

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Regional High School  
21 Mattoon Street, Amherst, MA 01002  
Phone: (413) 362-1701 Fax: (413) 549-9704  
<http://arhs.arps.org>

Mark Jackson, Principal  
Miki Lee Gromacki, Assistant Principal  
Ericka Alschuler, Interim Assistant Principal  
Rich Ferro, Athletic Director

March 2018

Dear ARHS Parents and Guardians,

On Thursday, January 26, 2018, the ARHS PGO sponsored an evening meeting where the ARHS math teachers and administrators updated the community on our implementation of the Massachusetts State Frameworks using the Interactive Math Program (IMP). The evening doubled as an opportunity for the approximately 60 parents and guardians in attendance to provide feedback on their children's math experience. To this, we listened and took notes.

Since there were families present who were new to ARHS, we also used the evening to overview the IMP program. An emphasis here was on the Practice Standards, which are the cornerstone of IMP. A description of the Practice Standards can be found here: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Practice/> I encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the Practice Standards. They go to the question of how the professional math community is challenging itself to better prepare students to meet the demands of the 21st century.

The purpose of this letter is to apprise the ARHS community of what we learned from the feedback and the steps we will take to continue to strengthen the implementation of the state frameworks using the IMP program.

Below is a summary of the concerns raised:

1. Develop a better balance between inquiry and direct instruction. Provide students with clear objectives and summation of ideas. Provide more practice to build facility with fundamental math terms and concepts.
2. Survey students about their learning experience in math class.
3. Provide students and families with a clear understanding of the department's assessment and grading practices.
4. Provide support and scaffolding for students who struggle with reading and language-based tasks.

After reviewing the feedback, we will focus on the following improvements for the remainder of this school year:

1. Math teachers will provide a clear itemization of learning targets, skills, and concepts that students are expected to learn in each unit. Math teachers will continue to develop more mixed practice and review to enhance procedural fluency.

2. Conduct an end of the year survey of all math students to inform our work and strengthen our implementation.
3. Math teachers will continue to develop and implement supports and scaffolding for all students.

Longer-term, we will turn our attention to the other concerns. For now, a focus on the classroom is the priority.

I appreciate the feedback the community has provided. Our interest is to make good use of it. Please let me know if you have additional thoughts or concerns.

Thank you.

Mark Jackson  
Principal

cc: Miki Gromacki, ARHS Assistant Principal  
Jane Mudie, ARHS Math Department Head