

# ARPS Update

January 26, 2018

## A Message from Michael Morris, Superintendent of Schools



Last Saturday, several ARHS students traveled to Shrewsbury High School to audition for the

All-State Music Festival. I'm pleased to announce that ten students have been selected to participate in the festival. They will perform alongside other top musicians in the state in a concert at Boston's Symphony Hall in March. Congratulations to the following students:

- Nadav Berkman
- Isabelle Bouvier
- Celia Douville Beaudoin
- Douglas Eveleigh
- Benjamin Fang
- Jonas Kaplan-Bucciarelli
- Eli Kayser-Hirsh
- Won-Ho Lee
- Neosha Narayanan
- Rohini Narayanan

At the Amherst School Committee meeting on Tuesday night, the [Declining Enrollment Subgroup](#) and the [Special Education Subgroup](#) of the Enrollment Working Group presented reports on their work over the past several months. The Declining Enrollment Subgroup reviewed census, town planning and school data detailing current enrollment trends at Amherst's elementary schools. They identified a set of possible drivers behind these trends and considered which among them might be manipulable. The Special Education Subgroup looked at the

district's three specialized special education programs (Intensive Learning Center, Academic Inclusive Mainstream Support—AIMS, and Building Blocks) to see how enrollment, based on their centralized programming, impacts the students and their families. I want to thank all of the Enrollment Working Group members for their dedication to this important research.

On Sunday prior to his Town Hall, Senator Markey is meeting with Lucio Perez, the Guatemalan



immigrant who has been provided sanctuary at the First Congregational Church in Amherst. After that, Amherst School Committee members Anastasia Ordonez, Vira Douangmany Cage and I have the opportunity to attend a meeting with the Senator regarding immigration, an issue which is very important to him. We are looking forward to talking with Senator Markey about how the uncertainty currently surrounding immigration and immigrants' status impacts our students and families.

Have a great weekend,

*Michael E. Morris*

Superintendent

