

Amherst Middle School



AMS Weekly Email (9/7/2018)

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

Calendar:

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 17: Open House, grades 7 and 8
October 18: Theater Club, First All Cast Rehearsal
October 22: Theater Club Parent Kick Off Meeting, 6pm
October 24: School picture re-takes

From the Principal:

Dear Families,

We have had an incredible first week of school at AMS! Despite the heat, the hallways and classrooms have been filled with smiles, laughter, and excitement for the upcoming school year. Teachers have spent this first week focused on welcoming students to a safe, supported learning environment and building a sense of community. This message was also reflected in our opening day grade level assemblies. My challenge for students was simple... keep the word *Respect* in the forefront of their minds in all of their actions and interactions. I challenged them to imagine what impact they could have on our community of learners by keeping this in mind and that sometimes the smallest actions can have incredible impacts! Students participated by sharing ideas about what respect looks and feels like to them. The discussion was incredible, and you would have been proud to witness the impact of their words and ideas on one another. Our students are well poised to become the next generation of leaders in our community.

As 8th grade students are stepping into an even greater leadership role in our school, I gave them an additional challenge. I have asked them to consider what fingerprints, what legacy, they want to leave behind as they transition from the middle school to the high school. Each month I will share with them a new activity or challenge to engage the class of 2023 in building a living legacy of respect, kindness, and service. Students were so energized that I already have a flood of responses coming in from my first challenge!

In addition to building community, we have also focused on helping students acclimate to the building including finding their way around and building an understanding of our safety procedures. AMS successfully completed our first fire drill on Thursday and the students were pros! Today we also helped students to better understand the difference between a fire drill and lockdown by playing the tones over the intercom. We will continue to practice our emergency procedures throughout the school year.

Thank you again for entrusting your children into our care. It is going to be an incredible year partnering together!

Regards,
Dr. Bernasconi

On-line Registration for All Students

We are still needing a number of parents/guardians to update registration information for your students. It is critical 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 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 have additional forms in the office.

AMS Afterschool Plans

- **Students who remain after school** must be in a supervised activity or in the library.
- **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.
- **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

The AMS Theater Club invites you to 'join them in the swamp' for this year's performance of *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. There are forms available in the office with further information on the sign-up/audition process. If you would like to check out a script they are now available at the library. More can be found on the Theater Club site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/amsauditionsfortheswamp/>

Community Flyer Friday, Sept. 14

Our first of the two annual community distribution days is next Friday. Please contact the school office for distribution details.

Flag Football

Intramural flag football for all grades has begun! 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- 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

Pat's Peak: Pat's Peak 2019 Learn to Ski & Ride Program has begun registrations for their annual 5-week program beginning in January. Please see the [flyer](#) for all the details.

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!