

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
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Superintendent's Report – September 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

Convocation and PL Days: Amity's Convocation and Professional Learning Days took place on August 24 - 25, 2022. Over the two days of professional learning, the offering of topics provided teachers with new ways to enhance instructional practice in their classrooms. These included the integration of blended learning, strategies to meet the needs of all learners, and social emotional learning. Teachers also participated in professional learning on Schoology, Reader's Workshop, Project Adventure, the new IEP, and a variety of wellness activities. Mr. Sebastian Little provided a keynote message at the end of the day on August 25th. A Cheshire High School and Yale graduate, Mr. Little's presentation was on the Great Reset aligned with our Convocation theme of Reset, Reboot, and Recharge. He will come back for our January early release day and we are exploring opportunities for him to work with our students.

Opening of School at ARHS: The first two days of the school year featured a blend of class meetings for all grades focused on the student-selected theme for the year of "Facing Tomorrow, Together." Also included were Spartan Seminar activities, a One Book One Amity activity, distribution of student computers, initial meetings for all courses, and a pep rally on the all-weather athletic field to end the second day.

AMSB Opening 2022: AMSB staff and students all returned to the first "normal" opening in the past two years and spent the first two half days reorienting the students to our building. On the third day, the school came together and held the first whole-school assembly of the year where students and staff were welcomed, expectations for the year were outlined, and opportunities in the arts, academics, and athletics at Amity were discussed.

ARHS Back to School Nights: ARHS Back to School Nights are scheduled for Thursday, September 8th for Grades 9 & 12 and Thursday, September 15th for Grades 10 & 11. After a brief welcoming address from the principal, parents will have the opportunity to follow their child's schedule through a shortened school day, meet their child's teachers, and learn about what each course will be studying throughout the year.

Middle School Back to School Nights: AMSB & AMSO will hold annual back to school nights on Tuesday, September 13th. Both programs will start at 6:30 pm. Parents of AMSB band students will gather at 6:00 pm in the band room to speak with Mr. Fragione.

Middle School Technology Introduction Day: 7th grade teachers provided students with an overview of the various technology platforms they will be using this year. Students participated in a variety of activities and tasks that allowed students to log into the software and websites that they will be extensively using this year. Many thanks to Ms. Lassen, the Library Media Specialists, and 7th grade Team Leaders for their support and assistance in this annual event.

ARHS National Honor Society: The Amity Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 38 new members to the academic and service society in an induction ceremony on Friday, September 9, 2022. Thanks to Ms. Martin and Mr. Stanley for their sponsorship of NHS.

Senior Parent Night at ARHS: The ARHS Counseling Department will host a Senior Parent Night on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 6:30 pm. School counselors will be reviewing the steps for the college application process.

Curriculum Updates/Revisions: Teachers from the middle and high schools collaborated this summer to update a variety of curricular documents, including: Middle School ELA/Reading, Middle School History and Social Studies, and High School World Language.

Middle School Digital Media Elective: The new Digital Media Communications elective has been added to the course offerings at the middle schools. Students who take this course have the opportunity to engage in podcasting, blogging, short film creation, and video editing. Interest and enrollment in the course is strong.

STAR Assessments: Students in the middle schools will be taking the annual STAR Reading and Math assessment this September. Data from the assessment will be reviewed at the district and building levels to identify areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

Resources

Community Providers Connections: The School Counseling and Pupil Services Departments hosted the second annual Amity welcome breakfast for community-based counselors. This event, facilitated by Director of Counseling Jill LaPlante, brings together mental health staff from Amity and community-based clinicians to build relationships, share resources, and learn about all the supports available to our students.

ATA Returns: Amity Transition Academy returned to the University of New Haven: Orange Campus for our second year and Albertus Magnus College for our fifth year. Both campuses are fully operational allowing our students greater access to increased social and vocational opportunities.

Supporting New IEP: Ten members of the Amity faculty and staff participated in the CSDE BSE Expert Train the Trainers professional development focused on CTSEDS. These faculty and staff members will be our building-based experts as the Pupil Services Department continues the state mandated role out of the new IEP and CTSEDS.

Middle School Schedule Alignment: AMSB and AMSO have successfully aligned their school schedules for the 2022-2023 school year. This enhances our ability to effectively share staff and resources between the schools.

AMSB Fall Musical: For the AMSB 2022 Spartan Players fall production, we will be performing *Matilda*. Auditions for the production were held September 6, 2022 and callbacks were held September 7th. All students who auditioned will help support the production, either on stage or behind the scenes. Show dates will be November 11 – 13, 2022.

Middle School Fall Sports Registration: Fall sports registration was a success as parents utilized online resources to request information, submit forms, and register for sports. This year's offerings include cross country, boys and girls soccer, and girls volleyball. Mr. Goodwin is working out how to support girls field hockey despite a lack of certified and qualified coaches for the program. At AMSO, over 80 students tried out for a fall sport. ...GO Spartans!!!

Climate

Link Crew 9th Grade Orientation: The 9th grade Link Crew orientation program and cookout took place on Friday, August 26, 2022. Approximately 95% of the incoming 9th grade class attended the event which was hosted by five faculty Link Crew advisors, 80 students who volunteered to serve as Link Crew leaders, and several additional members of the faculty and staff who volunteered to run the cookout. The financial support of the PTSO helped to make the cookout possible. The Link Crew faculty advisors hosted an evening program for the parents of incoming 9th graders on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 which was attended by a large group of enthusiastic parents.

OBOA Day of Dialogue: The One Book One Amity (OBOA) Day of Dialogue is planned for Thursday, October 13, 2022. The event will feature a keynote speaker and a range of workshops focused on the theme of "Going Global." The OBOA planning committee is inviting community members who have a talent or interest related to this theme to participate in the day by reaching out to OBOA co-advisors Julie Chevan and Vicki Hulse.

Shamiel Gary to Visit AMSO and AMSB: Former NFL player Shamiel Gary will visit AMSB and AMSO to speak with students and staff about making the DECISION to become the best version of themselves. His message to the staff and students will be that *"every student and educator needs tools to deal with confidence, mental exhaustion, focus, mental flexibility to deal with adversity, and emotional control."* He will present his COMMIT acronym and help to encourage students to become the best version of themselves this year and beyond.

Senior Parking Lot Painting: In what is anticipated to become a new senior year tradition, members of the Class of 2023 had the opportunity to design and paint their parking spaces in the senior parking lot this year. The level of creativity and talent in the parking space artwork is remarkable, and we invite the community to visit the parking lot outside of school hours to see our students' creativity first-hand.

Thank You to the PTSOs: PTSOs from all three Amity schools planned wonderful welcome back breakfasts and lunches throughout the first day of professional learning on August 23, 2022. Support from our parents and community is greatly appreciated – thank you!

2022 AMSB Color Run: The AMSB Annual Color Run is scheduled for October 15, 2022. Registration begins at 9:00 am and the event will kick off at 9:30 am. This event is one of the main fundraising activities for the AMSB PTSO and is a wonderful way to come together as an AMSB family. The event takes place on the AMSB campus and is always well attended. Family teams are encouraged to join and come have a fun day of music, exercise, and community.