

# AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

*Bethany Orange Woodbridge*  
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Superintendent of Schools

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## Superintendent's Report – May 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.

**May 2 – May 6, 2022 was Teacher Appreciation Week. Many thanks to the PTSO's and school administrators for their work to show the Amity teachers and staff how much they appreciate them.**

*"A teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart." – Unknown*

### Instruction

**Mandated State Assessments and Advanced Placement Testing:** During the first three weeks of May, AMSO and AMSB will conduct the Smarter Balanced Assessment for students in grades seven and eight and the Next Generation Science Standards Assessment for students in grade eight. ARHS juniors will take the NGSS during the week of May 16, 2022. Additionally, during the first two weeks of May, students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes had the opportunity to take their AP exams. ARHS sponsored Advanced Placement tests in 28 subjects. Results will be available this summer.

**April Professional Learning:** April 28, 2022, minimum-day for professional learning, included a diverse offering of professional learning opportunities for our teachers. Teachers interested in the early adoption of the new learning management system, Schoology, were able to begin the set up and implementation for the school year 2022-2023. The District Crisis Team and additional support staff (teachers, counselors, security guards, social workers, psychologists, and administrators) participated in PREPaRE training. This was an opportunity for the district level team to review current All Hazard Plans for each school and our response plans. The day also provided a chance for reflection and areas for development. Training continues this June with three additional days of PREPaRE training. The remaining teachers worked in small groups both in person and/or through zoom reflecting on vertical articulation. This was an opportunity for the sending and receiving teachers to reflect on curriculum and student achievement. It also afforded some of our teachers with an opportunity to work with our sending districts (Orange, Bethany, and Woodbridge elementary schools) as well. Continued opportunities for this are anticipated. Paraprofessionals across the school district received training in signs of drug use, abuse, and NARCAN administration. The training was presented by Alliance for Prevention and Wellness, the Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) serving the South-Central Region of Connecticut.

**ARHS Continues Success at Local Science Fairs:** Members of the Science Research Program continue to have success at various science fair competitions, including University of Bridgeport and Norwalk Science Fair in April.

**AMSO Discovers Amistad:** AMSO 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies classes took part in a presentation by Discovering Amistad. Students explored the culture of the Mende people of Sierra Leone, the significant

connections between geography and West African culture, and the importance of traditional music and oral history in the African diaspora. AMSO 8<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to explore local connections to “issues of freedom and slavery, oppression and empowerment and the achievement of justice.” The presentation on the trans-Atlantic slave trade focused on the Amistad Africans, the Amistad Rebellion, and the legacy of resistance.

**AMSB Boston Trip:** On May 23, 2022, AMSB 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be attending a trip to Boston to participate in a walk along the Freedom Trail, dining for lunch at the Hard Rock Café, and touring of Fenway Park. In lieu of overnight field trips, students in both grades 7 and 8 have participated in day-long field trips this school year.

**AMSB Music Adjudication:** Both Amity middle schools bands, choirs, and strings ensembles will be participating in adjudication on June 1, 2022. The Music Departments will then take their annual field trip to Six Flags Amusement Park following the adjudication.

**IPPF Elite 8 Competition:** Members of the ARHS Debate Team spent the weekend of April 29, 2022 in NYC as part of the International Policy and Planning Federation elite 8 finals. The team won their first debate and advanced into the semifinals as the top 4 teams. They did not advance into the finals, but still won \$2000 for the Amity Debate Team!!

**SAILS to Visit Beardsley Zoo:** Students in the 9-12 SAILS program are preparing for their field trip to the Beardsley Zoo where they will continue their adaptive coursework into community experiences.

**AMSO Farm and Garden Club:** The AMSO Farm and Garden Club is in full swing. The colorful spring garden at the main entrance was planted by the club in the fall. Students are growing vegetables and flowers in the greenhouse to be planted around the school. Students will also fill the planters in the front of the building with home grown flowers in late May.

**AMSB Spring Concert:** The AMSB Spring Concert was held on May 5, 2022. Students and staff worked hard to prepare the songs and performances that made this event special. Due to the number of students and attendees, a similar format to the winter concert was used with the choir and band concerts performing separately, but on the same evening.

## Resources

**Teacher Appreciation Week:** As part of the ARHS tradition, the ARHS building administrators and administrative assistants partnered with PTSO and Student Government to host a heart-felt Teacher Appreciation Week during the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May. This year’s theme was “Amity Teachers Light the Way” and included amazing food from PTSO, a trivia night faculty meeting led by Student Government, and small gifts and notes from the administrators and students.

**Holiday Hill Trip:** Eighth grade students will be going to Holiday Hill on May 25, 2022 to meet up with their friends and enjoy a day of outdoor activities. Thanks to a generous donation from the AMSB PTSO, the cost of buses was covered, reducing the overall cost of the trip for students.

**Mental Health Awareness Month:** May represents Mental Health Awareness Month and as such staff members throughout the district are planning various activities.

**New IEP Coming Soon:** The Pupil Services Department continues to work with the CSDE and our contracted vendors supporting the switch to CT-SEDs. The expectation remains that as of July 1, 2022, the CT-SEDs system will be live and the “new IEP” will be in effect.

## Climate

**ARHS Career Fair:** On Friday, April 29, 2022, ARHS hosted its annual career fair for all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Over 20 local professionals visited ARHS and shared information about their careers and their paths to those careers.

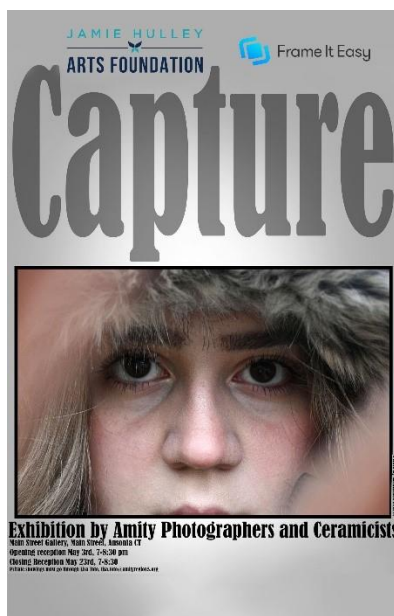
**AMSB Student of the Month Program:** This school year, Mr. Berean has led a team of teachers to institute an AMSB Student of the Month recognition. This program asked teachers to identify students who exemplify the characteristics of the AMSB “BE Amity” motto. Approximately 25 students are recognized monthly, and students who are recognized receive a plaque, donated by the PTSO, and a Chartwells breakfast, sponsored and served by AMSB teachers! Next year, AMSB will be looking to partner with Woodbridge Youth Services and other community organizations who wish to sponsor a breakfast.

**Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation Visiting Artist:** To recognize April as National Poetry Month, the librarians hosted visiting artist/poet Emanuel Xavier, whose last visit was in the fall of 2016 to ARHS. This event was sponsored by the Hulley Arts Foundation.

**Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit:** AMSO will welcome the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Students will have a tour of the building and speak with students to get firsthand information about the middle school experience. In addition, the visiting students will have the opportunity to meet the counseling staff and get an overview of the middle school program.

**Middle School Stepping Up Ceremonies:** The AMSB and AMSO stepping up ceremonies have both been set for June 15, 2022 at 1:00pm. Students and families will gather at their respective schools to celebrate the accomplishments of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, recognize their collective achievements, and wish them all well as they matriculate to ARHS!!

**Unified Volleyball:** Unified Sports Athletes are preparing for our Unified Volleyball Tournament which will be held on May 9, 2022 at ARHS.



*Selected photography and ceramics created by Amity Regional High School students will be highlighted at the Main Street Gallery in Ansonia from May 3 through May 23, 2022. An exhibition opening was held on May 3, 2022 and there will be a closing reception on May 23, 2022 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The gallery hours are Tuesday – Fridays 4-8pm, Saturday 12-8pm, and Sunday 12-4pm to view the exhibition during normal business hours. A special thanks is extended to the sponsors – The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, Frame it Easy, and the Main Street Gallery.*