

# AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

Bethany Orange Woodbridge  
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## Superintendent's Report – March 2023

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.

*March is National School Board Member Appreciation Month. Please know that our entire Amity community appreciates the efforts you make on behalf of our students. You work with heart and heads and always consider what is best for kids. I know this role takes time and effort and we say thank you for all you give.*

### Instruction

**ARHS Trades Week:** Amity Regional High School's Trades Week was held February 13-17, 2023. The week-long event was designed to foster, promote, and teach students about careers in the skilled trade fields. Throughout the week students had the opportunity to meet with over 20 different skilled trades people in a variety of fields who came in to hold information sessions during lunches.

**State Champions!:** The ARHS Academic Decathlon Team won the state championship on February 25, 2023 and qualified to compete in the national championship in Texas later this spring.

**Beecher and BCS Elementary School Visits:** This past month, the AMSB Administration and Counseling Department visited both Beecher Road School and Bethany Community School to welcome the class of 2029 to the Amity School District. After a brief presentation from the AMSB team, the students asked many questions about middle school and were all excited to greet us.

**Journalism Presentation:** ARHS English Teacher Emily Clark has arranged to have Mark Mirko from CT Public come in as a guest speaker on March 3, 2023. Mark talked with approximately 80 students about his career in journalism and the lessons from it that students can apply in their own lives and career plans.

**Portrait of a Graduate & Learning Progressions:** A team of teachers and administrators from across the district met this month to complete the first draft of the BOWA Portrait of a Graduate's Learning Progressions. The creation of a Learning Progressions document will give teachers and students a clearer picture of what the characteristics of the Portrait of the Graduate look like at different levels of development over time. Following the meeting, the document was shared with faculty at each of the schools and their feedback was collected. As part of the continued rollout of the Portrait of a Graduate, the Learning Progressions document will also be shared with students, and they will be given an opportunity to provide feedback as well.

**AMSO Students at Southern Regionals:** Ten AMSO students attended the Southern Regional Music Festival on March 3-4, 2023. Over 300 students and professional music educators came together to highlight students' skills and talent from around the State. The group rehearsed for over 7 hours with a culminating performance on March 4, 2023.

**Learning Walks Update:** Instructional learning walks focused on collecting observational evidence of the Portrait of the Graduate continue regularly throughout the district. As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, over 100 classroom visits have been conducted. Principals are reviewing the learning walk protocol with their leadership teams throughout the month of March and content leaders at the middle schools and department chairs at the high school have been invited to join in the process.

**Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC):** Members of the district's PDEC Committee met this month to review preliminary guidelines from the State Department of Education for the creation of new district Teacher Evaluation and Support Plans. The group also continued their work on the development of the 2023-24 professional learning calendar.

**Curriculum Articulation Meetings:** Social Studies and CTE Curriculum Articulation meetings occurred this month. The agenda topics that were covered included identifying opportunities for targeted professional learning and discussions pertaining to curriculum alignment and pacing.

**AMSO Home to Map Contest Winner:** Congratulations to AMSO student, Monica Chen, for winning the Jr. Scholastic Map Man contest. Monica's map submission was selected as the grand prize winner out of over 1500 entries from across the United States. We look forward to seeing her map published in Jr. Scholastic in the coming months. Several AMSO students participated in this contest with the support of their Social Studies teachers.

## **Resources**

**BOWA Elected Officials' Day:** AMSB and ARHS appreciated the opportunity to show off some of what makes our schools a special place in the first *Elected Officials Day* on March 3, 2023. ARHS Student representatives Anchal Bahel (Senior Class President), Frank Cavallaro (Student Body President), and Marin Korenaga (BOE Representative) did a great job representing the high school student body, and the lunch catered by Chef Hans' culinary students was a highlight of the visit. (Unfortunately, inclement weather cancelled the visit to AMSO, but we look forward to continuing this event in the next school year.)

**Ray's Box of Sox:** AMSO students and staff are again running the Ray's Box of Sox fundraiser. This fundraiser is in honor of a Ray Heenie, a former AMSO student who passed away suddenly. Students across the district are collecting socks to be donated to local homeless shelters in the area. The goal is to collect over 1000 pairs of socks by the end of March.

**Free Lunch Returns:** Beginning March 1, 2023, all students are again eligible for free lunch. This state-funded, state-approved opportunity will remain in effect through the end of the current school year. Students are able to receive one school lunch at no cost but will need to use funds to purchase ala carte items or second meals.

**BOWA District Meetings:** As part of the collaboration with the BOWA feeder schools, Andrea Drewry, ELA Instructional Coach, has been visiting elementary school classrooms in Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange to observe and discuss reading instruction. Additionally, 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies teachers from each of the sending schools met with 7<sup>th</sup> grade middle school teachers this month to review the alignment of the vertical curriculum.

**ARHS Athletics Update:** The Winter Sports season has concluded, and pre-season practices for spring sports will begin in mid-March. The Athlete and Parent Information Night was held in-person on February 23, 2023, and the Spring Sports Coaches Meeting was held on March 7, 2023.

**NASP Annual Convention:** Members of the Amity Pupil Services Department attended the National Association of School Psychologists Annual Convention in Denver, CO. The annual convention provided access to nearly 1,000 professional development activities spread across four days. Additionally, our staff attended Regional Leadership and Leadership Assembly meetings designed as leaders within the fields of School Psychology, Mental Health, and Special Education.

**Middle School Spring Sports Registration:** The middle school Spring Sports Season is about to begin. Any student interested in participating in spring sports needs to complete a few important online registration steps. In the spring, Amity Middle Schools offer Boys Volleyball, Baseball, Softball, and Co-ed Track. All registration and all forms must be completed and turned in by March 22, 2023. In order to participate in a spring sport, students must have an updated physical dated after May 15, 2022.

**COPs Support Continues:** Related services providers (School Psychologists, Social Workers, Behavior Analysts, and Speech Language Pathologists) continue to attend the Communities of Practice (COPs) offered by the CSDE and the RESC Alliance. The COPs offer discipline specific meetings that utilize a mini professional growth model or problem of practice model.

**ConnCASE Annual Legal Conference:** Amity's PPS Coordinator and PPS Director attended the ConnCASE Annual March Legal Conference. Legal experts from across the state and country presented over the course of two days. This annual legal conference also allows for collaboration between special education administrators and advocates from different parts of Connecticut.

## Climate

**Unified Valentine's Day Dance:** Amity Regional High School hosted a Unified Valentine's Day Dance on February 16, 2023. We had many other Unified teams attending, a live DJ, and lots of great dance moves! Our Amity Culinary made snacks for everyone to enjoy in the cafeteria once the dance had ended.

**2023 CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athletes:** Congratulations to Daniel Liu and Anushka Acharya, Amity's 2023 CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athletes. This award is the highest honor to receive as a student-athlete at Amity. Both Daniel and Anushka are the best of the best of our senior student-athletes. They are extremely high performers both in the classroom and as a student-athlete on the track and the court, as well as having the highest level of character. CAS and CIAC will be honoring our scholar-athletes at the CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

**2023 CAS High School Arts Awards:** The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) honors excellence in both the arts every spring by presenting the CAS High School Arts Awards. ARHS is proud to announce Amity's honorees for 2023. The Arts Award winners are Marin Korenaga for performing arts and Chloe Adzigian for studio arts.

**Amity Middle Schools to see Hockey Game:** On April 4, 2023, all students at AMSB & AMSO will have the opportunity to take a field trip to watch the Bridgeport Islanders play. This trip is an event where schools from across the state come to watch the game and receive positive messages throughout about maintaining an anti-bullying position and building self-confidence.

**Unified Science Field Trip:** On February 24, 2023, the Unified Science class at ARHS in conjunction with the 9-12 SAILS program took a field trip to the Connecticut Science Museum in Hartford. Students

could interact with dozens of exhibits while applying some of the skills they had been learning in their unified classroom. Appreciation is extended to our Amity advocates who also joined the trip.

**Broadway Entertainers Field Trip:** On March 29, 2023, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Entertainers Elective students will take a class trip to NYC to see Harry Potter on Broadway. The event is a culminating activity for students who participated in the Entertainers Elective at AMSB.

**AMSB Spring Concert:** The AMSB Spring Concert will be held on May 4, 2023 in the AMSB Gym, starting at 6:30 pm. The choir, band, and strings students are well underway putting together a wonderful musical celebration, and we look forward to sharing it with family and friends!

**Unified Sports Schedule:** Unified Sports is an integral part of student life at Amity, and in the past month ARHS was the host for multi-school Unified Sports events including a Unified Basketball tournament featuring six teams from area schools. Our teams also attended a Unified Basketball Tournament in Shelton on March 7, 2023 and will compete in Cheshire on March 15, 2023.