

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent of Schools

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Superintendent's Report – August 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

Excited for the Start of School: We are preparing for and excited for the start of school. The entire administrative team is meeting on August 15 – 16, 2022 to prepare for the opening of school. We will welcome new teachers and staff on August 17 – 18, 2022. All teachers and staff return for opening preparations, professional learning, and convocation August 23 – 25, 2022. And students return August 29th! **August 29th and 30th are early release days for students.**

Welcome to our New Students: AMSO is looking forward to welcoming 330 students back to school for the 2022-2023 school year. Student schedules will go out by August 12, 2022.

Link Crew News: The Link Crew Freshman Orientation Program will be held for all incoming 9th graders on Friday, August 26, 2022. The Link Crew Parent Night for the parents of incoming 9th grade students will be held on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. Link Crew advisors Anastasia Kimball, Marian Boyns, Scott DeMeo, Wendy Carrafiello, and Jeni Bonaldo were interviewed by WFSB regarding how parents can help their children with the transition to high school for WFSB's annual "Back to School Authority" feature.

Laptop Distribution and Party: The AMSB staff will welcome our 7th graders on August 24th for a laptop exchange and social gathering sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services. Refreshments will be served and a DJ will provide the entertainment as the students meet for the first time as Amity students. The event starts at 5:30 for parents and students who would like to take a tour of the building and find their classes!!

Extended School Year 2022 is a Wrap: From July 5 – 29, 2022, Amity provided Extended School Year (ESY) services to nearly 65 students. A special thank you to all the staff who worked tirelessly to make ESY a success. For identified incoming seventh grade students, this was their first experience in Amity and the staff went above and beyond to make the entire experience a positive one. We would be remiss if we did not thank B & B and Tirollo Transportation for all their hard work in ensuring timely and accurate transportation of our students. In conjunction with a one-time grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education related to the impact of COVID-19, ARSD offered target support to students identified with dyslexia throughout the month of July and the beginning of August. Thank you to Dr. Tolis from Fairfield University for coordinating this offering.

ARHS Building Leadership Team Summer Meetings: The ARHS BLT met in late July to map out initial plans for the coming school year, and they will be meeting again on August 18th for further planning for the start of the school year.

Resources

New Partnership with Connecticut Behavioral Health: The Pupil Services and Counseling Departments are excited to announce a new partnership with Connecticut Behavioral Health. Through this partnership, Amity Regional School District will have a mental health clinician in each building at least one day per week. This will allow students and their families the ability to access clinical level mental health services without needing to leave the school building. Additional information will be shared in the near future.

Thanks to the Custodial and Maintenance Staff: Thank you to our custodial and maintenance staff for all of their hard work and preparation in getting both buildings and grounds ready for the 2022-2023 school year. Your hard work is noticed!

Building Condition: The halls of AMSB are shining and ready for the 2022-2023 school year to start. Our custodial staff has worked tirelessly to ensure that the building is ready for our students and staff. The summer projects on campus, including a renovation to the courtyard patio and a renovation to our portable classroom are coming along beautifully. Thank you to our AMSB crew!

PPS Director Receives State and National Recognition: Pupil Personnel Services Director, Mr. Tom Brant, was recently appointed to the Legislative Committee for the Connecticut Council of Special Education Administrator (ConnCase). Mr. Brant currently serves as the related services liaison to the Executive Board of ConnCase. Through a comprehensive application and interview process, Mr. Brant was selected to be a member of the NASP School Safety and Crisis Response Committee. This committee's functions include preventative and response crisis mitigation activities. More information can be found [here](#). Mr. Brant currently serves as delegate from the State of Connecticut to the NASP Leadership Assembly.

Orange Education Articulation: The AMSO administrators will be meeting with the Orange elementary principals on August 18, 2022 to discuss the plans for the upcoming school year. Further meetings are being planned to improve communication and articulation between the two districts.

Climate

Meet the Principal: ARHS hosted "Meet the Principal" open house sessions for students and parents on August 10th and 11th, providing an informal opportunity to meet and welcome Mr. Andre Hauser prior to the start of the school year.

NASP PREPaRE Training: Administrators, School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Social Workers, and School Nurses participated in the NASP PREPaRE Training presented by Dr. Melissa Reeves. This professional learning is an essential component in school safety and crisis preparedness. Additionally, staff participated in a full day training with Dr. Reeves on advanced threat assessment techniques. This training further equipped staff to respond to individual and school level crisis situations. We are grateful for our three days with Dr. Reeves.

AMSO Grade 7 Open House: AMSO will have an open house for 7th grade students on August 16, 2022 from 5:30-7:30pm. Students and parents will tour the building with their class schedules and practice opening lockers. A parent information session to introduce the middle school model will be presented in the gymnasium. To round out the evening, Orange Youth Services has sponsored a food truck to provide snacks and welcome the students back to school.

Back to School Night: AMSB will hold our annual Back to School Night on September 15th at 6:00. This event is always well attended and is a wonderful way to welcome the new school year.

Hello & Goodbye: Congratulations and farewell to former ARHS Principal Anna Mahon, whose last day at ARHS was Friday, July 29, 2022. Welcome to Mr. Andre Hauser, ARHS Principal and Mr. Frank Purcaro, Assistant Superintendent – both started their time in Amity during the month of July.