

AMSO Principal's Weekly Newsletter

September 27, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

With the prominence of different viruses circulating in the community, it is likely that your child may miss school from time to time. Making up classwork, homework and assessments can be a challenge for students if they miss several days of school. We have found that the longer it takes for a student to catch up, the more difficult it becomes for the student to make up the work and understand the concepts.



Here are a few suggestions to help your child get caught up when returning to school after an absence.

- During their absence, your child should check Schoology and work on assignments at home if they feel up to it.
- When they return to school, your child must meet with each of their teachers to confirm what work needs to be done, ask questions and determine the due dates for all missing assignments.
- Students can make arrangements to stay after school with teachers if they have any questions or need additional support to get caught up.
- Parents and guardians should check the "To Do" tab Schoology with their child to check for missing work. Parents should also check PowerSchool for any missing assessments, homework or projects.

We understand that the increased expectations for making up work may be challenging for some students. If your child is feeling overwhelmed by the amount of make-up work, they should reach out to their counselor who will help them set up a schedule to complete the work in a timely manner.

Important Dates

- **October 3, 2024** - Rosh Hashanah - No school
- **October 7, 2024** - Board of Education Meeting - [More Info](#)
- **October 14, 2024** - Columbus / Indigenous Peoples Day - No School
- **October 17, 2024** - Early Dismissal, Professional Development
- **October 23, 2024** - 8th Grade Boston Tour Field Trip - [More Info](#)
- **October 25, 2024** - 8th Grade Visit to ARHS, Music in Motion

AMSO's Calendar

Weekly Highlights

Attendance Updates

- **Absence Notes** - If your child is absent from school, for safety reasons, please email attendanceamso@amityregion5.org to report the absence. If you do not email or send in a note, we are required to mark the absence as unexcused. Thank you for your cooperation.
- **Late Buses** - The late bus allows students to stay after school till 3:30 for extra help or to attend after-school clubs. Late buses are available on most Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- **Picking Up Your Child Early** - If you are picking up your child early. Please write a note and send it in with your child. Your child should bring the note directly to the office in the morning and get an early dismissal pass. When you arrive to pick them up, you must report to the security office and sign them out.
- **Tardy Policy** - Consistent on time arrival to school is an important component of student success in middle school. Academic instruction starts at 7:34 each day. If students arrive late they can miss important information and instruction. Please note that **students who are tardy 3 times in a 10 day period will be issued an after school detention.** The purpose of this

consequence is to underscore the importance of arriving on time and encourage a positive pattern of attendance. We appreciate your help in encouraging your child to take the bus when possible or drop them off at school by 7:25.

View Late Bus Schedule

Please refer to the "Transportation" tab on the AMSO Information Page for all bus schedules.

Club Announcements

- **Student Council**- Students interested in planning activities and events for AMSO are invited to join the Student Council. Students who are interested in joining should see Mrs. Yeakel in the media center.
- **Dungeons and Dragons Club**- Students interested in joining this club should see Mr. Derickson in room 41 for more information.
- **Newspaper Club and Art Club** - Students interested in joining the Newspaper Club or the Art club should see Mr. Simone in Room 11.
- **STEM Club** - Students interested in exploring STEM concepts through exploration, games and experiments are invited to join the STEM club. Please see Mrs. Brostrom or Mr. Landa for more information and to sign up.
- **Farm & Garden Club** - The Amity Farm and Garden club will have their first meeting on Oct. 1st. The club will meet every Tuesday. Student will learn aspects of gardening including creating garden decorations that complement the natural beauty of the courtyard garden.

Colorful District Wall Calendars Available for Purchase

These beautiful calendars are filled with student performance images and artwork from students across the district. The calendar also notes district wide events for planning purposes. The cost is \$10. (cash only please)

Dropping off items for students

Arriving at school with all your materials is an important part of the learning process and sets the tone for the day. Please encourage your child to pack up for school before going to bed. Giving your child this responsibility helps build independence and organizational skills. This will also help

prevent the last-minute phone calls home asking you to drop off items during the school day. This will ensure less disruptions for both you and your child.

8th Grade Field Trip Reminder: Boston

Forms and Payment due Friday, OCT. 4th - Please complete all sections of this form and complete the registration with the tour company for your student to participate in the field trip.

On Oct 23rd Amity Middle School 8th Grade Students are invited to the 8th Grade Boston Tour. Students will leave AMSO at 7:00 AM on Deluxe Motorcoach Bus and return that evening around 7:45 PM. They will tour the Boston Museum of Science, go on a Duck Tour and visit Quincy Market. The cost per person is \$165.00 plus an additional \$14.00 if you are interested in optional Trip Cancellation Insurance. Destinations Unlimited, Inc will be handling the payment so click their links below to make payment. If you are in need of Financial Assistance, please contact the Main Office. **You must complete this permission form in PowerSchool AND complete the registration/payment with the tour company below.**

Register / Payment / Option Insurance Coverage for Field Trip

Field Trip Letter from Mrs. Burke

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must consistently demonstrate positive behavior in order to participate. Please read this letter from Mrs. Burke regarding student participation in AMSO field trips.

High School Options for 8th Graders

If you are considering alternative high school options for your student, please take note of the following:

Platt Technical High School and Nonnewaug High School's Agriscience Program will be coming to AMSO on Friday, October 11th to speak to students about their high school programs as a potential alternative high school options for students who may be interested.

Open Houses for Alternative High School Options:

- Platt Technical High School - Open House for New Haven County families will be held on, October 24th from 5-7pm.
- Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Program -Open House will be held on October 17th from 6-8pm

- The Sound School - Aquaculture and Agriculture Programs Open House will be held on October 24th - 5-7:30pm

Please Don't Text or Call Your Child's Cell Phone

Texting or calling your child during the school day disrupts their learning. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the main office at (203)392-3200. We will get the message to your child or have them come down to the office and return your call using the office phone. Thank you for your cooperation and support in our effort to limit disruptions to the school day.

Reminder from Mrs. Masella, the School Nurse

If your child had medication in school last year, either at the nurse's office or was a self-carry epi-pen or inhaler, please make sure the nurse has updated information for the school year 2024-2025. ALL medication requires the school medication authorization form. This is extremely important from a medical standpoint for any upcoming field trips.

View Medication Authorization Form

More Health Information can be found on the Pupil Services Page on the District Website under the "Health & Medical" Accordion Tab

Schoology Information for Parents

Amity Region 5 uses Schoology as our learning management platform. Here are some links to videos that may be helpful in navigating this new tool:

Brief Schoology Instructional Video For Parents

Schoology Parent Help Website

Speak Up Line Reminder

Parents and students can help stop intolerant and inappropriate behavior by using our anonymous “Speak Up” system to report any bullying, drug possession, crime, and other school or community safety concerns by calling or texting 203-404-6740.

Speak Up & District Tip Lines



Student Spectators at Middle School Sports

Student spectators are welcome to attend games at AMSO. There are no staff members on duty to supervise student spectators. To ensure student safety, please note the following expectations for student spectators attending any after-school sports at AMSO.

- Games typically start around 3:45. Students who want to see the games must take the bus home at 2:18 and get a ride back to school to watch the games.
- No food or beverages are allowed in the gym.
- Students must stay in the gym or on the sports field throughout the game. Students are not allowed to walk the hallways, go to their lockers, or wander outside.
- Students who do not meet these expectations will not be allowed to attend future games.

View Middle School Sports Schedules



AMSO PTSO

Please consider joining as your support truly helps the PTSO run many great events and activities for the school community.

If you have any questions regarding anything PTSO related, or if you just have a question you’d like to ask a fellow parent without it being on social media, please feel free to email us at: ptsoamso@gmail.com



Student Representatives Needed for the PTSO

We need two 7th grade students to serve as student representatives at our PTSO meetings. Getting student input and feedback on the activities and events sponsored by the PTSO is extremely

helpful in the decision making process. If your child is interested, they should stop by the main office and see Mrs. Burke.



Meetings take place at AMSO starting at 6:00pm. The meeting dates are as follows:

- Oct. 15 (Tues)
- Nov. 19 (Tues)
- Jan. 21 (Tues)
- Feb. 11(Tues)
- Mar. 18 (Tues)
- Apr. 22(Tues)
- May 20 (Tues)

There is still time to join the PTSO! Please use the QR code or Link to sign up!

Sign Up for PTSO Membership

Thank You!



Kathy Burke's Weekly Newsletter

Amity Middle School - Orange Principal