

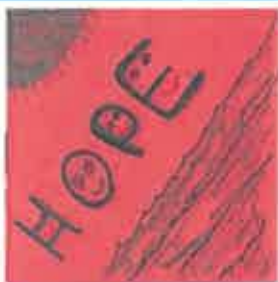
The Amesbury Public Schools' Newsletter

The *Please* *With Us* Edition!

Volume 6 – September 2020

Welcome back parents and staff! We learned a great deal from last year and have worked diligently over the summer to make this year's transition as smooth as possible. Things may go wrong, they do even in "normal" times, but we hope that you will "bear with us" and trust that we are doing everything in our power to make the best decisions we can for our children and for our staff so they can have a healthy and productive school year.

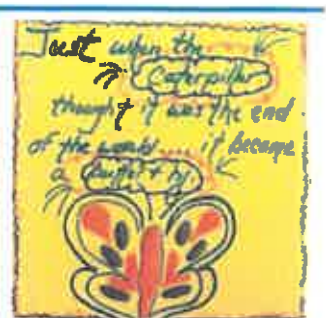
The purpose of THIS newsletter is to focus on the positive! The people and things that make our schools so great! We have new teachers we'd like you to meet, some returning teachers as well as big milestones for some of our staff. And on the last page is the very popular school calendar. Thank you for your continued support!



AMS Staff were asked to draw their feelings for this upcoming year in individual squares and Art Teacher, Kate Bernardoni put them together to make this wonderful "Feelings Quilt."

We are sure there are many people reading this who feel the same way!!

FEELINGS QUILT by AMS Staff



LOTS OF CHANGES AROUND THE DISTRICT



1. Sanitize your hands at AMS



2. Stay on either side of the red line



3. Stand behind the Plexiglass



4. Teachers' workshops are very, very socially distant!



5. And so are classrooms!!!



BUT FORTUNATELY...SOME THINGS AND PEOPLE STAY THE SAME!!



WELCOME

TO OUR

NEWEST

FACULTY

MEMBERS

CLASS OF 20-21



**Kerri Coen
AHS**

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?

I am the new Guidance Counselor at Amesbury High School

2. Where did you grow up?

I grew up about 30 minutes from Amesbury in North Reading, MA.

3. Where did you go to college?

For undergrad, I went to University of Colorado in Boulder, CO. I earned my Master's in Education from Suffolk University in Boston, MA.

4. What made you want to be a teacher?

Throughout my high school experience, I never felt that I had someone within the school building that I could go to for anything. I became a Counselor to be able to give students a person who they could come to for things both big and small as well as help them prepare for the world beyond high school.

5. How long have you been a teacher

I have worked as a Guidance Counselor for the past 6 years. Before this, I had a few different roles where I helped Massachusetts youth obtain employment and internships.

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?

Does lunch count? Haha!

7. What are your best memories of school?

My fondest memories of school all revolve around athletics. I played soccer and ran track. I will always remember bus rides home from games, playing pranks on my coaches, and being able to challenge myself both physically and mentally with sport.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?

Outside of these walls, I love to spend time with my husband and daughter. We enjoy spending time outdoors, going for walks, dancing in our kitchen, and exploring farms and playgrounds. I also love to exercise, specifically running, indoor cycling, and skiing. You may see me running around Amesbury after school during the fall!

9. Did you have a favorite teacher

My fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Duffy, was by far my favorite! She always incorporated games to make learning fun and interesting.

10. Do you have a pet or children?

I have a one and a half year old daughter named Virginia. She is a sassy little thing.



Matt Derrickson
AIHS

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?

I will be teaching social studies for grades 9-12 at the Innovation High School

2. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Hampstead, NH - population about 8,000 when we moved there

3. Where did you go to college?

I went to Keene State College and graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics

4. What made you want to be a teacher?

Teaching sort of fell into my lap, but the opportunity to help people learn skills to make their world a better place has always driven me. It is an opportunity to share my passions with other people.

5. How long have you been a teacher

I was a long term substitute last year at AIHS, and this will be my first year as a licensed full-time teacher!

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?

My favorite subjects in high school were Current Events and US History - I loved being able to see the connections between the two classes and engage with my classmates in discussions about the world in which we live. In college I loved Public Administration, and Modern Political Thought.

7. What are you best memories of school?

My best memories of school are more about the lasting friendships I made than they are about academics. I had so much fun in high school physics because my classmates were friendly and funny.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?

When I'm not in school I enjoy playing instruments like the guitar, mandolin, or bass. I love hiking, and have completed the Appalachian Trail in 2016 and the Pacific Crest Trail in 2019. One of my hiking highlights was working for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service in the Great Smoky Mountains.

9. Did you have a favorite teacher

My favorite teacher was my senior year physics teacher Mr. Gundrum. He was hilarious, smart, ran the strategic games club, and wrote "poop" in my notebook if I didn't do my homework.

10. Do you have a pet or children?

I don't have any pets or children. I grew up with cats in the house, and my girlfriend and I have been talking about adopting a dachshund if we get an apartment with more outdoor space for it to roam.



Joann Healey
AMS

- 1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?**
I will be teaching Grade 7 Science, AMS
- 2. Where did you grow up?**
I grew up in Plainville, CT which is a small community about the size of Amesbury.
- 3. Where did you go to college?**
I went to college at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA for Wildlife Biology.
- 4. What made you want to be a teacher?**
I decided to become a teacher because I love science and I want to share what I know with students. I especially like to teach students about the natural world around them.
- 5. How long have you been a teacher?**
I have been a teacher for 10 years
- 6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?**
My favorite subject has always been Science.
- 7. What are you best memories of school?**
My favorite school memory is when I was in college and I had the opportunity to go out with the graduate students to help out on their research on bobcats and black bears.
- 8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?**
I love to hike, especially at Maudsley State Park and in the White Mountains of NH. In the White Mountains, I volunteer as a naturalist for the Appalachian Mountain Club. I also love to go to the beach, especially Salisbury State Reservation and Plum Island.
- 9. Did you have a favorite teacher**
Yes, My favorite teacher in High School was Mr. LaFrance who taught my favorite Science subject - Biology.
- 10. Do you have a pet or children?**
I have a black cat named Sylvester. I also have 3 adult children, Justin who lives in New York City, and twins - Meghan who just moved to Austin, Texas and Lauren who is moving to Oregon.



Theresa Jakubec
CES

- 1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?**
Reading at Cashman Elementary
- 2. Where did you grow up?**
Braintree, MA
- 3. Where did you go to college?**
Bridgewater State University
- 4. What made you want to be a teacher?**
I have always liked helping children.
- 5. How long have you been a teacher?**
20 years
- 6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?**
Spanish
- 7. What are your best memories of school?**
Pizza Day! :)
Painting in Art
Teacher Read-alouds
- 8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?**
Reading, Camping and I just started taking Karate!
- 9. Did you have a favorite teacher?**
Yes, Mr. Flukes was a Social Studies and Writing teacher in Middle School. He was everyone's favorite teacher because he laughed with us and joked around a lot even though we still worked hard and learned a lot.
- 10. Do you have a pet or children?**
I have a 12 year old daughter Kara and a 10 year old son Carter.



Courtney Moore
AMS

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?
I will be teaching 8th grade science at AMS.

2. Where did you grow up?
I grew up in Vermont, right outside of Burlington.

3. Where did you go to college?
I graduated from Southern New Hampshire University.

4. What made you want to be a teacher?
Middle school can be a weird time. I want my students to know that they can do great things.

5. How long have you been a teacher
This will be my 5th year teaching science.

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?
My favorite class was science (surprise!). And lunch.

7. What are you best memories of school?
My best school memories were "attempting" sports and hanging with friends.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?
I like to spend my free time skiing, cooking, going to the beach, and spending time with my family.

9. Did you have a favorite teacher?
Hands down, my favorite teacher ever was Ms. T...she was my 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade teacher. We had a classroom iguana named Broccoli and we were always building things.

10. Do you have a pet or children?
I have a 2 year old daughter, a 10 month old son, and a 90 lb. lap dog.



**LAUREN MOSHER
AES**

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?

I will be teaching K-4 Music at AES.

2. Where did you grow up?

I grew up in West Palm Beach Florida

3. Where did you go to college?

I went to Boston Conservatory for Music and Boston University for Music Education

4. What made you want to be a teacher?

When I learned to play the clarinet in 6th grade I enjoyed the band so much that I wanted other people to enjoy learning about music the way that I did!

5. How long have you been a teacher

I have been a teacher for 20 years.

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?

My favorite subject in school was music.

7. What are your best memories of school?

Playing in the jazz band and enjoying time with my friends.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?

I like to go to the gym and spend time with my 4 and a half year old daughter.

9. Did you have a favorite teacher

My favorite teacher was my clarinet professor in college.

10. Do you have a pet or children?

I have a 4 and a half year old daughter named Ashley.



**CLANCEY PAUL
AMS**

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?

I will be working as an Adjustment Counselor at AMS.

2. Where did you grow up?

Hollis, NH

3. Where did you go to college?

Gordon College and UNH

4. What made you want to be a teacher?

When I graduated high school I either wanted to study music or counseling. Let me tell you...we are all glad I went with counseling!! I love meeting students and finding the strengths in every one of us.

5. How long have you been a teacher

I have been a counselor for 19 years.

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?

Social Studies and Music (can I name two??)

7. What are your best memories of school?

Laughing with my friends and trying something new.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?

Running and reading, and anything I can do outside.

9. Did you have a favorite teacher?

I have great memories of many of my teachers! Ann, the school counselor at my junior high and high school, made me want to work in schools. She was the best!

10. Do you have a pet or children?

I have two children who are entering 7th and 8th grade this year. I am allergic to most pets, but my son has a turtle named Chris.



**Kristan Robicheau
CES**

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?

I will be teaching students in 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade at Cashman.

2. Where did you grow up?

I grew up right here in Amesbury!!

3. Where did you go to college?

I went to college at Northern Essex Community College, Lesley University, and Gordon College.

4. What made you want to be a teacher?

I was lucky enough to stay home with my 2 youngest children when they were little and was able to volunteer in their elementary classrooms. I loved being in the classroom, and that is when I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

5. How long have you been a teacher

I have been a teacher for the past 3 years, but have worked in schools for the past 14 years in many different positions.

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?

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7. What are your best memories of school?

My favorite memory of school was in 4th grade when my class did a production of the *Wizard of Oz* and I was a Munchkin.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?

When I am not in school I like to spend time with my family and my dogs spending time outdoors taking walks, hiking, and biking. I also love to read!

9. Did you have a favorite teacher?

My favorite teacher was my 4th grade teacher Mr. Cassidy.

10. Do you have a pet or children?

I have 3 children ages 28, 21 and 19 and 1 granddaughter who is 1 ½ years old. I also have 3 dogs, a horse, chickens, fish, degus and a gecko.



Samantha Standing
AES

1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?
I will be teaching grade 1 and 2 special education

2. Where did you grow up?
Right here in Amesbury

3. Where did you go to college?
Salem State University and Cambridge College

4. What made you want to be a teacher?
I became a teacher to share my love of learning and to make a difference in at least one child's life.

5. How long have you been a teacher
I have been teaching for three years

6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?
I always enjoyed history and math (excluding geometry)

7. What are your best memories of school?
My best memories of school are the ones spent with my friends, many of them are still my good friends today.

8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?
When I am not in school, I enjoy hiking in the mountains.

9. Did you have a favorite teacher
It's too hard to just choose one! I liked them all!

10. Do you have a pet or children?
I have two BIG lap dogs, Louie and Delilah, and a very active 1 year old son, Colson!



Sarah Varnerin
AMS

- 1. What grade (or subject) will you be teaching and where?**
8th grade math at the Middle School.
- 2. Where did you grow up?**
On the South Coast of Massachusetts in a little town called Norton.
- 3. Where did you go to college?**
UMASS Lowell for my Bachelors and Bridgewater State for my Post-Baccalaureate
- 4. What made you want to be a teacher?**
Because I love school and working with kids!
- 5. How long have you been a teacher?**
This will be my 9th year working in public schools and my 4th year teaching math.
- 6. What was YOUR favorite subject in school?**
Social Studies (and then math)
- 7. What are your best memories of school?**
Playing varsity soccer at Bishop Feehan and going to football games, movies, and school retreats with my friends.
- 8. What do you like to do when you are not in school?**
Coach soccer, watch professional sports (all kinds), play video games (Nintendo), listen to music, go hiking and tent camping.
- 9. Did you have a favorite teacher?**
I had many! But I will name my top 5: Mr. Michaud (HS Religion and Morality teacher), Mr. Gagnon (HS US History I teacher), Mr. Giammarco (HS Calculus teacher), Ms. Herring (Drama and 6th grade math teacher) and Mrs. Stejakowski (5th grade teacher).
- 10. Do you have a pets or children?**
No and no, but I love dogs!

Amesbury Public Schools' Newsletter



"PEOPLE COME AND GO SO QUICKLY AROUND HERE!"

We're so happy they're returning:



Marissa Artmitage, the Music Teacher is back—soon to be hitting all the high notes at Cashman.



Glynis Cooney will resume gracing the halls of AMS. She is teaching Language Arts again!



AES is dancing with joy to have Mrs. Cristin Chabot back in 3rd Grade!

Welcome Aboard!



AMS Principal Brian Gill is at the helm! A very busy man right now! Hope you are happy here Mr. Gill!



Tim McCue, Amesbury resident is the new IT Director for the City. He is responsible for the technology support services for all municipal and school departments.



Mr. Adam Denio is the new Assistant Principal at AMS. Thank you for all your hard work this summer, Mr. Denio!!

MILESTONES 2020



AHS Teacher Amanda Ting married Andrew Sweeney



AHS Teacher Alina Sabatos married Greg Lingley



Teacher Victoria Arthur was engaged to Mike Lemaitre



Big brother Jack Ryan welcomes his new sister Josie!! Oh, Mom and Dad are AHS Teachers Amanda & Adam Thibodeau!!



Ryan Jackson welcomed Baby Mark! Lila and Dorrie are reported to love their new brother!!!

IN APPRECIATION

Finally there are so many people to thank for getting us up and running this year!

We have a brand new program, *School Brains*, which replaces ASPEN and we have to thank *Director of Teaching and Learning* Lyn Jacques for being the point of contact, Susan Lang (left) and Jessica Moisan (right) for deciphering and transferring data.



School secretaries Robin Ward, Linda Lynch, Helen Nadeau, Farrah Bixby, Lisa Rochon, Kathy Morrill, Anne Nadeau, Lisa Wile, Dana Burke and Wanda Ouellet for working their magic to get students in the system.

Thank you to the administrators: Superintendent Jared Fulgoni, Joan Liporto, Lynn Catarius, Elizabeth McAndrews, Glen Gearin, Danielle Ricci, Brian Gill, Adam Denio, Shannon Nolan and Karina Mascia for working endlessly to try to make some sense of the rules and regulations, guidelines for social distancing and all the safety precautions. Matt Bennett Buildings & Grounds Director and his crew: Jeremy Faucher, Rich Papa, Kevin Ward, Mike DiNuzzio, Mike Feters, Dave Proulx Mike Tanzella and Shawn Foley for making the halls shine and, of course Norm Fredette who does everything everywhere!

AND FINALLY, THANK YOU to Parents and Faculty for all of your patience and for ing with us!

Thank you Candace MacLean (left) who makes sure folks get paid, have insurance and so much more. She does payroll and is the unsung hero in our District. Candace doesn't have to be socially distant here because she is with her daughter, Madison, freshly graduated from UNH, who will be filling in for Mrs. Thibodeau teaching Health.



Finally THANK YOU as always to AEFI! Through their generosity they made sure that each member of the staff had a mask (with the AEFI logo,) an Amesbury lanyard and a bottle of hand sanitizer. Thank you to Larry Fedorchak, Head Van Driver, for modeling their gifts!



AHS Meet and Greeters!



CES : Goodbye June 2020....Hello September 2020



We are all in this together Fall 2020