



Welcome Back, Amity!

August 24, 2026

Dear Amity Community,

It is hard to believe that another school year is almost here! I hope you have enjoyed the rest, adventures, and opportunities that summer can bring. We are excited to welcome our students, families, teachers, and staff back to Amity and especially eager to welcome those who will be joining the Amity community for the first time.

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, there is much to be optimistic about. Each new school year brings opportunities for our students to learn, grow, build relationships, and discover new interests. At the same time, we know that we are preparing them for a world that continues to change at an extraordinary pace. Artificial intelligence is one of the most visible examples of that change. Conversations about technology and screen time are prompting all of us to think more carefully about when technology adds value and when it does not. At Amity, our approach remains balanced: technology should support teaching and learning, not replace the professional judgment of our educators or supplant the real-world experiences, creativity, and relationships that are essential to learning.

In fact, a rapidly changing world makes much of the work we have already been doing even more important. Through the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate, we continue to develop students as Collaborators, Communicators, Empathizers, Planners, and Problem Solvers. We remain committed to fostering strong relationships and a deep sense of connection and belonging, while providing a comprehensive educational program that empowers students to explore their interests, challenge themselves, and make meaningful choices about their learning.

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Expanding Opportunities and Choice

Students will see several new opportunities this year. Our new middle school schedule provides incoming 7th grade students with the opportunity to take French I and creates additional opportunities for student choice, including our initial offering of 8th grade electives. We anticipate continuing to expand middle school elective opportunities over the next several years.

At Amity Regional High School, our updated Program of Studies includes new course offerings in Public Speaking and an opportunity for students to earn Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification.

This summer, we also offered our first Geometry Summer Enrichment program for rising 9th and 10th grade students, providing another pathway for students who want to accelerate in mathematics outside of the traditional school year. We continue to offer extensive opportunities in visual and performing arts, athletics, and student clubs and organizations.

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ARHS Library Media Center Renovation

Construction continues on the renovation of the Amity Regional High School Library Media Center, with an anticipated opening in January 2027. The new space will provide students and staff with a modern learning environment designed to support collaboration, research, instruction, and flexible student learning. We are excited to see this project continue to take shape and look forward to welcoming students into the completed space during the second half of the school year.

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Welcoming New Staff

We are pleased to welcome 13 new teachers and 7 new support staff members to Amity this year. Each brings new experiences, perspectives, and talents to our schools, and we look forward to the contributions they will make to our students and our community.

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Important Back-to-School Dates

The first day of school for students is Monday, August 31, 2026, and both August 31 and September 1 are early dismissal days. Back-to-School Nights will be held on September 10 for ARHS students in grades 9 and 12; September 15 for both middle schools; and September 16 for ARHS students in grades 10 and 11.

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There is always something special about the beginning of a new school year – the opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, welcome new members of our community, and begin the year with new goals and possibilities. Even as the world around our students continues to change, what we want for them remains remarkably consistent: to feel known and connected, to be challenged and supported, and to leave Amity prepared to learn, contribute, and thrive in whatever comes next.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back and wish our entire Amity community a wonderful 2026 - 2027 school year!

Sincerely,
Jenn Byars
Superintendent



Amity Regional School District #5

<https://www.amityregion5.org/>