

Principal's Report

Amherst School District

School: Amherst Middle School

February 15, 2018

Porter Dodge, Principal

Elementary
& Middle
School
Excellence

- **AMS Kindness Challenge:** As a natural transition from the Veterans Affairs Assembly, the Middle School embark on the Kindness Challenge, to continue to help others through a variety of deeds and actions.

Thanks to the Amherst PTA and Amherst Junior Women's Club, last Monday, February 5th Justin and Ryan, from *Recycled Percussion* and the TV show *Chaos and Kindness* performed before the entire school. It was the best assembly yet in the Eagle Gymnasium! Their message, combined with some awesome drumming and fun, was one of inspiration, caring, and kindness. All the students and teachers got involved, and it was just a perfect example how an unorthodox band from Goffstown, NH has captured the country, banging on trash-cans.

The audience enjoyed some wonderful selections from individual soloists and duets, as well as the AMS Band and chorus. Student Leadership and Service Committee presented a large banner, signed by everyone taking the Kindness Challenge, for display in the school.

During the ceremony, the audience enjoyed a brief video presentation of students taking the **Kindness Challenge**.

- **Social Media/Cyberbullying Presentation:** On January 22nd the Amherst PTA and the AMS Parent Partnership Team again joined forces to present parents with an evening of education regarding the problems with Social Media and Cyberbullying. Despite icy weather conditions, many parents attended to hear School Resource Officer Mike Knox present the latest in problems and potential solutions to prevent children from becoming victims.
- On Monday, February 19 at 6:30pm in the SHS Theater, AMS and Souhegan High School will present an informative discussion on 'What is Vaping and how does it impact children?' Dr. Joseph Hou, a pulmonary critical care physician at CMC, together with school resource officers Mike Knox and John Smith will discuss the facts about vaping.
- At the Amherst PTA meeting at Wilkins School, Gerry St. Amand and I discussed school safety and security, and answer any questions from parents about our protocols and procedures. The information was informative and the discussion lively. Parents were instructed to contact the schools if they still have questions.
- To date, twenty-four applicants have responded to the Assistant Principal position at the Middle School
- AMS is expanding its current field test for "Empower" to include all teachers. During February, the core teachers will be trained, and the Integrated Arts in March.

- **SHS Parent Evening:** Parents of current eighth graders are invited to attend an informational evening at Souhegan High School on March 7. Parents receive an overview of the curriculum, expectations, and tour the facility to meet teachers and administration.
- For those of you who have not had a chance to check out [OneSchoolStreet](#), the SAU on-line magazine, please take a moment to do so. There are all kinds of interesting interviews, articles, pictures, and information about the great things going on in SAU39.

Diligent
Fiscal
Oversight

- **Facilities:** Although I do not assume the new role of Director of Operations until July, I have been working with John Robichaud and Adam Steel to review cleaning standards and health and environmental information. We have met with lead custodians to ensure schools kept as clean and sanitary as possible during this flu and cold season.
- **Enrollments:**

Grade	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	Apr.	May	June
5	134	135	136	137	137	136	138				
6	141	141	142	141	141	140	140				
7	173 (28 MV)	174 (28 MV)	174 (28 MV)	174 (28 MV)	176 (28 MV)	176 (28 MV)	175 (28 MV)				
8	184 (31 MV)	185 (31 MV)	185 (32 MV)	186 (32 MV)	187 (32 MV)	187 (32 MV)	186 (32 MV)				
Total	632	635	637	638	639	639	639				

Inspirational
& Effective
Teaching

- **Response to Instruction (RTI) and Multi-Tiered System of Services (MTSS):** Two more schools have visited AMS since my last report to learn from us. Our intervention model, using *ICan* at grades 5 and 6, and *EAGLE Block* at grades 7 and 8, access services and supports to those requiring them.
- **PACE:** AMS teachers have been working on writing “common” tasks in Concord, NH as a continuation of our Performance Assessment work.
- **February Late Start:** Professional staff worked on “Elevator Speeches” for our Mastery-Based Learning System
- **Artist in Residence:** Thanks to a PTA sponsorship, Art Teachers Rachael Rouillard and Brandie Pettus had an Artist in Residence for the week of January 15th culminating in an Evening of African Art and Culture on Friday, January 19th. Student work was displayed to a large audience, and African Drumming performed by student volunteers. We received many compliments from parents!

Innovative Technology Integration

- **NWEA:** All grades are currently taking the winter NWEA tests using the classroom computers and labs to complete these adaptive tests designed to show growth.

Summary of Upcoming Events

February 16: Winter Carnival, grades 5/6, 2:20-4pm
February 19: Parent Info Meeting on Vaping at SHS, 6:30pm
February 22: Track & Field Sign Ups, anytime from 2:30-5:30pm in the gym
March 7: 8th grade parent info night at SHS, 5pm
March 12: Trimester 2 ends
March 14: AMS Theater Club dress rehearsal, 9am
March 15-18: AMS Theater Club Presentation: *Willy Wonka Jr.*
March 19: PTA meeting at 6:30pm, Partnership Team Meeting at 7pm
March 20: NJHS Induction Ceremony, 6:30pm
March 22: 7th grade OXFAM Hunger Banquet, 10am (snow date March 23)
March 22: Track & Field Team Meeting, 2:30pm-4pm
March 28-29: Grade 7 to Battleship Cove