

# Amherst Middle School

14 Cross Road, Amherst, NH 03031

[sau39.org/ams](http://sau39.org/ams) 603-673-8944

Mission: Using a multi-tiered system of supports, Amherst Middle School is committed to helping each child reach their greatest potential to be college, career, and life ready.

## COMPETENCY-BASED GRADING

Amherst Middle School's competency-based grading system ensures that all students demonstrate achievement of critical learning standards.

Standards for each course are end of grade-level expectations and grouped into specific competencies. Standard scores are rolling through the entire year to build a trend-line of student learning. At the end of a course, these scores average into course competency scores, and course competency scores average into an overall course score. Our curriculum uses the New Hampshire State Standards and is research-based. For additional information regarding the curriculum, please visit: [sau39.org/domain/23](http://sau39.org/domain/23)

4- Extending Beyond Grade Level Standard(s)

3- Meeting Grade Level Standard(s)

2- Approaching Grade Level Standard(s)

1-Beginning Grade Level Standard(s)

For additional information please visit: [sau39.org/domain/544](http://sau39.org/domain/544)

## WORK STUDY PRACTICES

Work study practices, otherwise referred to as habits of mind, are an important aspect of growing and developing learners. Amherst Middle School assesses students on 4 work study practices, self-direction, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Work



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Principal

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## The Academic Program

Students grow and change a great deal between 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Everything about Amherst Middle School, from schedule to courses, is designed to address students' physical, social, emotional, and academic needs as they develop. Both grades 5 and 6 are composed of three teams consisting of two teachers each. One teacher teaches math and science (STEM), and the other teaches reading/language arts and social studies (Humanities). Grades 7 and 8 have two teams consisting of four teachers, with each teacher teaching one of the core subjects (Math, Science, English, and Social Studies). Integrated Arts offerings include world language (French or Spanish beginning in grade 6), art, music (band, chorus or general music), family and consumer science, innovation and design, computers, physical education, health, library, engineering, and executive functioning skills. In addition, there is a school-wide focus on social-emotional learning.

study practice scores are reported separately from content area standards as it is our strong belief that implicit instruction and growth in these areas will help to support our students in solving the problems and challenges of tomorrow. These are scored, using rubrics, on a 4-point scale.

## Honors System

Honor roll is calculated once per year at the completion of the school year. All scores are rolling throughout the course.

Honors: 80%+ Standard Scores are 3.0 or higher

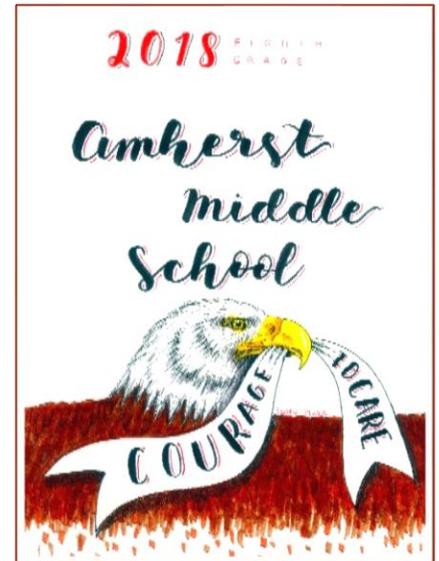
High Honors: 95%+ Standard Scores are 3.0 or higher

## National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society was established by the National Association for Secondary School Principals (NASSP) to recognize and promote academic achievement while also encouraging the ideals of service, leadership, character, and citizenship. The Amherst Middle School chapter began in 2016 and serves as an important leadership and service organization within the school and community.

## Performance Assessment

Our assessment system includes both performance assessment as well as objective tests. Performance-based assessments serve as strong evidence of mastery because they require students to apply their skills and knowledge to solve complex problems and produce meaningful work products. Performance assessment is critical to our assessment system because it allows students to demonstrate their learning at their own point of readiness and encourages students to apply and extend their knowledge beyond grade level expectations. Our assessment maps are created to ensure that performance assessment is a well-integrated component within our range of assessments.



## The School and Community

Amherst Middle School is part of SAU #39 serving the towns of Mont Vernon and Amherst. 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students residing in the town of Amherst and 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students residing in the town of Mont Vernon attend the Amherst Middle School. Amherst Middle School has approximately 645 students enrolled. Mont Vernon and Amherst are located in south-central N.H., offering proximity to the cultural and recreational activities of New England. The neighboring towns are rich in traditions and classic New England flavor. Amherst has many well preserved, beautifully renovated, historic buildings in the center of town. Many residents run small businesses in town, while others work in nearby cities or commute to jobs in Massachusetts.