

AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
Bethany Orange Woodbridge
25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525
(203) 397-4811

James A. Connelly
Interim Superintendent of Schools

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2018

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.

District

- Welcome to George B. Howard, who is the new Orange member of the Board of Education. His term of office is 9/4/2018-11/5/2019.
- The final security review of Amity schools has just been received from Douglas J. Pesce of The U.S. Department of Homeland Security. This confidential report should result in a great deal of discussion and planning over the next weeks and months.
- I will be attempting to finalize a date that is convenient for most Board members to hold a Board Retreat in late September or early October.
- The Orange Fire Department cited the District for several minor violations at Amity Middle School in Orange. All the violations have been corrected.
- We are cooperating with the Orange School District, as they undertake a strategic planning process. They are requesting data on student outcomes for Amity students who attended Orange elementary schools. No information that individual students are identified will be shared.

Amity Regional High School

- **Class of 2022 Link Crew Orientation Day:** We held our annual Link Crew Orientation **before** the start of school on Friday, August 24th, 8 a.m.-1:15 p.m. More than 90% of the class of 2022 attended and enjoyed a morning of ice-breaker activities with their Link Crew leaders, became oriented to the school building, and reviewed their schedules prior to joining in a picnic out by the pond for lunch. By reverting back to having orientation before the official start of the school year all students were able to participate in the annual first day of school celebration activities on Wednesday, August 29th.
- **Successful Back-To-School Nights:** We held 2 very successful Back-To-School Nights for parents where they were able to hear from their children's teachers about their passions for teaching, why they love Amity, and what they are looking forward to with their students this year. The night began with a brief address from Principal Anna Mahon and included opportunities for parents to sample food from Chartwells, sign up for the Booster Club and/or PTSO, get information about the Embers yearbook, buy a National Art Honors Society District Calendar, and interact with our awesome Link Crew leaders who were volunteering their time to help parents navigate the building and their children's schedules.
- **NEASC Self-Study Kick-Off:** This year the high school community will be completing the decennial New England Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges self-study report. All faculty have been broken up into committees based on the seven standards and have begun the work of gathering information, reviewing data, and reflecting on the indicators of the standards. More information on the process and the progress of the self-study will be shared throughout the year.

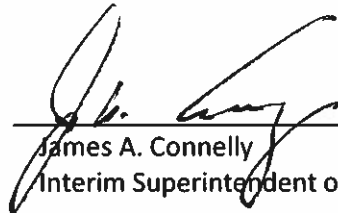
SEPTEMBER 2018 SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE (continued)

Amity Middle School Bethany

- The first week of school went especially well, partially due to several pre-school activities on August 23rd. These included: 7th grade laptop distribution; 7th grade parent orientation program; and the annual "Welcome Back" student picnic, which was organized by Woodbridge Youth Services.
- We had several successful activities during the first few days of school including a "Welcome Back" assembly, a review of our "Be AMITY" behavioral expectations, a 7th grade school orientation, our first PTSO meeting, and a fire drill.
- On Friday, September 14th, we started a school-wide "Narrative 4" program called, "Making Connections." Seventh grade students and teachers will be paired with eighth grade students and teachers for a story exchange and several team-building activities to help build a more cohesive school community.
- Amity Middle School Bethany has been highlighted by the [Niche.com 2019 Survey](#) in several categories for Connecticut schools based on key statistics and careful analysis. AMSB was ranked #1 for Best Teachers in the State of Connecticut with a grade of A+! [Niche.com](#) also rated the best middle schools in Connecticut and recognized AMSB #4 in the entire state! We are proud of these recognitions and will continue to strive to "be the best."

Amity Middle School Orange

- The AMSO 1:1 device roll-out on August 21st was very successful. Our 140 devices were distributed to our 7th grade students. In addition to getting their devices, parents also attended a Parent Orientation presentation by Vicki Fielosh.
- The faculty and staff were treated to a delicious "Welcome Back" luncheon, courtesy of the PTSO. We thank them for their continued support.
- Our first Jackie's Nine pep rally took place on September 14th. Students will be formally introduced to our Character Education program, which focuses on teamwork, perseverance, determination, commitment, integrity, justice, courage, and excellence.



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