
AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

21 MATTOON STREET • AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002

PHONE: (413) 362-1700 • FAX: (413) 549-9704

WEBSITE: arhs.arps.org

CEEB CODE: 220015

PROFILE 2015-2016

Superintendent

Maria Geryk

Principal

Mark Jackson

Guidance Staff

Sherry Balzano, Co-Department Head/Guidance Counselor

Marisa Castro, Counselor

Kelly Larcheveque, Counselor

Alessandra Mucci-Ramos, Counselor

Myra Ross, College Advisor

Lisa Zephyr, Co-Department Head/Guidance Counselor

Assistant Principals

Miki Lee Gromacki

Ericka Alschuler

Rich Ferro, Athletic Director

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.

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 949 with a senior class of 246. The student body is culturally diverse with a population that includes 61% Caucasian, 7% African-American, 10% Asian, 12% Hispanic, 10% Multi-Racial, and includes native speakers of 29 languages. 39% 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.

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

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, or elective courses.

ARHS operates on a trimester schedule. Two-credit courses take one trimester to complete and are equivalent to courses that would typically meet for one semester. Four-credit courses take two trimesters to complete and are equivalent to courses that would typically meet for a full year. A typical student schedule includes three core subjects for two trimesters and four core subjects for one trimester plus one or two electives each trimester.

In addition to a variety of required and elective courses in the core academic areas of mathematics, sciences, social studies, English, and world languages, students can choose from nearly one hundred course opportunities in family and consumer science, computer science, art, technology education, and music and the performing arts. All of these course offerings are college preparatory. At ARHS, the junior/senior English elective titled Journalistic Writing is not a production class, but rather a writing class dedicated to improving composition skills.

World Languages: ARHS offers complete sequences in the Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish languages. Our Russian program terminated in 2012 and our German program terminated in 2013.

Advanced Placement: Offerings are available in Calculus (AB & BC), Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish, European History, Biology, Physics Mechanics, Environmental Science, and English Literature and Composition. Advanced Placement credit in English is awarded after the successful completion of two AP English literature electives. Students who enroll in two honors literature classes over the course of their junior and senior years (including one classic and one contemporary) and successfully complete the Advanced Placement Project in both, will receive an AP designation on their transcript.

Mathematics: ARHS students can choose a traditional course sequence, which includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, or the Interactive Mathematics Program (IMP) sequence. IMP courses are organized around central questions or themes and challenge students to solve a variety of routine and non-routine 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 the study of calculus.

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 and will be considered dual enrollment students. Students may be enrolled both part-time at GCC or HCC and Amherst Regional High School or full-time at GCC or HCC. All credits earned will 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 the trimester schedule is difficult. Amherst and Hampshire College classes are free for 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 are allowed to register at the beginning of each semester 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.

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 college-level 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 all courses completed by the end of the preceding trimester. 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. Courses transferred from other high schools or taken outside of ARHS (including college or university courses) are not included in a student's GPA.

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 2015

ADVANCED PLACEMENT INFORMATION:

Amherst Regional High School encourages students to take AP courses but does not require them to take the AP exams. 137 students (27% of juniors and seniors) took at least one AP exam in 2015. 93% scored 3 or higher
18 AP Scholars, 15 AP Scholars with Honors, 1 AP Scholar with Distinction

OTHER AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS:

Each year a number of ARHS students receive awards and distinctions in a variety of areas. Examples from 2014-15 include:

Art:
In the Boston Globe Scholastic Arts & Writing Awards 4 students were awarded Gold Keys, 11 students were awarded Silver Keys and 9 students received honorable mention.

Music and Performing Arts:
Twenty-one students participated in the Massachusetts Music Educators Association Western District musical festival; nine students participated in Massachusetts All-State musical ensembles. Two students won the National Young Arts Foundation Award, which recognizes outstanding student work in visual, literary and the performing arts.

Science:
Thirty-six students comprised five ARHS JETS teams. The 9th/10th grade level team won best in state, and all five teams (two 9th/10th and three 11th/12th) finished in the top 10% nationally.

World Languages:
On the 2015 National Latin Exam, ARHS students earned ten Gold Medals, Summa cum Laude: fourteen Silver Medals, Maxima cum Laude; five Magna cum Laude: four Cum Laude.

Sports:
In the Northeast, Girls Ultimate were the Regional Champions and Boys Varsity Ultimate placed 2nd. In Massachusetts, Boys Indoor Track & field won the Division III title; Boys Nordic Team placed 3rd, Boys Varsity Ultimate placed 2nd, and Boys Soccer were finalists. In Western Massachusetts, Boys Soccer, Boys Indoor track & Field, Girls Indoor Track and Field and Girls Tennis won championships. Boys basketball and baseball were finalists and Boys Swimming placed 3rd.

TESTING INFORMATION

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

PSAT	Class of 2016	Class of 2015	Class of 2014	Class of 2013	Class of 2012
National Merit Semifinalists	4	0	6	6	6
National Merit Commendations	17	27	19	22	13
Percentage of Class Taking PSAT	67	67	63	67	63

SAT DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 2015:

196 students (79% of the class) took the SAT. The middle 50% critical reading scores were 490-670 (mean score 580). The middle 50% mathematics scores were 490-680 (mean score 586). The middle 50% writing scores were 490-650 (mean score 575).

ACT DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 2015:

107 students (43% of the class) took the ACT. The average English score was 26.8. The average Math score was 26.9. The average Reading score was 27.7. The average Science score was 26.5. The average Composite score was 27.1

FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF ARHS GRADUATES (AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2015)

	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Number of Graduates	247	236	270	248	270	285	286	285	323	290	322
Four-Year Colleges	68%	71%	71%	68.5%	76%	71%	76%	72%	73%	76%	73%
Two-Year Colleges/Post-Secondary Schools	22%	20%	20%	18.5%	14%	18%	16%	18%	18%	16%	19%
Military	1%	-0-	1%	-0-	-0-	1%	.5%	-0-	.5%	-0-	.5%
Employed	3%	9%	7%	11%	5%	10%	6%	8%	7%	7%	6%
Other	6%	-0-	1%	-2-	5%	-0-	1.5%	1.5%	2.0%	1%	1%

COLLEGES AND POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR THE CLASS OF 2015

American University	1	Hampshire College	2	Simmons College	4
Amherst College	1	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	1	Skidmore College	1
Antioch College	1	Hofstra University	1	Southern New Hampshire University	1
Assumption College	1	Holyoke Community College	25	Springfield Technical Community College	1
Bard College	1	Ithaca College	1	St. Olaf College	1
Barnard College	1	Johns Hopkins University	1	Suffolk University	1
Beloit College	1	Keene State College	1	SUNY College at Cortland	1
Bentley University	1	Kenyon College	1	SUNY Col. of Environ. Science & Forestry	1
Boston College	1	Lake-Sumter Community College	1	Swarthmore College	1
Boston University	1	Landmark College	1	Syracuse University	1
Brandeis University	3	Landmark College	1	Temple University	1
Brown University	1	Lesley University	1	The College of Wooster	1
Bunker Hill Community College	1	Lewis & Clark College	1	The Culinary Institute of America	1
Carnegie Mellon University	2	Loyola Marymount University	1	The George Washington University	1
Champlain College	1	Loyola University New Orleans	2	The University of Tampa	1
Clark University	3	Macalester College	3	Trinity College	1
Colgate University	1	Massachusetts College of Art and Design	2	Tufts University	3
Colorado College	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	Union College	1
Columbia University	1	McGill University	1	University of Maryland, College Park	2
Connecticut College	4	Middlebury College	3	University of Massachusetts, Amherst	22
Cornell University	1	Mount Holyoke College	7	University of Massachusetts, Boston	1
Curry College	2	Northeastern University	4	University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth	1
Denison University	1	Oberlin College	1	University of New Hampshire	2
DePaul University	1	Pennsylvania State U., University Park	1	University of Rhode Island	1
Dickinson College	1	Pitzer College	1	University of Vermont	1
Elon University	1	Plymouth State University	1	University of Virginia	1
Emerson College	1	Pomona College	1	Vanderbilt University	1
Fashion Institute of Technology	1	Purchase College State U. of New York	1	Vassar College	6
Fayetteville State University	1	Queens College CUNY	1	Wellesley College	2
Fitchburg State University	1	Quinsigamond Community College	1	Wesleyan University	3
Fordham University	1	Reed College	1	Westfield State University	3
Framingham State University	1	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	3	Wheelock	2
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering	1	Rochester Institute of Technology	1	Wheaton College MA	3
Georgia Perimeter College	1	San Diego City College	1	Worcester State University	1
Global U. of the Assemblies of God	1	San Diego State University	1	Yale University	2
Greenfield Community College	22	Scripps College	1		

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FOR THE CLASS OF 2015

9% enrolled at University of Massachusetts/Amherst.
 53% enrolled at other New England colleges.
 28% enrolled at colleges outside New England.

Of those attending four-year institutions:
 31% enrolled at public four-year colleges and universities.
 69% enrolled at private four-year colleges and universities.
