

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525



Dr. Jennifer P. Byars
Superintendent of Schools

jennifer.byars@amityregion5.org
203.392.2106

Superintendent's Report – June 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

Instruction

AP and NGSS Testing: All 11th grade students completed NGSS testing during the month of May, after wrapping up Advanced Placement (AP) testing, where 380 students completed 758 tests in 28 different AP testing areas.

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

SSLP/SIP Completion: This year's SSLP/SIP was highly successful, with over 320 students successfully completing the program. All students who participated presented their final projects in the cafeteria over a two-day timeframe on June 7 and 8, 2022. All current juniors were required to attend one of the presentation sessions and completed a Google form as the first step in their process of preparing for next year's program (a requirement for all members of the Class of 2023).

Trident Success: Congratulations to advisor Emily Clark and the editors of *The Trident* for first-place honors for schools with a population of 1200-1700 students in the school newspaper competition sponsored by the American Scholastic Press Association. *The Trident* staff received a certificate and an evaluation of the paper, earning 950 points of 1000.

Amity Advocates Outreach: This health elective is completing its 2nd year and offers students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills through planning and outreach to the local community. They have engaged in 9th grade health lessons, collaborative lessons with Unified PE, a character matters series with the Mary L. Tracy students, and an 8th grade transition video presentation for both middle schools. One of their culminating activities was supporting the BCS and Beecher Road 6th grade field day at AMSB in May.

Middle School Final Exams: As we have in years prior to the pandemic, middle school students will practice taking final examinations in their core subjects this year. While we do use these assessments to provide feedback to students, these exams are also meant to be formative in nature and will help teachers identify successes and gaps in learning, consider instructional practices, and inform our curriculum.

AMSB Music Adjudication: The AMSB band, choir, and strings students participated in adjudication on June 1, 2022. The Choir and Band programs were awarded Gold and the Jazz Band and Strings programs were awarded the Platinum designation. Following the adjudication, the Music Department went on a trip to Six Flags Amusement Park and celebrated a successful year in music at AMSB!

AMSO Adjudication: Congratulations to the AMSO band and chorus for their outstanding performance at the High Notes Music Festival. Our talented chorus singers received a rating of *Excellent* and our band was rated *Superior* at this adjudication.

Reader's Workshop: AMSO and AMSB English teachers participated in an end of year Reader workshop with Maggie Roberts. Ms. Roberts is an expert in the workshop model of instruction and has been providing support and professional development throughout the year as our teachers implement this new model of instruction. The middle schools will continue our implementation of the workshop model in the 2022-2023 school year.

Resources

Laptop Return Day: All three schools will have designated days for students to return their 1:1 device AND charger prior to the end of the school year. Teachers will take inventory of devices and students will be charged for missing or damaged items.

Senior Scholarships: On June 1, 2022, the Amity Administration, Department Chairs, Counselors, and outsiders sponsors conferred over \$113,000.00 of scholarship money to a total of 168 seniors in addition to 130 non-monetary awards.

Thanks to School Psychology Interns: The Pupil Services Department was supported throughout this school-year by two outstanding School Psychology Interns: Katie Kiely from Southern Connecticut State University and Taylor Annicelli from Fairfield University. Katie and Taylor created lasting relationships with staff and were a resource for many students. We are thankful for all they contributed to ARHS during their internship year. Thank you to Linda Decesare for serving as their primary site-based supervisor.

PREPaRE Workshop II: On June 21st and 22nd, Administrators, School Counselors, School Psychologists, and members of the district crisis team will complete the NASP PREPaRE Workshop II focused on the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the mental health needs of students and staff in the aftermath of a crisis. They will complete the series on June 23rd focused on Advanced Risk and Threat Assessment. Both workshops are being presented by PREPaRE lead author Melissa Reeves, PhD.

AMSO Garden Club: Our thanks to the AMSO Farm and Garden club for their work to beautify the AMSO campus. The students started seedlings in the AMSO greenhouse in early spring and transplanted their plants to fill the garden pots in the front of the building. In addition, students tended the gardens in the courtyard in preparation for the Moving Up Ceremony on June 15, 2022.

New State IEP System: Throughout the months of July and August, 10 teacher leaders will participate in the expert training sessions focused on CT-SEDS, the new statewide system for Individual Education Program (IEP) for students with disabilities. These trainings sessions are being offered by the CSDE and designed to allow districts to provide training to their staff in CT-SEDS through a Trainer of Trainers model. Additional administrator-specific trainings will be offered throughout the month of July as well.

Climate

No Place for Hate Designation: On Tuesday, June 14, 2022, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) will formally present AMSB with the No Place for Hate Distinction banner. Amity Regional High School and Amity Middle School Orange also received their No Place for Hate Designation this month.

Junior and Senior Proms and Activities: Throughout the month of May, the juniors and seniors both had their proms, with the highest attendance in recent history. In addition, seniors had their senior picnic at Holiday Hill in May and their Senior Breakfast on June 9, 2022 – prior to their final graduation practice.

STEAM Day Steams Back: Many thanks to Dameon Kellogg, Kevin Berean, and Frank Barretta – as well as the teachers, principals, and superintendents of BOW – for our highly successful return of STEAM Day. On June 1, 2022, Amity students and staff were thrilled to welcome the 5th grade students from Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge for a morning of hands-on, interactive activities and mini-lessons in the areas of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics.

Unified Sports Wraps Up: Congratulations to the Unified Sports Teams at ATA, ARHS, and AMSO for a successful completion of their seasons. Throughout the course of the unified seasons, over 20 unified athletes participated with and against peers from across the state. Thank you to our unified coaches: Jennifer Ford, Wendy Carrafiello, Allison Morrill, Patricia Fitzgerald, and Alyssa Kopjanski, and our wonderful paraprofessionals. Without their support and guidance, our Unified Sports would not have been such a success!

ARHS Class Act Council Activities: This student club, supported by the CIAC initiative of positive engagement of high school athletes outside of their sport activities, has been highly engaged with the high school community this year. They have sponsored a full-school kickball tournament on the all-weather field, held workshops for captains at the beginning of each season to help develop leadership skills, held Officials Appreciation Week during each season to honor and acknowledge the officials, and attended several conferences and development webinars to bolster their own leadership skills.

Middle School Welcome to the Class of 2028: AMSO students and staff welcomed the incoming 7th grade from the Orange elementary schools. AMSO students gave the incoming class a tour of the building and shared important information regarding the transition to middle school.

Dr. "The Machine" Green Visits AMSO: AMSO student took part in an interactive presentation by Dr. "The Machine" Green. Dr. Green is a motivational speaker, chainsaw sculptor, and is the star of National Geographic Channel's Prime-Time worldwide TV series, AMERICAN CHAINSAW. With a mixture of seriousness and comedy, Mr. Green told his personal story of life on the road to success by highlighting some of his most poignant struggles, setbacks and priceless lessons learned along the way. The positive messages shared by Dr. Green were very well received by all our students.

AMSB 7th Grade Field Day: AMSB held its 7th grade field day on June 9, 2022. Due to the weather the festivities were moved indoors, but teachers were creative and came up with new activities overnight! Thank you to all the former Amity students, PTSO, and parent volunteers who helped make the day awesome!

AMSB Students of the Month: Congratulations to the 26 students who were selected as students of the month. AMSB's new student of the month program recognizes students who exemplify one or more aspects of our BE AMITY framework (Accountable, Motivated, Independent, Trustworthy, and Your Best Self). The students all received an award plaque as well as a celebration breakfast in their honor. This first group were part of our pilot of the program, and we plan to run this program again next year and look forward to recognizing even more students. Thanks to the AMSB PTSO for supporting these efforts to make this program a success.

Please click [here](#) to view the 2022 edition of Calliope, Amity Regional High School's art and literature magazine.