

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5

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Superintendent's Report – March 2024

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. Putting student well-being and academic excellence above all else, you work tirelessly on behalf of our schools. Through your leadership, you continually strive to create an environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Your willingness to listen, collaborate, and make decisions for the betterment of our schools is commendable. I want to ensure you know how valued and appreciated you are by myself, our staff, our students, and our entire community. Thank you.

Instruction

Senior Internships: Planning for Senior UELP internships and on-campus Senior Interest Projects is well underway with all our seniors in the final stages of coordinating their internship locations and contracts.

Dual Credit Enrollment Expansion Grant: Amity was recently awarded a grant to expand dual credit course offerings for students at the high school as early as next fall. Dual credit courses give students the opportunity to earn college credit for coursework taken while in high school. As part of Phase 1 of the expansion, 15 teachers are going through the approval process to offer dual credit for the courses they are currently teaching. Dual credit partnerships are being explored with colleges and universities throughout Connecticut including: University of Connecticut, Sacred Heart University, University of Bridgeport, Quinnipiac University, and Goodwin University.

Math Team Success: The Amity Math Team Spartans won first place in the Greater New Haven Mathematics League Competition on February 22, 2024. In addition to the team victory, it was a big day for individual performances as well. Iris Yan secured 1st place senior and overall top scorer, while Edward Han achieved 3rd place senior. Additionally, Hallie Lai and Fred Xiao finished 3rd in the junior and underclassmen divisions respectively. The Amity Math Team Spartans will move on to the Connecticut State Association of Mathematics Leagues Competition to be held April 4, 2024.

Orientation Night: Middle schools welcomed our incoming 7th grade parents on March 7, 2024 during our annual parent orientation night. Our staff shared important information and it was great to meet our new Amity families!

Beecher and BCS Elementary Visits: On March 4 & 5, 2024, the administration from AMSB, along with our social worker, school counselor, and our band teacher met with students in the 6th grade at Beecher and Bethany Community Schools. We welcomed them to the Amity District, shared some information with them, and answered MANY questions. The students were all very respectful and we had a wonderful time meeting the students of our incoming Amity class of 2030!!!

AMSO Science Center Trip: AMSO 7th Grade students enjoyed a field trip to the Connecticut Science Center. The class enjoyed many hands-on activities exploring physical and earth science concepts that support the curriculum.

Unified Program Updates: ARHS Unified Theater will be presenting *Aladdin* on March 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. The students have been working on their performance since January and are excited to share their hard work with their friends, family, and staff. ATA Unified Sports will be hosting their annual winter basketball tournament at Albertus Magnus College on March 22, 2024. Currently, nine local school districts are scheduled to participate in the morning long tournament. ARHS Unified Sports will be hosting their second annual Unified Dance on March 20, 2024. Students from our SAILS and Transition programs along with their friends are looking forward to an afternoon of pizza and dancing!

District Data Team: The district wide data team met this month to review the mid-year data collected through instructional learning walks. The instructional learning walks focus on collecting observational evidence of the Portrait of the Graduate within classrooms throughout the district. As of March 1st, close to 90 classroom visits have been conducted.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support: The district wide MTSS team met this month to review behavioral interventions to identify the strategies that have been most effective for students. Once identified, these strategies will be included into the district's overall tiered support plan. The committee also continues to build their understanding of the state's new intervention data collection portal known as CT-SEDS.

Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC): Members of the district's PDEC Committee met this month to continue their work on the development of a new Teacher and Administrator Evaluation and Support Plan. The work of the committee has been focused on the creation of a single-point rubric that can be used as an evidence collection tool as part of the evaluation process. PDEC will continue to meet throughout the year in preparation for the submission of a draft plan to the state by June.

Curriculum Articulation Meetings: Social Studies and ELA 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.

Resources

Fields of Excellence Award: Congratulations to Kevin Capecelatro and Sports Turf for receiving the 2023 "Fields of Excellence" recognition from Pioneer Athletics. This nationwide program recognizes hardworking individuals, schools, and communities for their dedication and effort in keeping fields and sports facilities looking their best. Mr. Capecelatro's care of our Amity Athletic Facilities made our District the only New England school recognized in this award.

Spring College Fair Coming to Amity: Our annual Spring College Fair will be held on Monday evening, April 29, 2024 from 6:30 - 8:00pm in our main gymnasium. Approximately 120 college representatives will be in attendance. This is a great way for students to meet many of the college admission decision-makers in an intimate and convenient way. The college fair is **free** for students and parents and is open to the public.

School Social Worker Week: School Social Worker Week was recognized across our buildings March 3 – 9, 2024. Our social workers in each building strive to proactively support students, their families, and the larger Amity community through individualized support, support groups, and community engagement activities.

Fiber Arts Project: The AMSB 8th grade had an day-long team day and participated in a Fiber Arts Project program on March 8, 2024. This program, supported by the Hulley Arts Foundation for years, has become a program that is now integrated into our curriculum and serves as an interdisciplinary activity for our 8th grade teams.

Council on Exceptional Children: Two Amity Special Education teachers will be attending the Council on Exceptional Children Conference in San Antonio, Texas March 12-15, 2024. As representees of ARSD, they will be learning best practices in special education and bringing this information back to the district to share with their colleagues. Conferences like this one, allow our staff to develop their skills in accordance with best practices in education and educational research.

Climate

Winter Sports Successes: We have great news from our Athletic Department. In a rare occurrence for any school, Amity had every single winter sports team qualified for the CIAC State Tournament. This is a rare occurrence for any high school athletic program, and it is the first time this has happened at Amity in several years.

All-School Bridgeport Islanders Hockey Game: On April 2, 2024, the students and staff at both middle schools will attend the annual trip to the Bridgeport Islanders Students' Event. Students will watch an exciting game, learn about how to stand up to bullying, learn about nutrition, and AMSB Charmettes will sing the National Anthem.

Ray's Box of Sox: The students and staff across the district are honored to be participating in the annual "Ray's Box of Sox". Run by the AMSO 8th grade students, collection boxes are located in all three Amity schools and will be available until March 29, 2024. Consider honoring Ray's memory by doing good for someone else and donating. This small gesture can have a big impact. The class hopes to collect over 2000 pairs of sox to donate to local shelters. Thank you in advance for your support and please spread the word!

Lunar New Year Celebration: The ARHS Chinese Honor Society held a Lunar New Year party on February 16, 2024. More than 200 guests joined them for a night of Chinese food, games, raffles, and performances, and the chance to win T-shirts, Chinese snacks, bubble tea gift cards, and more. AMSO students also celebrated the Lunar New Year. In addition to engaging in trivia, watching videos, and crafting a dragon to mark the Year of the Dragon, students in Mandarin classes participated in a special activity by making dumplings in the school cafe. The event also included the distribution of red envelopes as a symbol of good luck and prosperity.

Black History Month at Amity: Black History Month provides a means of focusing on the contributions African Americans have made to American history and culture. Recognized annually with a theme, this year's focus on "African Americans and Arts" highlights the pivotal role of Black artists. ARHS students and staff celebrated Black history by honoring the artists who have helped mold the country's cultural landscape, with a very well-received Spartan Seminar lesson focusing on the contributions of African American artists, weekly updates showcasing African American artists and their works, and music from notable African American artists during passing during the school day on Fridays. AMSO students participated in a variety of events to recognize Black History month. 7th grade students watched the film *Hidden Figures* and participated in various activities centered on its central ideas. Students researched the female mathematicians in the film and created bio poems about them. Students also explored the Harlem Renaissance through reading and discussing Langston Hughes's short story, "Thank You Ma'am."

Second Annual Skate with the Players Day: The Amity Boys Hockey team hosted their second annual skate day for all K-6 students in the BOW communities at Bennett Rink in West Haven on February 25,

2024. The event benefits the Yale Children's Hospital Toy Closet, and this year we had more than 40 youth skaters join our hockey team for an afternoon of fun on the ice.

Spring Sports Sign Up: Registration is open for all spring athletes. Spring Sports Information for ARHS was held on Thursday, February 29, 2024. Spring sports opportunities at the middle schools include: Baseball, Softball, Track & Field, and Boys Volleyball.

Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee: The Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee met this month. Updates were provided by staff in the following areas: nursing, facilities, finance, and food services. Among the many topics discussed included the new CDC protocols for respiratory illnesses as well as the reports provided to each building through the Tools for Schools initiative. The committee will meet again later this spring.