

AMITY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Bethany Campus

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Our mission is to provide a safe, healthy, and caring environment that maximizes the social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth of the young adolescent.

February 24, 2021

Dear Amity Families,

We are pleased to begin our 6th into 7th grade transition for Amity Middle School Bethany and want to welcome you to the Amity Regional School District. I look forward to welcoming you and your student to AMSB and look forward to being a part of their transition to our school district. Over the coming weeks, we will begin to share information regarding the transition to middle school as we begin to plan for next year. This packet will contain information for several important dates in that planning process.

Early adolescence is a very important time of life. Our goal is to help every student make the most of these crucial middle school years. I hope every sixth grader will become an active, involved, and successful member of the Amity Middle School community. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please contact me.

Regards,

Jason F. Tracy
Principal - AMSB

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Important Dates (Detailed information below):

March 1st – Orientation Presentation (Virtual)
March 2nd – Special Services Webinar
March 4th – Orientation Webinar
March 5th – Registration Opens/Students Select Electives

AMSB Orientation Presentation: On March 1st, the administration at Amity Middle School Bethany will release a 7th grade orientation video presentation. In the past, this presentation would be held in the school gymnasium, however due to COVID restrictions this year the presentation will be virtual. Please look for an email from building administration on March 1st for the presentation.

Webinar for Special Services: On next Tuesday evening, March 2nd, the Amity Middle School Bethany Support Services Department is hosting a Virtual Informational Session for parents/guardians of incoming 7th grade students who receive special education services. Please see the attached flyer invitation for more detailed information. We are requesting that you please complete this RSVP form **by this Friday, February 26th** - [Link for Parent/Guardian RSVP for Incoming 7th Grade Informational Session](#) . Please check below for an informational flier.

AMSB 7th Grade Orientation Webinar: On March 4th at 6:30pm, the Amity Middle School Administration will hold an orientation webinar for all entering 7th grade families. The online forum will allow parents to submit questions, and a moderator will direct the questions to the appropriate panelist. Please refer to the FAQ sheet containing questions that have been asked in past years.

Parents may submit questions prior to the webinar at this link: [LINK TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS](#)
To join the live webinar on March 4th please follow this link: [LINK TO WEBINAR](#) Passcode: 964062

Registration for AMSB: All students entering the Amity Regional School District are required to complete an electronic registration packet. Students/families will need to complete the Amity registration process in the coming weeks and will receive a separate email with information, following the March 4th webinar. Along with the registration packet parents/guardians will receive information to select electives for next school year. Parents/guardians must complete the registration packet to select elective classes.

AMSB Program of Studies: You will find the 2021-2022 AMSB Program of Studies on our [school website](#) (under School Information). This document will help you to understand the scope and sequence of courses at AMSB, as well as provide descriptions for our courses and electives.

Amity Middle School – Bethany Campus
Questions from Previous Years

Will the middle school be switching over to the grading systems that BCS and BRS now use? While we are aware of the standards-based report cards at both BCS and BRS, we have no plans to change our current grade reporting system, with traditional grades, which is in PowerSchool.

What are the clubs can students can join? Also, generally which days do the clubs meet? While some of the clubs change from year to year, the list of the after-school clubs for this year is included in the packet of information. It is also posted on our website.

Please explain the different color teams and academic levels at the middle school. We have two team colors in the seventh grade, the Blue Team and the Green Team. There are also two different levels of academic classes, advanced and comprehensive. Some remedial support classes in reading and math are homogeneously grouped. Life arts and elective classes are heterogeneously grouped.

Class leveling and scheduling. How will students be assigned to classes? How will placement be determined and when will we be notified of the child's placement in class? The AMSB counselor makes level recommendations for English, math, social studies, science, and Spanish classes after reviewing grades, information provided by sixth grade teachers, and the most recent standardized testing data. An email with “level” recommendations will be sent to parents/guardians in July. Parents/guardians who have any questions about the recommended levels will be asked to contact the AMSB counselor for explanations and information about the waiver process. We do our best to balance each team by gender, ability, and elementary school. Scheduling is finalized during the summer months. Schedules will be made available on PowerSchool in August.

Levels and the hope that the students can be in level 1 for Spanish but maybe level 2 in everything else, as an example. There are two levels for academic classes, advanced and comprehensive. We try and schedule as many possible combinations of advanced and comprehensive classes as possible. Combinations may change from year to year. This past year this particular combination was possible.

Information about fall sports. The fall sports include: soccer and cross country for boys and girls; and girls' volleyball and field hockey. An informational meeting will be held each season for all students interested, after school begins. The Amity Athletics Handbook is online, go to our AMSB website, and click on “Athletics.”

Can the parents get the curriculum for grade 7 and 8 so that we can work together with school? The Program of Studies outlines the seventh and eighth grade curriculum by briefly describing all classes. Hard copies are available in the counseling office. The program of studies is also on our website, click on “School Information.” More information from individual teachers on curriculum, textbooks, and grading is distributed at the Back-to-School Night for parents in September.

We will be out of town for the orientation; is there another planned Parent Orientation? There is only one evening parent orientation program. However, the parent orientation PowerPoint will be posted on our website. Call the main office and a copy of the materials will be mailed to you, or have a friend bring a copy of the information home from the orientation. Tours for new parents to AMSB can also be arranged through the counseling office.

What is the drop off and pick up procedure for children that will be arriving and departing with parents (not the bus.) Also, what time is drop off and pick up? Parents may drop off students as early as 7:15 A.M. during school days. This year students reported directly to classrooms, but during non-COVID times, students who were dropped off early were encouraged to wait in the cafeteria until 7:25 A.M., at that time they will report to their first period class. School ends at 2:18 P.M. Students not taking the bus can wait for parents in the lobby or outside, weather permitting, but should be picked up as soon as possible after 2:18PM. Students can remain in other areas of the building after the 2:18 P.M. dismissal only if they have permission

from a staff member and are supervised by that staff member. Parents may also pick up students later on days when there are P.M. activities.

Please address after school options for children of working parents. There is no regular, formal after-school program for children of working parents at AMSB. However, the list of after-school clubs and activities is included in the packet. Most school-sponsored activities are after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays when students can stay to get extra academic help and there are late buses which leave AMSB at 4 P.M. Students need to have permission from a staff member to stay after school, even if getting extra help or participating in a club or activity. The list of athletic teams is given in the PowerPoint handout. Teams often play or practice Mondays through Fridays. Parents need to make arrangements to pick up student athletes after games and practices.

If you are a student who needs support over the summer, are there any academic summer school programs offered. Amity does have a summer school program. The summer school program of studies will be posted on our district website as soon as it is available.

Is there a particular form my child's pediatrician needs to fill out as proof of physical exam/immunizations? The forms are available from your pediatrician and will also soon be posted on the school's website. Click on "AMSB – Health/Medical Information."

When are parent teacher conferences held and are the number of time slots adequate for parents to meet with teachers given the number of students each teacher has? The dates for parent/student/teacher conferences are included in the district calendar. The sign-up is done online on a first-come, first-serve basis. In addition, team conferences, involving all teachers, can be scheduled anytime during the school year on an as-needed basis by contacting the school guidance counselor.

Are students allowed to have cell phones in school? Cell phones need to be silenced and stored during the school day and only used with teacher permission. Any inappropriate use will result in confiscation.

How does the school communicate with the community? AMSB communicates via AMSB "News Blast" emails. Read news blasts thoroughly to learn about activities, meetings, conferences, and events.

Are families expected to print homework and projects? It depends on the team and/or the teacher. Have a working printer, ink cartridges, and plenty of paper.

How do I access PowerSchool? Parents will receive instructions to set up PowerSchool over the summer. You can log on to PowerSchool through the PowerSchool mobile app or via a web browser. Note that when accessing PowerSchool via a browser, the experience is best when at a computer. From your phone, download the PowerSchool app from your Android or iOS app store. From a computer, the quickest and best way to access PowerSchool is through one of the links in emails you'll receive from "Amity Region PowerSchool." A link to PowerSchool is also available via the "PowerSchool Unified Classroom" icon on the AMSB home page.

What is the short description of PowerSchool? The PowerSchool mobile app shows all assignments, quizzes, and tests, the grades for each, and any that are missing. You can also see the current grade per class per quarter. Alerts will inform you if your child was marked absent or tardy. You can toggle between students if you have more than one student in the school. The PowerSchool website provides all of the above information plus teacher home pages, homework, practice homework, study guides, and more. Students access the site via their own school-provided device and also have access to online versions of textbooks.

AMSB Parent Orientation

**For Parents of incoming 7th Grade Students
who Receive Special Education Services**

**Tuesday, March 2, 2021
6:00 PM**

Zoom Webinar

**Please Complete This Form below to RSVP &
Ask Questions by 2/26/21 :
[Parent/Guardian RSVP Form](#)**

**Come and meet our PPS staff and learn about how services
are implemented at the middle school level. We look forward
to welcoming your family and supporting your student's
transition to the middle school!!**