

Amherst Middle School



AMS Weekly Email (8/31/2018)

Next Amherst School Board meeting: Monday, September 10 at 6pm in the SHS Learning Commons.

Calendar:

September 4: First Day of School
September 6/7: Fall sports pictures
September 11: LATE START, School begins at 9:25am
September 12: School picture day
September 12: PTA Meeting, 6pm, Wilkins Library
September 13: 6th grade parent info session on Nature's Classroom, 6pm
September 14: Flyer Distribution Day
September 14: AMS Dance for grades 6, 7, 8; 7-9:30pm
September 18: Grade 5 Instrument Rental Pick up, 6pm
September 19: Theater Club Info Session, 5:30pm
September 20: Theater Club Info Session, 2:30pm
September 24-28: Grade 6 at Nature's Classroom
September 24-28: Grade 8 Kalenik Team at The Ecology School
October 1-5: Grade 8 Therrien Team at The Ecology School
October 4: Theater Club Audition Prep 4:30pm
October 8: NO SCHOOL, Columbus Day
October 9: LATE START, School begins at 9:25am
October 9: Theater Club Audition prep, 2:30pm
October 9: Open House, grades 5 and 6
October 10: PTA Meeting, 9am AMS Cafe
October 12: Theater Club Audition Call-backs
October 16: Theater Club Parent Kick Off Meeting, 6pm
October 17: Open House, grades 7 and 8
October 18: Theater Club, First All Cast Rehearsal
October 24: School picture re-takes

From the Principal:

Dear Families,

We are ready! The floors are polished, the classrooms decorated, and most importantly the AMS educators are excited to greet your students on Tuesday! While the first day of school can feel overwhelming for both students and families, please know that we are

prepared to help everyone transition through team-building activities, grade level assemblies, and a staff that truly understand the importance of seeing and valuing the whole child.

As we begin the year, one of our goals is to increase and have clear communication with all of you as we partner in all aspects of your students' experience. You should have received an e-mail earlier this week about our new communication tool, Nixle. Please take a few minutes to review that e-mail and set your communication preferences. In addition to communications through Nixle, our Facebook page and Twitter feeds are great ways to stay connected. The calendar found on our school website has up to date information about athletics, extracurricular activities, field trips, assemblies, testing, and school community events including guest speakers and PTA meetings. I highly recommend reviewing the calendar weekly with your students as you discuss afterschool plans. This is especially important on the first day of school as students often forget their bus numbers over the summer.& nbsp;

Tuesday marks the beginning of our new year, new adventures, new journeys, and the next chapter in your students' stories. While it is a day of transitions, I hope that is also a day of celebrating a new year of learning for all of us. Thank you and we are looking forward to an incredible year ahead!

Regards,
Dr. Bethany Bernasconi

First Day of Instruction

The first day of instruction is **Tuesday, September 4 and is a full day of school**. Start time is at 7:25am and the school day ends at 2:19pm

Schedules will be available to students in homeroom on the first day of school. All 5th grade students will report to the cafeteria at 7:25am on the first day of school, and then will be directed to their homerooms. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will report to homeroom at 7:25am on the first day of school.

On-line Registration for All Students

We appreciate your assistance in ensuring that we have **updated contact information and that our school nurses have pertinent health information. Permissions to treat, administer medications, etc. must be signed off on each year.** Parents access their student's information through their parent portal account. Details of this process were emailed to parents and can be found [here](#). Please contact us at ams@sprise.com if you have questions.

AMS Reminders

- The school year calendar for 2018-19 is posted on the [website](#).

- Please bookmark our school website (www.sau39.org/ams) It is updated daily to include all current announcements. We also send weekly emails home with all the news and announcements from AMS.
- **Absences:** Please send the school an email at ams@sprise.com or call the absence line (673-8944 x1) prior to 8:00am if your child is absent or tardy. Attendance is taken upon entering 1st period. We will call parents if your student is absent and we have no message from home.
- **Tardy arrivals:** The first bell is at 7:25 am. If you anticipate that your student will be late, please email (ams@sprise.com) or phone the absent line (673-8944 x1) and leave a message. Students not in their first period seat at the 7:30 bell will be considered tardy. All tardy students must report to the office upon arrival at school.
- **AMS does not accept phone calls from “blocked” numbers;** dialing *82 prior to calling will “unblock” your number.
- **AMS does not use “pick up patrol”.** For bus riders, please see below for the bus routes; for students picked up by a parent, your student will come outside to the pick-up line after dismissal; the Boys and Girls club bus meets students on the basketball court area. If you have any questions about dismissal procedures, please send us an email at ams@sprise.com or give us a call at 673-8944, x-0.

AMS Picture Day is Wednesday, September 12

Picture day at AMS is on Wednesday, September 12. Please keep an eye on your mail for the picture order forms; we will have additional forms in the office.

Bus Routes for 2018-19

- Bus routes have been posted on our [district website](#).
- **Buses:** Please check for your bus route before the first day of school.
- **Bus passes:** Students need a bus pass if they are taking a bus other than their regular afterschool bus or if they are taking their usual bus but getting off at a different stop. Notes must be turned in to the main office prior to going to 1st period and must include the following: Name of student, bus number, destination and signature of parent. We understand that on occasion, an email may be necessary, but the preferred method is to have a note with a parent signature.
- **Late Bus:** There are two late bus routes that offer a shortened loop through Amherst and Mont Vernon. Please refer to the [district website](#) for specific stops on each route. The late buses leave the middle school at approximately 4:00pm. Students who wish to take the late bus must have a late bus pass from the teacher, coach, or advisor with whom they stayed. The office will not issue late bus passes.

Theater Club

Calling all drama enthusiasts...this year's Theater Club Show is *Shrek the Musical, Jr.* There are many cast and crew opportunities! Be sure to attend one of the two

scheduled information sessions on September 19 or 20 to learn more about our show. More information can be found on our website or on the Theater Club site: <https://sites.google.com/site/amsauditionsfortheswamp/> or email questions to: residentsoftheswamp@gmail.com

Flag Football

Intramural flag football for all grades begins on September 6! There is no sign up and no fee to play, come when you can: 2:30-4:00pm! Questions? contact Mr. Wing at jwing@sprise.com Keep an eye on the website and listen to announcements for changes to the schedule due to weather or availability of the coach!

September- 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26
October- 1, 4, 5, 9, 10, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 29
November- 1, 2

Community News

Friends of the Amherst Town Library Book Sale, Sunday Sept. 15, 8am-3pm

Save the date! The annual Friends of the Amherst Town Library Book Sale is on Saturday, September 15th from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM at the Amherst Congregational Church (across from the Amherst Village Common). Doors open at 8:00 AM for members and 8:30 AM for the general public. New members may join at the door starting at 7:30 AM. As one of the largest book sales in New Hampshire, this event offers more than 17,000 books, DVDs, and CDs. Prices for most adult books are \$1.00 and only \$0.50 for children's books. Special editions, collectibles, and rare books are available at competitive prices. Starting at 1:15 PM, books are priced at \$5.00/grocery bag (provided at door). At 2:30, SAU39 teachers are invited to take any book they would like free of charge! For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftheamherstlibrary/> . We hope to see you there!