identify section numbers, and begin to run the master schedule in PowerSchool. The master schedule is predicated on student requests and is a reflection of our commitment to supporting students as they work to emulate the characteristics outlined in the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate.

Journey into Africa: On March 30, 2022, AMSB seventh grade students were treated to a presentation from the Journey into Africa program. The presentation introduced students to the art of African storytelling as a manner to preserve and retell history of the African people. They discussed the cultural importance of and connection to storytelling and music. The presentation ended with a demonstration of music and incorporated student participation in a drumming circle.

AMSO Spring Student Clubs: The AMSO Video Production Club, sponsored by the Jamie Hulley Foundation, began meeting at the end of March. The club gives students the opportunity to write, direct, act, and produce a short film. Students are excited to learn the introductory aspects of making a film from start to finish. The AMSO Farm and Garden Club has started work in the greenhouse. Students have begun planting a variety of seeds for flowering plants to be used to fill the planters in the front of the building.

AMSO Career Fair: AMSO students attended the Career Fair on March 25, 2022. Over 30 presenters from a wide variety of occupations came together to share information about their workplace, their job, and the education and skills that are needed for success in their career. Students enjoyed many hands-on, interactive displays that helped connect what they are learning in school with the workplace.

AMSB Spring Concert: The AMSB Spring Concert will be held on May 5, 2022. AMSB students and staff are hard at work preparing the songs and performances that will make this event special. Due to the number of students and expected attendees, we will follow a similar format to the winter concert and perform the choir and band concerts separately, but on the same evening.

AMSO Solo and Small Ensemble Concert: The Solo and Small Ensemble Concert took place at AMSO on March 25, 2022. The students had the opportunity to showcase their talents performing music of their choice for their families and friends.

News from ATA: Amity Transition Academy-Albertus Magnus campus hosted the winter basketball tournament at Albertus Magnus College. Amity Transition Academy-UNH, Milford Public Schools, Hamden Transition Academy, and North Branford Public Schools all participated in the two hour event. A special thank you to Tricia Fitzgerald and Alyssa Kopjanski for planning the event and to our partners at Albertus Magnus College. The ability for our students to access their athletic training facilities is greatly appreciated!

SAILS and Spartan Prep Updates: Students in the 7-8 SAILS program participated in a community outing to a local store and restaurant. Students use this opportunity to work on their financial literacy, socialization, and daily living skills. Students and staff in the 7-8 Spartan Prep program are continuing their work towards running a small dog treat business. This allows students to work on key academic skills through a real-world application.

Instructional Meetings: Curriculum Articulation meetings held in the last month included Reading. Additionally, the consultant for Reader's Workshop, Maggie Roberts, spent a day coaching and modeling the Reader's Workshop implementation at our middle schools. District meetings held this past month include District Steering and the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate committee.

Steam Day Returns: Back from a two-year hiatus, the Amity STEAM Day is making its return for a fifth year on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. All Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge fifth grade students are invited to attend this wonderful day and actively engage in Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics activities.

Resources

Joint PTSO Meeting: There will be a joint PTSO meeting on April 21, 2022 at 6:00pm in the District Presentation Room. A presentation on the 2022-2023 BOE Proposed Budget will be shared with parents, teachers, and students from ARHS, AMSB, and AMSO. An option to attend virtually through the ARHS PTSO will also be provided.

IPPF Finals Invite: Members of the ARHS Debate Team have advanced to the "Elite 8" round of the 2021-22 Brewer Foundation/New York University International Public Policy Forum! Our team is now invited to compete in oral debates in New York City during IPPF Finals Weekend, April 29-May 1, 2022. This is an all-expense paid trip to the city and an amazing opportunity for our ARHS students.

Pupil Services Professional Learning: Jaime Guthrie, Pupil Services and Title IX Coordinator, continued her professional learning in the area of Title IX and School Expulsions through a webinar presented by Pullman and Comley, LLC. Tom Brant, Pupil Services Director, participated in a three day Regional Leadership Meeting focused on Multicultural Organizational Development (MCOD)--Looking Through an Equity Lens into the Heart of your Organization's Operations and Strategic Initiatives. Mr. Brant was joined at the leadership meetings by over 200 educators from across the United States and Puerto Rico.

Climate

ARHS Support of Ukraine: The ARHS Community continues to bring awareness to the crisis in Ukraine not only through in-school fundraising (as mentioned by our student representatives last month), but also through Spartan Seminar. The focus of the March 30th Spartan Seminar was stories of courage from Ukraine and the reminder that, in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, we all have the potential for resilience and strength.

Support of Ramadan Observation: As part of our continuous effort to support our students and school community, those students who are observing Ramadan are offered an alternative setting during their scheduled lunch times (library or career center). Teachers have also been reminded to be cognizant of students who may have familial or religious commitments during this month of observance.

“Say Something” Program: On March 22, 2022, students from both AMSB and AMSO participated in a virtual program presented by Sandy Hook Promise. The “Say Something” program teaches youths and teens, 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 students how and why to go to a trusted adult to get help. This was a live presentation with students from both middle schools participating simultaneously.

AMSB School-Wide Field Trip: AMSB is taking a school-wide field trip on April 5, 2022 to watch a Bridgeport Islanders hockey game and support their peers, the AMSB choir students, who will be singing *God Bless America* at the opening of the game.

AMSO Messages of Support: AMSO students wrote messages of support for the people of the Ukraine and for the members of our community who have family members in the Ukraine. The activity facilitated conversation around the conflict in social studies classes.

Spartan Academy Makes the News: Congratulations to the staff and students of Spartan Academy which were featured on WFSB regarding the apiary program. The clip can be viewed here: <https://www.wfsb.com/2022/03/21/bees-begin-pollinate/>.