

Principal's Newsletter

Amesbury High School
Elizabeth McAndrews, Principal

Volume 1 Issue 1
August, 2019

Core Values on Learning – “IRRAP”

INTEGRITY – RESPECT FOR INDIVIDUALITY – RESPONSIBILITY – ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE – PROBLEM SOLVING

Amesbury High School Beliefs on Learning

Amesbury High School is committed to inspiring all its students to become problem solvers who take responsibility for themselves and their learning. Encouraging this journey toward excellence, the AHS community works together to model integrity, acceptance, collaboration, and respect. School pride permeates the culture of AHS through time tested traditions blended with student-driven innovations and initiatives.

Freshman and New Student Orientation

For the second year, we have designed an evening dedicated to *freshmen and new students only*. With the help of several Amesbury High School students, we believe that we have created and revised an event that will offer students and parents new to AHS an opportunity to discover new information, to gain comfort, and to have fun! The orientation will run from **5:30-8:30 pm on Monday, August 26th**. We would recommend arriving a few minutes early to check in, as the event will begin promptly. An overview of the evening's events and activities is included below:

5:15-5:30	Check in will begin in the main lobby. Families can pick up schedules, then head into the auditorium.
5:30-5:55	Brief presentation from administration, class advisors and a student produced video.
6:00-7:15	Students and parents will go through a shortened daily class schedule where they will meet their teachers, get classroom expectations, and ask questions.
7:15-8:00	Students will meet in their advisory groups for some community-building activities while parents return to the auditorium for their own activities and information session.
8:00-8:10	Students join parents in the auditorium for a wrap up.
8:10-8:30	Students, parents, and staff relocate to the cafeteria for a brief reception.

Grades 10-12 Schedule and Paperwork Distribution

Due to the fact that we are hosting a Freshman and New Student Orientation for the second year in a row, returning students in grades 10, 11, and 12 (and their parents/guardians) can pick up their schedules and complete mandatory paperwork on Tuesday, August 27th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm in the main lobby. We would greatly appreciate it, if parents/guardians who could complete and submit the paperwork while at AHS on this evening. Paperwork not completed will be brought home by students during the first week of school. Students will receive course expectations from their teachers on Wednesday, August 28th in class. Our fall Open House for all students will take place on Thursday, October 10th from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm. During this event, parents will have

the opportunity to sign up for a 5 minute conference with each of their student's teachers. In early October, students will be given paperwork to set up the conference times with each teacher.

District Calendar

Please use this link to access the district calendar:

<https://schools.amesburyma.gov/cms/lib/MA02201857/Centricity/Domain/182/SY2019-2020.pdf>

AHS on Social Media

Follow Amesbury High School Principal, Elizabeth McAndrews on Instagram (ahsprincipalmcandrews), Twitter (@AHSMcAndrews) and on Facebook (Facebook.com/Amesburyhighschool). We post some great pictures of our students in action as well as some important high school events!

Summer Reading

ALL students are required to select a Faculty Favorite book to read over the summer. There are additional varied requirements for each grade level and honors students. Some students will be expected to read more than one book and will be assessed at the start of the year to be included as part of the first quarter grade in English. If your son or daughter has not made a selection, please have him/her read over the choices and complete the Google Form (link below) indicating their choice. Students should sign in using their AHS e-mail address. If a student has completed the Google Form, but has since changed their book, they should contact Mrs. Ricci at the email address listed below.

Summer reading information: <https://schools.amesburyma.gov/domain/2315>

Link to Google Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/Xclg6iV89ygvVak12>

Any questions can be directed to Danielle Ricci, Assistant Principal – riccid@amesburyma.org.

Freshman and New Student Tours

Tours will be offered from **4 pm - 7 pm on Monday, August 19th**. All incoming freshmen, and students new to Amesbury High School, as well as their parents, are encouraged and welcome to attend. Current members of AHS National Honor Society will be conducting the tours.

Amesbury High School Website

Please make sure to visit our website for helpful information about our school. Teacher sites, with links to Google Classrooms and teacher pages on Aspen, can be found here.

Amesbury High School website link: <https://schools.amesburyma.gov/Domain/861>

Start of the School Year Events - Athletics

First Day of Fall Sports: These times are for the first day of practice/tryouts only. Please be sure to speak with your coach for the full schedule for your sport.

SPORT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Cross Country (Boys' and Girls')	Thursday, August 22nd	8:00 am	Amesbury High School Track
Girls' Soccer	Thursday, August 22nd	7:45 am	Cashman Elementary School
Boys' Soccer	Thursday, August 22nd	9:45 am	Cashman Elementary School
Field Hockey	Thursday, August 22nd	8:30 am	Amesbury High School Field Hockey Field
Cheering	Monday, August 26th	3:30 pm	Amesbury Middle School - small gym
Golf	Thursday, August 22nd	7:00 am	Amesbury Country Club
Football			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equipment handout grades 9,10,11, and 12 	Thursday, August 15th	6:00 pm	Amesbury High School gymnasium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First practice 	Friday, August 16th	12 noon	Amesbury High School Gym

Registration for Athletics

In order to be eligible to participate in co-curricular athletics, a student must pass a required physical examination each year. Private physicals are good for 13 months. All athletes must also conform to the rules of the MIAA. Registration must be completed online at www.familyid.com/amesbury-high-school. Registration for fall sports should be completed by **Friday, August 9th**.

- All agreements in the on-line registration must be electronically signed by the student/athletes and/or parents/guardians.
- There is a \$285 user fee per student- per sport due at registration. Payment can be made on-line or by check to the athletic department. Waivers can be requested and free and reduced lunch situations do apply.
- A copy of an up-to-date physical must be on file with the school nurse. (Valid within the last 390 days).
- An on-line concussion course is required to be taken annually by all participating student/athletes and their parents/guardians.
- All student athletes planning on participating on a fall athletic team must have submitted their registration forms, physicals, and user fee prior to the first practice of the season. In addition, both parents and students

must complete the NFHS Concussion Course each year which can be found by clicking on this link:<https://nfhslearn.com/>

If you have any questions, please contact Glen Gearin - Assistant Principal of Students/Activities & Director of Athletics at gearing@amesburyma.org or (978) 388-4800.

Important Start of School Year Events

Listed below are some key events and meetings at the start of the school year.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	WHO'S INVITED?
Freshman and new student orientation	Monday, August 26th	5:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Amesbury High School	All incoming 9th grade and new students as well as their parents/guardians
Senior Celebration	Tuesday, August 27th	5 pm - 8 pm	Amesbury High School	Members of the Class of 2020 and AHS Staff
Schedule Distribution for students in grades 10-12	Tuesday, August 27th	5:30 pm - 7 pm	Amesbury High School Front Lobby	AHS Students and parents/guardian
AHS Athletic Booster Meeting	Wednesday, August 21st	7 pm	Stone Ridge Properties	Any parent/guardian of AHS athletes
Grad Night Meeting	Wednesday, September 11th	7 pm	Amesbury High School Bank Room	Any parent/guardian of AHS students
Principal's Coffee	Thursday, September 12th	7:30 am - 8:30 am	Principal's Conference Room	Any parent/guardian of AHS students
Rhythmics Auditions	Tuesday, September 24th and Wednesday, September 25th	A Block - 7:30 am and 2:30 pm	AHS Auditorium	Any AHS student
Open House	Thursday, October 10th	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Amesbury High School	All parents/guardians of AHS students
PSATs	Wednesday, October 16th	During School Day	Amesbury High School	Registered sophomores and juniors.

Parental Involvement

The demands and challenges of high school continue to change each year. Students are exposed to a greater amount of information from a greater variety of sources. We must consistently work together to make a difference and to provide the necessary guidance and support for our students. As we progress throughout the year, without a doubt, you will hear stories and versions of events that happen at the high school through your children and others in our community. Please remember that there are always two sides to every story and we encourage you to contact us if you need more information or clarification of the information that you have received. Please contact us at (978) 388-4800.

There are several opportunities to become more involved at the high school.

- 1) **Amesbury High School Athletic Boosters.** There are several sport specific booster groups and a general sports booster group that support our athletic programs. If you want to become a member of these organizations contact your child's coach or our athletic department for more information. The All Sports Boosters Groups maintains a webpage on the school website [AHS Boosters link](#)
- 2) **AHS Grad Night Committee.** This volunteer group is comprised primarily of parents, teachers and community members with the mission to provide a safe, substance free, fun filled and SURPRISE, all night event for the graduating class of Amesbury High School on Graduation Night. The committee is not just for senior parents; fundraising and planning span several years so input from parents of freshmen, sophomores and juniors is vital as well. Every year is different, so we need your ideas! The Grad Night Committee maintains an AHS Grad Night Committee Facebook page. The committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month. If you would like to join the committee, please join us at our first meeting on Wednesday, September 11th at 7 PM in the Bank Room at Amesbury High School or send an email to amesburygradnight@gmail.com.
- 3) **Principal's Coffee - Students, parents, and community members are invited to spend some time with AHS Principal, Elizabeth McAndrews.** The first Principal's Coffee will take place on Thursday, September 12th from 7:30 am to 8:30 am in the Principal's Conference Room. If morning does not work for you, a second Principal's Coffee will take place on Thursday, December 5th from 6 pm to 7 pm. The final date is Thursday, March 12th from 7:30 am to 8:30 am. These coffees provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to ask questions, share concerns, or simply to chat with the principal. Please consider joining us! There is no commitment. Just show up when it works for you! We hope to see you there!
- 4) **The Amesbury High School Council** is an elected group of parents, students, teachers, community members and administration. We have a great working group, but are looking to add students and parents to this group. If you are interested in joining, please contact Mrs. Kathy Morrill at (978) 388-4800. This group is mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Education. The meetings are open to the public; however, only the elected members may vote. The Council advises the principal on budget, program of studies, staffing and general school issues. They meet the second Thursday of the month. The first meeting will take place on Thursday, September 12th, at 5:30pm in the Principal's Conference Room.

- 5) **Volunteering:** From helping at fundraisers to guest speaking in classrooms, we're always welcoming parents into our school community. If you are interested, please contact Kathy Morrill in the main office at (978) 388-4800.

- 6) **SPACES (Student, Parent, and Community Educational Series):** These evenings are intended to be informative and interactive, providing all those who attend with new skills. All topics are designed to be of high interest and provide relevant skills and information. Topics and dates to follow soon. Contact Assistant Principal Danielle Ricci with questions (riccid@amesburyma.org).

Back to School Student Supply List

Commonly requested items include pens, pencils, highlighters, notebooks, index cards, and binders with dividers. Students will receive more specific requests on the first day of school.

School Lockers - Hallway and Gym

Students will be assigned a school locker. These lockers do not have locks. Students may purchase a school lock for \$5.00 and may keep the same lock for all four years of high school. All locks at the high school must be school locks due to security and safety concerns. Many students do not use their lockers and carry all of their books on their backs. Please encourage your child to purchase a lock and use his/her locker to help preserve their backs.

I also encourage students to lock their belongings in our locker rooms while they are participating in physical education and after school sports. Unfortunately, we have had thefts in the past, and in all cases, students did not secure their valuables.

Dress Code

The objective of our dress code is that personal dress must meet “reasonable standards of health, safety, and cleanliness” and “**is appropriate for a place of work and study.**” While fashion is continually evolving, our dress code is not. Please follow the guidelines below with regards to your child’s dress code for school. We appreciate your support with these guidelines.

- Articles of clothing, jewelry, etc. must not display insignias or designs such as those advertising alcohol, drugs or sexual material, or containing slurs regarding race, ethnicity, religion, disabilities, or sexual orientation.
- Shoes/footwear must be worn at all times.
- Outdoor clothing is not to be worn in the building except in times of unusually low building temperature.
- Students are allowed to wear hats in the corridors and the lunchroom. Teachers have the discretion to ask students to remove their hats or to allow them to wear them in their classrooms.
- Hoods may not be worn in the school building at any time.
- Pants must be worn so that underwear is not exposed.

The First Day

The first day of school for students is Wednesday, August 28th. Please note that students who take the bus will arrive at the high school between 7:15 and 7:25. Bus students will go directly to the cafeteria and remain there until 7:57. All students, grades 9-12, will report to advisory at 8:00am. Advisory groups serve as homebase as well. Students will find advisory groups, advisors, and room locations posted in our main entrance. Advisory teachers will issue schedules, provide other documents, and review our student handbook. Students will be in advisory for approximately 40 minutes.

Guidance Counselor Availability

Our guidance counselors are available for new registrations on August 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd. Please call 978-388-4800 if you need an appointment. Existing students should contact their counselors directly via email with any scheduling questions or concerns. During these dates, guidance counselors will contact students who have conflicts in their schedule.

Armed Forces Recruiting on Campus

The Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information Act (FOREPAW) states, "Schools must make student names, addresses and telephone numbers available to military recruiters and institutions of higher education. Parents and students may "opt out" of this requirement so that such information is not released without their prior consent. **In order to "opt out" parents and students must present a written request to the principal of the school. The written request cannot be email; it must be a hard copy, signed, and dated.** Recent legislation by Congress and the President has given the military even more access to student records. Even if you decide to "opt out" from AHS providing records, your son or daughter may still be contacted by recruiters through other databases. The above section is printed in our handbook, but has been missed by students and parents in previous years.

Publication of Student Photos and Work

Generally, before any student work is displayed, AHS attempts to obtain specific permission from the student. However, in this day and age of digital photography, pictures are being taken with many different pieces of equipment, as well as in a variety of settings. AHS continues to honor student privacy, but there are times when a student may be photographed during an academic or co-curricular activity. The pictures may be published in the school newspaper, yearbook, power-point presentation, school website, or other media. **Parents and students may "opt out" of having their picture printed by a written request to the principal of the school. The written request cannot be email; it must be a hard copy, signed, and dated.** If you decide to "opt out" from these publications we will make every effort to be sure that those printing the publications are aware of your request.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should we be doing to prepare for the coming school year? In preparation for the school year, students and parents/guardians should begin to gather school supplies, review the links provided in this newsletter, and respond to any phone call or email that may be received. Our school website provides a lot of information about life at Amesbury High School.

How do I communicate with teachers or administrators at the high school? One of the easiest ways to connect with a teacher is to email him or her. You can find email addresses on the website or follow this formula - last name, initial of first name@amesburyma.org. For example, my address is mcandrewse@amesburyma.org. You may also call the main number at (978) 388-4800 and leave a voicemail for a teacher. Contacting administrators can be done in the same way.

Does Amesbury High School provide wireless access for students? At AHS, students will be able to connect their personal devices to school provided wireless which will permit teachers to better utilize technology in the classroom. In addition, Amesbury High School will be using Google Classroom on a much greater scale. Those teachers who have already utilized it, have found it to be extremely beneficial for their students in many ways, especially in terms of organization.

Can students have cell phones, laptops, and/or tablets in school? Yes. With the growing use of technology in the classroom, many of these devices have become tools for learning. Amesbury Public Schools has a proper use of technology policy which all students and staff are expected to follow. Cell phone use, including the use of social media, is a significant distraction in the classroom. It is inappropriate to use these devices for personal communication during the school day. If you need to get an emergency message to your student, please contact our main office. More information is contained in our student handbook. Students who continually violate this provision will be sanctioned from using school and personal devices in school.

Are Ipods, MP3 players and other musical playing devices as well as electronic game devices allowed? Students are permitted to listen to music or play games on their devices during our lunch periods (in the cafeteria), before school and after school. In addition, students are allowed to use devices in classrooms with teacher permission.

Do parents get a copy of the student handbook? All students are issued student handbooks on the first day of school during our advisory homebase period. Students will review the handbook with their advisory teachers. The Student Handbook for 2019/2020 will be posted on our website prior to the start of school. Students and parents are required to sign that they have received and/or read a copy.

Can students leave the high school campus for lunch? The only students who have this privilege are students who are in the National Honor Society. Once students arrive on campus, they cannot leave without permission from the front office and a dismissal note from parents. **Students and parents/guardians are NOT permitted to order food to be delivered to AHS during the school day.**

What is the A-Block period? This period runs from 7:30 to 7:57 and is used as an extra help period. Students may go to any of their teachers for extra help, tutoring or make-up work during this period. They should make arrangements with teachers ahead of time, as teachers may have meetings that they need to attend. Any students not receiving assistance from a teacher should report to the cafeteria. Band and Chorus students report to school at 7:20 and have Band or Chorus from 7:20 to 7:57.

What time does school start and what time is it dismissed? Students in grades 9-12 who are not in the music program and who do not need extra help with our teachers must arrive at school **prior to the start of their first class at 8:00 am**. Students in grades 9-12 who take the buses must enter the high school upon arrival. Students who are in the music program will report at 7:20. **When our school is delayed**

due to weather or other factors, please note that all classes begin promptly at 9:30 am. On a delayed opening, there is NO band or chorus.

Can I dismiss my student by phone or email? We do not accept telephone calls or emails for routine dismissals and require written documentation. When writing notes for absences, dismissals and tardies please include a telephone number for verification. This will help to ensure that all notes are authentic.

When will all students receive their schedules? Freshmen and new students will receive their schedules at the Freshman and New Student Orientation on Monday, August 26th. Students in grades 10-12 will receive their schedules on Tuesday, August 27th from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Any student who does not receive their schedule during one of these events, will receive their schedule during advisory homebase on Wednesday, August 28th at 8 am. All students pre-registered for their classes last spring. If your student is new to Amesbury and did not pre-register for classes, please call our guidance department at 978-388-4800 to set up a time to meet with a guidance counselor and select classes. If you are unsure whether your student pre-registered for classes, please call our guidance department as soon as possible.

Where is the handicapped entrance for the high school? The front entrance to the high school is handicapped accessible. Handicapped access also exists in the rear of the building at the gym entrance.

How do I get a bus pass for my student? And how much does it cost? The cost of a bus pass will remain the same for the 2019-2020 school year. A single rider will be assessed \$250 and there is a family cap of \$450. All families interested in registering their children for bus transportation MUST complete the registration on line. Please use this link for bus registration: <https://schools.amesburyma.gov/Page/362> Families have the option of paying online during registration or paying by check. Checks should be made out to Amesbury Public Schools and sent to Joan Liporto, Amesbury Public Schools, 5 Highland Street, Amesbury, MA 01913.

Has the traffic pattern in the parking lot changed? The traffic pattern has stayed the same. Please drop off your students at the front of the building. The buses will pick up and drop off students in the rear of the building from 7:00 – 7:30 am and from 2:00 – 2:30pm. If you are picking up your student at the end of the day, please park in the side parking lot.

Where do parents go to pick up students at the high school? Parents may park in an open space in the side lot to wait for school to end. Please use extreme caution in our lot since students may be walking between cars. Remember, the curb in front of the high school is for handicapped access and is also a fire/emergency zone. **No parking is allowed along the yellow curb.** Cars may park along the driveway before the parking lot entrance as long as it does not interfere with traffic. Please no stopping and blocking access, especially for the handicap busses. **It is also state law that no vehicle should be kept idling for more than 5 minutes. Please shut off your cars while waiting for school to be dismissed.**

Will student parking be available? Parking is available and students are expected to register their vehicles in the main office. Parking becomes especially challenging during the winter months. I continue to urge students to carpool whenever possible. Parking registration will begin the first week of school. If students receive their driving license during the school year, they should bring a copy of their license and registration to Mrs. Nadeau in the main office.

When is Open House this year? Open House will take place on **Thursday, October 10th from 6:30 – 8:30pm**. Parents and guardians will have the option to sign up for 5 minute individual conferences with their child's teachers. Additional information regarding conference sign ups will be forthcoming.

How much do sports cost this year? There have been no changes from last year. The cost is \$285 per sport with a family maximum of \$900. All sports fees must be received prior to the start of practices. Families must register online at [AHS Athletics link](#). Families have the option to pay online or to pay by check. Checks should be made out to Amesbury Public Schools and can be turned in to Mrs. Nadeau in the main office. Parents may also mail the payment to Amesbury High School.

Is there also a charge for clubs and activities? Yes, the cost is \$50 and this is a one-time fee for the school year. This permits students to participate in as many activities as they would like.

Does the school offer physicals this year? No, the school no longer provides for physicals. The CVS on Macy Street does have a clinic where you may get a physical. Walk-ins are welcome. The hours are 8am to 7pm Monday - Friday, Saturday 9am to 5:30pm and 10am to 5:30pm on Sunday. You need to bring a copy of immunizations. The phone number is 978-834-0300. You may have your primary care complete a physical as well and provide the school/ athletic department with documentation. Remember, physicals are required for participation in sports. Also remember that there must be verification of parents and students having taken the concussion education course before any student will be allowed to participate. Any questions may be directed to Lisa Wile at AHS 978-388-4800.

For Your Information (FYI)

- Many important documents, including the AHS [Student Handbook](#) and [Program of Studies](#), may be accessed on our website at schools.amesburyma.gov
- Please return all paperwork such as emergency cards, Free/Reduced Lunch forms and student data cards within the first two days of school.
- If any of your emergency numbers or contact people has changed, please remember to update them ASAP. Any changes during the year should be made right away. You can do this by contacting us at (978) 388-4800.
- Bus Schedules will be printed in the local paper and also on the Amesbury Public School Website (schools.amesburyma.gov). Any questions please call Salter Transportation at 978-462-6433 or Carol Bartlett at the Superintendent's Office 978-388-0507. Bus fees and bus passes will be handled through the AHS office. Registration must be done online and can be paid online or by check.
- AHS Weekly publishes every Friday and contains happenings at the high school. Subscriptions are available by calling Barbara Leary at 978-388-4800 or emailing her at learyb@amesburyma.org.
- Grade 9 and New Student Tours -National Honor Society members will be conducting tours for freshmen and transfer students and their parents/guardians on August 19th from 4-7 pm. Please drop in and visit AHS.

- Community Service- All students may earn community service hours over the summer towards the graduation requirement of 75 hours. Students must earn a minimum of 10 hours each year plus 35 additional hours at any time. Forms may be printed from the school website and are available on the Community Service bulletin board. They must be signed by the supervising adult and be completed before leaving them in the folder on the Community Service bulletin board located across from the main office.
- Amesbury Adult Ed- classes will start again in September. Please check the website in August for the new listings. ALL registrations must be completed before the first class by mail or drop off at Amesbury High School. Instructors will no longer be able to accept registrations.
- Amesbury Lunch Program- Breakfast @ all schools - \$1.75, Elementary Lunch - \$3.00, Secondary Lunch - \$3.25. If you plan to pay by check please make payable to “ Amesbury School Lunch” or pay online at [My School Bucks](#)

Dates to Remember

Aug. 26th	Freshman and new student orientation , 5:30-8:30pm
Aug. 27th	Senior Celebration, 5-8pm
Aug. 27th	Schedule Distribution of students in grades 10-12, 5:30-7pm, AHS Front Lobby
Aug. 28th	All Students 1st Day
Aug. 30th	No School
Sept. 2nd	No School- Holiday
Sept. 12	Principal’s Coffee Hour, 7:30am, Principal’s Office
Sept. 12	School Council Meeting, 5:30pm, Principal’s Conference Room
Sept. 20	PRT Day- Dismissal at 12:30pm
Sept. 20	Stuco- Welcome Back Dance, 7-10pm, Cafe
Sept. 23	Underclass Picture Day
Sept. 23	Financial Aid Night- Class of 2020, 6:30-8pm, Auditorium
Sept. 26	AHS Athletic Hall of Fame Induction and Reception, 7-9pm, Auditorium
Oct. 1	PRT Day- Dismissal at 12:30pm
Oct. 7	Science Honor Society Induction, 6-7pm, Auditorium
Oct. 9	Senior NHS Induction, 7:30-9pm, Auditorium
Oct. 10	School Council Meeting, 5:30pm, Principal’s Conference Room
Oct. 10	Fall Open House (Parent/Teacher Meeting), 6:30-8:30pm, Classrooms
Oct. 11	Women’s Empowerment Day Assembly, 11-2pm
Oct. 16	PSAT, 8:00am
Oct. 25	Stuco- Halloween Rally, 1pm, Gym
Oct. 25	Class of 2020- Halloween Dance, 7-10pm, Cafe
Oct. 28	AEFI-Autumn Evening of Giving, 6-8:30pm, Molise

[AHS School Calendar Link](#)

August 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Health Education is mandatory for public schools in Massachusetts and follows a curriculum framework, created as part of the state's School Reform agenda, to guide implementation. Amesbury High School offers mandatory Health Education in grade 10. In addition, a Child Development course is a graduation requirement that is typically taken by juniors and seniors. Both courses are quarter classes and your child may have them at any point during the year.

The high school curriculum includes units on human sexuality. The focus is personal responsibility, decision-making and natural consequences. The grade 10 course addresses adolescent sexuality issues including pregnancy prevention, teen parenting, sexually transmitted diseases and healthy care of the reproductive systems. The Child Development course includes conception and development of a fetus through birth. Infant and child care are also included.

Massachusetts State Law (MGL Chapter 71, Section 32A), affords parents the flexibility to exempt their children from the sexuality unit or any portion of the unit. Your child will not be penalized for such exemption. Alternative lessons and assessments will be devised for any exempted child.

To exempt your child you must send written notification to the principal of the high school.

MGL Chap. 71 also requires that to the extent practicable, program instruction materials for the sexuality units shall be "reasonably accessible" to parents and guardians for review. The Health education teachers are available to meet with you and or answer any questions that you may have. In addition, I can be reached at (978) 388-4800, to discuss any aspect of the program. We look forward to working with you to help keep our children informed, safe, and healthy.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McAndrews
Principal

TO: ALL SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS

FM: MR. DODIER

RE: PSAT TEST

The PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) will be given on **Wednesday, October 16, 2019** at Amesbury High School. Students may register in the Guidance Center starting on **Tuesday, September 3, 2019** by bringing in a check for **\$20.00** made payable to **Amesbury High School**. The last day students can register for the test is **Friday, October 4, 2019**.

All college preparatory sophomores and juniors may take this test. All sophomores should consider taking this test to prepare them for the SAT. All juniors considering further schooling are encouraged to take the test. Others who wish to take the test are welcome and scores will not be released to anyone unless the student wishes this to be the case.

The PSAT/NMSQT has a dual purpose. First it is a practice run for the SAT. Second, it is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test when taken in the junior year. Students who score in the top 2% nationally become eligible for special scholarships and are honored with certificates, which enhance their chances of being accepted to prestigious colleges. It is recommended that all college-bound juniors and academically strong sophomores take this test. The PSAT has two 25-minute critical reading sections, two 25-minute math sections and one 30-minute writing section. It is recommended that students bring a calculator to the exam.

Students with documented disabilities should contact guidance as soon as possible to arrange for special administration of the test.



SCHOOL OPENS ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH.

END OF NEWSLETTER