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# AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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## PROFILE 2017-2018

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### Superintendent

Michael Morris

### Principal

Mark Jackson

### Guidance Staff

Sherry Balzano, Counselor

Marisa Castro, Counselor

Kelly Larcheveque, Counselor

Alessandra Mucci-Ramos, Counselor

Myra Ross, College Advisor

Lisa Zephyr, Department Head/Guidance Counselor

### Assistant Principals

Miki Lee Gromacki

Ericka Alschuler

Rich Ferro, Athletic Director

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## COMMUNITY

Amherst is a college community with a population of 34,874 located in the Connecticut River Valley—87 miles west of Boston, 23 miles north of Springfield. Amherst is the home of Amherst College, the University of Massachusetts and Hampshire College, with Mount Holyoke College and Smith College nearby.

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## SCHOOL

Amherst Regional High School is a four-year comprehensive regional school serving the towns of Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury. ARHS is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Enrollment is 952 with a senior class of 234. The student body is culturally diverse with a population that includes 58% Caucasian, 7% African-American, 9% Asian, 13% Hispanic, 12% Multi-Racial, and includes native speakers of 29 languages. 32% of students are registered for the Federal Subsidized Meal program. The student-faculty ratio is 11 to 1. Masters or doctoral degrees are held by 88% of the faculty.

## AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL'S CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

The high school administration, faculty, and staff believe: 1) in promoting high achievement for all students; 2) in working from research-based best practices that promote student achievement; 3) that an education in diversity and social justice is essential for all members of our community. We believe that these values help us to recognize our civic responsibilities and the potential we share to make a positive difference in and beyond the school.

The Amherst Regional Public School system is a founding member of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), an unprecedented national coalition of multiracial school districts that have come together to study the disparity in achievement between white students and students of color through intensive research. The Network was established to discover, develop, and implement the means to ensure high academic achievement of minority students.

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

88 Credits (grades 9-12), which include:

16 English credits (including 2 Oral Communication and 8 Literature)

12 Social Studies credits (including 4 of U. S. History)

8 Laboratory Science credits

8 Mathematics credits

2 Physical Education credits

2 Health Education credits

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## CURRICULUM

A fully enrolled student at ARHS takes a minimum of 22 credits each year. This includes study in five major academic subject areas, plus physical education, health education, and elective courses.

Since 2016-17, ARHS has operated on a seven-period “drop one” rotating semester schedule. Students have six 55-minute classes per day. One-semester courses yield two credits and full-year courses yield four. Students typically enroll in five core classes and one or two electives.

For the past eighteen years, we used a trimester schedule. Two-credit courses were completed in one trimester and were equivalent to courses that would typically meet for one semester. Four-credit courses were completed in two trimesters and equaled courses that would typically meet for a full year. A typical student schedule included three core subjects for two trimesters and four core subjects for one trimester plus one or two electives each trimester.

**Advanced Placement:** Offerings are available in Calculus (AB & BC), Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish, European History, Biology, Physics Mechanics, Environmental Science, Computer Science Principles, and English Literature and Composition.

**English:** 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students must take at least one literature elective each year and can elect writing classes. Advanced Placement credit is awarded after the successful completion of two Honors literature electives in either the junior or the senior year (one classic and one contemporary course). Successful completion of the honors project in both courses requires reading additional texts, annotating them, and writing essays modeled off the national AP Literature and Composition tests. Journalistic Writing is not a production class; it is a writing class dedicated to improving composition skills.

**Mathematics:** ARHS students can choose a traditional course sequence, which includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, or the Integrated Mathematics Program (IMP) sequence. IMP courses are organized around central questions or themes and challenge students to solve a variety of problems that develop mathematical concepts and habits of mind. Both sequences are offered at the college preparatory and honors levels, and both sequences prepare students for calculus. (BC Calculus is now scheduled for two periods in the first semester and one period in the second semester.) Currently, 41% of seniors are enrolled either in an AP Calculus class or in Multivariable Calculus at Amherst College.

**Social Studies:** Juniors and Seniors are able to choose from 19 one-semester social studies electives and year-long AP European History

**Science:** Currently, 34% of seniors are enrolled in AP Biology, AP Physics Mechanics or AP Environmental Science.

**Engineering and Computer Science:** Our engineering courses -- mechanical, electrical, robotics, and computer-aided drawing and design -- teach technical skills and knowledge along with problem solving, critical thinking, and collaboration. The computer science courses include Web Design and advanced courses in Computer Programming. Currently, 31% of seniors are enrolled in these classes.

**World Languages:** ARHS offers complete sequences in the Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish languages.

**Performing Arts:** 30% of ARHS seniors are currently enrolled in performance classes in music, dance and theatre -- choirs, orchestras, concert bands, a jazz workshop, dance ensembles and theater and dance courses. The ARHS Theatre Company (extra-curricular) averages 6 productions a year in genres including classics, immersive theater, student-written and directed plays and a musical extravaganza involving 150 students. (2014 Pulitzer winner/ 2017 MacArthur Genius playwright Annie Baker is a '99 alumna).

**Art:** 38% of seniors are enrolled in art classes in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, photography, graphic design, video production, art history and a portfolio preparation class.

**Alternative Learning Programs:** (ALP) permit students to propose independent studies or alternative projects to supplement the standard high school curriculum. This work is conducted under the supervision of a faculty advisor and may involve academic activities, volunteer experience either on or off campus or local college courses. Credit is given for these experiences.

**Dual Enrollment:** ARHS students may take classes at Greenfield Community College or Holyoke Community College. This year, GCC is offering an English class and a sociology class on our campus. Students may be enrolled part-time at GCC or HCC and Amherst Regional High School or full-time at GCC or HCC. Students using any of these options are dual enrollment students. All credits earned can be used to fulfill ARHS graduation requirements.

**College Classes:** Qualified upper-grade students may enroll in courses at local 4-year colleges (Amherst College, Hampshire College or the University of Massachusetts/Amherst) to pursue advanced studies. The interface with both our new and old schedules is difficult. Amherst College classes are free for qualifying ARHS students. Students must apply to individual professors for pre-approval in April of the preceding year. UMass classes cost more than \$1,300 each and are cost prohibitive for many students. At all institutions, students can register at the beginning of each semester only if space is available. Students are expected to request official transcripts from these colleges to be sent to any post-secondary schools to which they apply. Students taking classes at four-year colleges are not awarded high school credit and are not considered dual enrollment students.

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## INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPING

All academic courses at Amherst Regional High School are college preparatory. Courses designated as Honors are characterized by an accelerated pace, an intensive examination of content, or both. Honors courses demand substantial independent work, extensive use of supplementary materials, and sophisticated analysis and synthesis of information and ideas. Courses designated as Advanced Placement are similar to Honors courses in level of challenge and expectations but follow the AP curricula established by the College Board.

## GRADE POINT AVERAGES AND CLASS RANK

An *unweighted* grade point average is computed for all Amherst Regional High School students. It includes grades for courses completed by the end of the preceding term. All graded courses taken at ARHS are included, with the following exceptions:

1) Physical Education classes; 2) ALPs which do not have a written curriculum or are not graded by an ARHS teacher; 3) Courses designed to provide academic support; 4) courses transferred from other high schools or taken outside of ARHS (including college or university courses).

When reporting to colleges, the High School reports a student's individual unweighted GPA. Amherst Regional High School does not provide individual or decile rankings. The courses that are included in a grade point average are graded on a 4.0 scale.

A+/A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.0

## AWARDS/SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS IN 2017

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT INFORMATION:

Amherst Regional High School encourages students to take AP courses but does not require them to take AP exams.

139 students (28% of juniors and seniors) took at least one AP exam in 2017.

83% scored 3 or higher

16 AP Scholars, 5 AP Scholars with Honors, 5 AP Scholars with Distinction

### OTHER AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS:

Each year ARHS students receive awards and distinctions in a variety of areas. Examples from 2016-17 include:

**Art:** Three ARHS students received national honors from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, with two Gold Medalists being honored in a ceremony at Carnegie Hall. At the state level, ARHS students were awarded five Gold Keys, four Silver Keys, and ten Honorable Mentions.

**English:** ARHS's print and online newspaper, The Graphic, won a Highest Achievement Award from the New England Scholastic Press Association for the third year in a row. ARHS was awarded six Scholastic Achievement Awards for Writing--three honorable mentions, one silver key, and two gold keys.

**Math:** Two ARHS students were winners in the Math Olympiad contest Level 1 and invited to take Level 2. Two students scored in the top 5% on the American Mathematics Competition, and two students were invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Exam

**Music and Performing Arts:** Each year, an average of 6-8 ARHS student musicians is selected for the Massachusetts All-State Music Festival. In 2017, an ARHS student was welcomed into the National Honors Orchestra, and we currently have one student who is a member of the Boston Youth Philharmonic. Alumni update: Class of 1999 graduate Annie Baker, 2014 winner of the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her play "The Flick," has been named a MacArthur Fellow for 2017.

**Science:** The ARHS JETS Engineering Club entered six teams (48 students, grades 9-12) into the national Test of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science (TEAM+S) and won 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall Best in State at the 9th/10th grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Overall Best in State at the 11th/12th grade level.

**World Languages:** On the 2017 National Latin Exam, ARHS students earned 13 gold medals Summa cum Laude; 9 Silver Medals Maxima cum Laude; 6 Magna cum Laude; 5 Cum

**Athletics:** ARHS Boys Soccer and Girls Volleyball teams were Western MA champions. The Boys Basketball team was in the Western MA final. The Boys Ultimate Frisbee team was the MA state champion and winner of the Pioneer Valley Invitational tournament.

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**TESTING INFORMATION**

(Includes testing for all students, including English Language Learners and students who have Individualized Education Plans)

<b>PSAT</b>	<b>Class of 2018</b>	<b>Class of 2017</b>	<b>Class of 2016</b>	<b>Class of 2015</b>	<b>Class of 2014</b>
National Merit Semifinalists	5	1	4	0	6
National Merit Commendations	18	11	17	27	19
Percentage of Class Taking PSAT	71	73	67	67	63

**SAT DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 2017:**

163 students (76% of the class) took the SAT. The mean score for Reading and Writing was 622. The mean score for Math was 611.

**ACT DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 2017:**

93 students (40% of the class) took the ACT. The average English score was 27.7. The average Math score was 26.8. The average Reading score was 29.2. The average Science score was 26.8. The average Composite score was 27.7.

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**FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF ARHS GRADUATES (AS OF OCTOBER 2017)**

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Number of Graduates	225	219	247	236	270	248	270	285	286	285
Four-Year Colleges	63%	72%	68%	71%	71%	68.5%	76%	71%	76%	72%
Two-Year Colleges	26%	20%	22%	20%	20%	18.5%	14%	18%	16%	18%
Military	-0-	1%	1%	-0-	1%	-0-	-0-	1%	.5%	-0-
Employed	7%	4%	3%	9%	7%	11%	5%	10%	6%	8%
Other	4%	3%	6%	-0-	1%	2%	5%	-0-	1.5%	1.5%

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**COLLEGES AND POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR THE CLASS OF 2017**

American International College	1	Fisher College	1	Pace University, New York City	1
American University	1	Fitchburg State University	1	Rhode Island School of Design	1
Amherst College	2	Greenfield Community College	23	Salem State University	2
Bard College	1	Hamilton College - NY	2	Santa Fe College	1
Barnard College	1	Haverford College	1	School of Visual Arts	1
Belmont University	1	Holyoke Community College	27	Skidmore College	1
Bennington College	1	John Cabot University, Rome Italy	1	Smith College	4
Boston University	2	Keene State College	2	Springfield College	1
Bowdoin College	1	Kenyon College	1	Springfield Technical Community College	4
Brandeis University	3	Kingsboro Community College of CUNY	1	Syracuse University	1
Bridgewater State University	2	Lafayette College	1	Temple University	1
Brown University	1	Landmark College	1	The George Washington University	1
Bryn Mawr College	1	Massachusetts Bay Community College	1	Trinity College	2
Carleton College	1	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	2	University of Colorado at Boulder	2
Carnegie Mellon University	1	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	1	University of Hartford	1
Case Western Reserve University	1	McGill University	1	University of Maryland, College Park	1
Champlain College	4	Mercy College	1	University of Massachusetts - Amherst	26
Clark University	4	Middlebury College	2	University of New Hampshire at Durham	1
Colby-Sawyer College	1	Mount Holyoke College	3	University of Pennsylvania	1
College of Charleston	1	Mount Ida College	1	University of Vermont	7
Colorado College	1	Muhlenberg College	1	Utica College	1
Community College of Rhode Island	1	New England Culinary Institute	1	Wellesley College	1
Concordia University - Montreal	1	Northeastern University	4	Wesleyan University	2
Connecticut College	2	Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences	2	Western New England University	2
Cornell University	3	Oklahoma City University	1	Westfield State University	5
Drexel University	1	Old Dominion University	1	Williams College	1
Elon University	1	Olin College of Engineering	1	Yale University	1

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FOR THE CLASS OF 2017**

13% enrolled at University of Massachusetts/Amherst.

66% enrolled at other New England colleges.

21% enrolled at colleges outside New England.

**Of those attending four-year institutions:**

58% enrolled at public four-year colleges and universities.

42% enrolled at private four-year colleges and universities.

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