

AMHERST, PELHAM, & AMHERST-PELHAM REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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August 19, 2026

Greetings Amherst Regional Middle School and Chestnut Street Academy Families,

I am writing to provide an important update regarding the start of the 2026–2027 school year. Due to disruptions associated with the repair and renovation of the Amherst Regional Middle School roof, I have made the decision to delay the opening of school for Amherst Regional Middle School and Chestnut Street Academy until Monday, August 31, 2026.

I recognize that a change of this nature affects our students, families, and staff. This decision was not made lightly. However, the safety and well-being of our students and staff must remain our first priority.

What happened:

- In July, asbestos that had not been identified in the original project plans was discovered in a portion of the roof while work was underway. The District decided to have the affected area professionally abated.
- During the abatement period, a rainstorm caused the roof to leak in several classrooms located beneath areas where the roof membrane had not yet been fully installed.
- The asbestos abatement has been completed.
- The building's exhaust fans were removed because they needed to be replaced. As a result, the building has not had its normal level of air circulation.
- The combination of inoperable exhaust fans, current weather conditions, and repeated roof leaks led to strong odors and concerns regarding the possible development of mildew or mold and its potential impact on indoor air quality.

What is happening now:

- The new exhaust fans are scheduled to be brought online and fully commissioned no later than Thursday, August 20.
- Once the exhaust fans are operating, the building atmosphere will be flushed by running the ventilation system continuously and additionally using air purifiers to restore proper air quality.
- Indoor Air Quality testing is scheduled for Monday, August 24, after the ventilation system has been allowed to run for several days.
- The roofing contractor has assured the District that the membrane over the instructional portion of the building is in place and that the roof project is back on schedule.

What we do not know at this time:

- We will not know the indoor air quality conditions until testing has been completed and the results have been reviewed.
- We do not yet know whether the testing will identify any areas that require additional cleaning, remediation, or follow-up testing.
- We do not yet know exactly when all phases of the roof project will be completed; however, the instructional areas must be safe and ready before students and staff return.
- If testing identifies any additional concerns that could affect the August 31 opening, we will communicate that information to families and staff as soon as possible.

Revised start-of-school plan:

- First day of school: Monday, August 31, 2026
- Early Release Day: Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- Early Release Day: Wednesday, January 6, 2027
- Early Release Day: Friday, March 12, 2027

October 13, January 6, and March 12 were previously scheduled as no-school days. They have been converted to early-release days so that Amherst Regional Middle School and Chestnut Street Academy can make up the instructional time while remaining aligned with the rest of the schools. With this adjustment, June 17, 2027, remains the earliest possible last day of school.

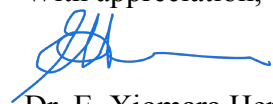
I have attached a revised calendar specific to Amherst Regional Middle School and Chestnut Street Academy for your reference. All other schools will follow their previously published calendars.

I understand this delay may create challenges for families and disappointment for students and staff eager to begin the new school year. Please know that we are working closely with our contractors and environmental professionals, and we will not welcome students and staff back into the building until we have the information needed to do so safely.

We will continue to share updates as testing is completed and additional information becomes available. Our goal is to welcome our Amherst Regional Middle School and Chestnut Street Academy students on August 31 with confidence, excitement, and the reassurance that their learning environment is ready for them.

Thank you for your patience, flexibility, and continued trust as we work through these unexpected challenges together.

With appreciation,



Dr. E. Xiomara Herman
Superintendent

Amherst-Pelham Regional Middle School & Chestnut St. Academy

Calendar 2026-2027

AUGUST 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					1 day

SEPTEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						21 days

OCTOBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						21 days

NOVEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
						16 days

DECEMBER 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
						16 days

JANUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						18 days

FEBRUARY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						
						15 days

MARCH 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
						22 days

APRIL 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
						17 days

MAY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					20 days

JUNE 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			
						13 days

JULY 2027						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

No School Days

7-Sep	Labor Day
12-Oct	Indigenous Peoples' Day
3-Nov	Curriculum Day/Election
11-Nov	Veterans Day
Nov 25-27	Thanksgiving Break
Dec 23-Jan 1	Winter Break
18-Jan	Martin Luther King Day
25-Jan	Curriculum Day
Feb 15-19	February Break
26-Mar	No School
Apr-19-23	Spring Break
31-May	Memorial Day
18-Jun	Juneteenth

Dates to Remember

4-Aug	APAA School Year Return	22-Jan	Early Release Day – (CS/MS/HS) <i>HS Exams</i>
12-Aug	Unit B School Year Return	25-Jan	Educator Plan and Prep Day (No School)
Aug 17-18	New Educator Orientation Day	24-Feb	ERD - Educator Workshop Day (PK-12)
24-Aug	All Teacher Plan & Prep Day	12-Mar	Early Release Day – (CS/MS)
25-Aug	Convocation/All Staff Workshop Day	25-Mar	ERD- Caregiver Conf. Day (PK-12)
31-Aug	First Day of School (CS/MS)	7-Apr	ERD - Educator Workshop Day (PK-12)
23-Sep	ERD - Edu. Plan & Prep Day (PK -12)	12-May	ERD - Edu. Plan & Prep Day (PK-12)
13-Oct	Early Release Day – (CS/MS)	16-Jun	Early Release Day – (CS/MS/HS) <i>MS/HS Exams</i>
30-Oct	ERD -Caregiver Conf. Days (PK-12)	17-Jun	Early Release Day – (CS/MS/HS) <i>MS/HS Exams</i>
3-Nov	ERD-Educator Workshop Day (No School)		
6-Jan	Early Release Day – (CS/MS)	Jun 17 th	Earliest Possible Last Day
21-Jan	Early Release Day – (CS/MS/HS) <i>HS Exams</i>	Jun 25 th	Last day of school including 5 snow days

ABBREVIATION LEGEND

CS=Chestnut Street | MS=ARMS | | ERD=Early Release Day