



# Amherst Middle School Weekly Email

October 26, 2020

## Calendar

Mon. Oct. 26: -30: Spirit Week  
Mon. Oct. 26: Segment 4 begins  
Wed. Oct. 28: Picture Re-takes  
Wed., Oct. 28: Empower Parent Portal Zoom Help Session, 6:30pm (see info below)  
Mon., Nov. 2: Parent Teacher Conferences, No School  
Tues., Nov. 3: In-service day/Election Day, No School  
Thurs., Nov. 5: Evening Parent Teacher Conferences  
Wed., Nov. 11: Veteran's Day, No School

## Weather

Even with the changing weather, we will continue to use our outdoor spaces for lunch, recess, and instruction. We recommend that your student dress in layers or wear appropriate outerwear to ensure they are comfortable and warm in our outdoor spaces!

## Parent Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences will be held during the day on 11/2 and the afternoon/evening of 11/5. 5th and 6th grade families will receive an invitation and sign-up directions directly from their teachers. Due to our structure in 7/8th grades, sign-up information will be sent to families from AMS on 10/26.

## Empower Parent Portal

### Empower Parent Portal - Support Session - Wednesday, October 28th

Join us on Zoom for an overview of the Empower Parent Portal. Empower is our grading and reporting system and is used most extensively in grades 5-12.

You can access the portal [here](#) and information on how to log on is posted [here](#).

If you would like to join our support session on Wednesday, October 28 at 6:30 PM please register prior to this session [here](#).

## SAU39 & Gmail

SAU39 has been in the midst of a project to migrate all Staff/Faculty and Students to Gmail from Microsoft Outlook in an effort to make communication easier with the use of Google Classroom. On Oct. 9th, 2020, your student made the switch and should be receiving all email communication at [accounts.google.com](https://accounts.google.com). If they are signed in to [www.google.com](https://www.google.com) with their SAU39 account within a browser (Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, etc.), they can also find Gmail in the waffle at the top of the browser window.

### How is Gmail access set up by grade level?

Pre-k through 3rd grade will not have access to Gmail at all. 4th through 8th grade will be able to send and receive emails from only those within the SAU39 organization (@sau39.org or @student39.org). 9th through 12th grade will have full access to Gmail.

Questions? [remotesupport@sau39.org](mailto:remotesupport@sau39.org).

## NH SAS Testing

Since students were unable to take the NHSAS state assessment last spring, the NHDOE is requiring students in grades 4 through 8 to take the NHSAS Interim Assessment this fall in math and English language arts.

Students in these grade levels already took the NWEA MAP assessment earlier this fall. That assessment is a district assessment that helps our teachers better understand student instructional levels and helps us to monitor growth throughout the school year.

RSA 193-C:6 permits parents to exempt their public-school student from taking the New Hampshire statewide assessment. If you do not want your child to participate in the NHSAS Interim Assessment this fall, please complete this form by Friday, October 30th. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRiCMHmTHacWLvNCi\\_tfnSgvAGDo6aoK3No3T3TpHwTkKzA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRiCMHmTHacWLvNCi_tfnSgvAGDo6aoK3No3T3TpHwTkKzA/viewform)

*We have the courage to care!*



## Spirit Week at AMS: October 26-30



## Red Ribbon Week and SOAR Kick-off!



### MONDAY

Eagles Pride- Students Rise up against drugs. Our School is proud to be drug free! Wear red/school colors to help kickoff Red Ribbon Week.



### TUESDAY

Be a team player, collaborate and include others. Team up against drugs. Wear your favorite sports shirt or jersey.



### WEDNESDAY

"Have good character and make good choices." Dress up as your favorite character.



### THURSDAY

"Your choices are the key to your dreams." Dream of a world where everyone puts forth their best effort and accept and learn from mistakes. Pajama day!



### FRIDAY

"Say Boo to Drugs" Turn tricks into treats and treat others with kindness. Wear a Halloween Costume!  
\*Please no weapons, face paint, and protective masks must be worn.



**Spirit Week combines** our AMS celebration of Red Ribbon Week and launch of SOAR...ask your student how they SOAR (Success, Ownership, Acceptance and Respect) as an AMS eagle!

**Friday, Oct. 30, Halloween Costume Reminders:** Have fun and be creative, but remember costumes must be school appropriate (no "weapons", no depictions of gore or violence, no face paint) Masks are still required for safety, Halloween masks are not permitted.

**Points for Spirit Week:** Each day, students and grade levels will be awarded points for their display of school spirit. These points will count toward 'Launchpad' and 'Grade Level' prizes of Launchpad breakfast and quarterly grade level events. The point breakdown is as follows: 1st most spirited student 15pts, 2nd most spirited student 10 pts and 1st most spirited grade level 20 pts.