

ARHS HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



This week has been jam-packed with back-to-school festivities. We welcomed our teachers back on Monday with a building-based program including faculty meeting, department meetings, PowerSchool training and general school set up. Tuesday we hosted the District convocation at the high school which was followed by professional development in the area of using technology in the classroom. Then, finally, on Wednesday, we were able to welcome our ENTIRE student body back to school! In lieu of traditional high school back-to-school activities, such as homerooms to distribute student handbooks, various meetings about rules and classrooms where homework expectations are shared, we kick-off the new school year at Amity by sharing with our students why we love to teach and why we love being a part of the Amity community. Students also get the chance to meet all of their teachers as they move through a modified schedule with classes that are just under 20 minutes. The highlight of the program is our Spartan Stories, where Amity alumni share their own stories about how Amity has helped them to become successful. Each of our speakers, Darren Haynes and Margaux Farrell, and have been exemplary members of our extended school community as they have each given back to Amity Regional High School numerous times in the past few years. We were thrilled to host them for this year's kick-off and so thankful that they shared their messages of being true to yourself, surrounding yourself with positive influences and persevering through setbacks. Another 1st day tradition at ARHS is sharing an inspirational slide-show that highlights many of the important activities we hold throughout the year. Please enjoy it by clicking [here](#). Have a wonderful weekend!

Happy New (school) Year!!!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

Happenings and Information

***NEW* AP Registration Timeline:** College Board has moved the registration process for AP exams to the fall. Therefore, students will need to decide to take their AP exam(s) much earlier than in previous years.

- Registration dates: Tuesday September 3, 2019 through October 1, 2019.
- AP Exam Fee: \$97 per exam

- AP Seminar and Research Exam fees are \$145 each.
- Late Fees: after October 1, 2019, there will be a late fee of \$10 per exam until the final ordering deadline. Please use [this link](#) to register and pay.

OBOA Discussion Group: On Wednesday, September 4th, we will hold our first of 3 OBOA discussions on the whole-school read *Dear Evan Hansen*. The discussion groups will take place in Spartan Seminar/Homeroom groups and the starting discussion questions have been provided (please see [this link](#)). All students should have completed the book by Wednesday, September 4th so as to be able to participate fully in the discussions.

PTSO September Meeting: The 1st PTSO meeting of the year will be held in the ARHS Library at 7pm on Thursday, September 5th. We hope to see you there. You can join the PTSO by following this [link](#) or filling out this [form](#).

New Security Vestibule/Updates for ARHS: The Amity Regional School District #5 has made significant changes to the security protocols at each building. At the high school, there is no a security vestibule at the front of the building where all visitors (including parents) will be asked to check in before being admitted to the building. Visitors will still be asked to submit a photo identification in order to receive a visitor's pass for appointments. If there is an emergency and something needs to be dropped off for a student, the package will be handed to the security personnel either through the security vestibule (if the package can fit) or the security officer will come out to the vestibule to retrieve the package. Please refrain from any regular dropping off of food or other items. No coffee is allowed.

Student Happenings Weekly Newsletter: Please remind your child to check his/her Amity email regularly as important information, such as weekly student newsletters, is disseminated through email.

Student locker assignments: Please remind your child to check PowerSchool for his/her school locker assignment and combination.

Homework Help Center: The Homework Help Center will start on Sept. 10th and continue throughout the school year every Tuesday & Thursday in the Career Center from 2:30-3:30. This is a program that offers trained peer tutors for the entire student body and are snacks provided.

Back-to-School Nights: Mark your calendars, Back-to-School Night for parents of 9th and 12th grade students will be held on Thursday, September 12th. Back-to-School Night for parents of 10th and 11th grade students is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th. Back-to-School Nights begin at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center. Class visits begin at 6:55. The schedule for the evening can be found [here](#).

Star Testing Dates: The universal screening STAR test will be administered to all freshmen, sophomores and juniors this year. The first of the three regularly scheduled tests will begin on September 11th with 3 days of math testing, followed

by 3 days of reading tests. STAR testing will occur in math and social studies classes, respectively

Senior Late Arrival/Early Dismissal: If your child is a senior with a first or last session study hall (on any letter day) he/she is eligible to sign up for the senior privilege of “late arrival” or “early dismissal.” Seniors need to print out a copy of their schedules, circle the appropriate study hall periods, sign the form, have a parent or guardian sign the form and turn it in to their assigned administrator. Please note: this privilege can only be accommodated if a study hall falls at the beginning or end of a senior student’s scheduled day.

Underclass Student Picture Day: Picture Day is scheduled for September 9th and 10th for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors; students will have their portraits taken during English classes, and English teachers will inform their classes of which day to prepare for. Order forms were sent home the first day of school, but extras are available in the main office, the library (see Mrs. Hulse), and the yearbook office (see Mr. Clark). An electronic copy can also be found [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the yearbook advisors, Ken Clark and Vicki Hulse, at embers@amityschools.org.

Senior Happenings

Senior Parent Night: Save the date. The Amity Regional High School Counseling Department will host a Senior Parent Night on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center.

Notes from Counseling Department

Important ARHS Dates: In an effort to communicate early and often, the counseling department has created a brief list of important dates for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition, we will be sending information through the weekly newsletter and, in certain cases, PowerSchool e-blasts. Please see this [list](#) of important dates.

Financial Aid Night: Save the date. The Amity Regional High School Counseling Department will host a Financial Aid Night on Tuesday, September 24th at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center. Colleen Mulrooney, Director Of Student Financial Services, St. Vincent's College at Sacred Heart University.

New Course Deadline: The deadline for students who wish to add a course to their schedule in place of a study hall must do so by Friday, September 6th.

Important Reminders

Late Bus Schedule: Late buses, which begin on September 10th, are provided on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from ARHS. Students are able to stay after school for a designated program or in a supervised area (such as with a teacher or in the library). Late buses pick up at the high school between 3:40-3:55, with one bus designated for each town.

Student Accident Insurance Coverage and Claim Form: Please find information [here](#) regarding extended insurance coverage information and claim form.

Free/Reduced Lunch, SNAP, and HUSKY Child Health Insurance Information: Please click on the the following links to find forms for [CT Food Nutrition Program](#), [Amity Information Release Form](#), free/reduced lunch information and [letter](#) and [application](#), [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) and low cost [HUSKY](#) child health insurance.

Drop Off/Pick Up Instructions: Please find a copy of morning drop off and afternoon pick up instructions [here](#). Please note: the traffic flow from North Pease Road through the high school parking lot becomes very dense during arrival after 7:20 am. Students who do not drive/park at school are strongly encouraged to take the bus. Also please note: for safety reasons, Newton Road is not a designated student drop-off area.

Athletics

Athletic Department Website: For all information regarding practice and athletic schedules for fall sports, please refer to the athletic department's website [here](#).

Community Happenings

Jamie A. Hulley Arts Gala: Jamie Hulley was an outstanding student at Amity Regional High School with a true passion for the arts. Tragically, Jamie passed away during her college years. Her family established The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation to promote a legacy of support for artistic endeavors. Amity students benefit each year from generous donations from the Hulley Fund. This year's gala will be held on Saturday, September 7, 2019, at the Quick Center of Fairfield University will feature "*OH WHAT A NIGHT!*," a musical tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. The performance begins at 7 p.m. and is preceded by an *Evening for the Arts* reception at 6 p.m., which includes complimentary beverages, dessert bar, and a 100 item silent auction. Tickets are \$45 in advance or \$50 at the door. Call the Quick Center Box Office at 203-254-4010. It will be a wonderful evening and a worthy cause! Please see this [press release](#) and/or this [link](#) for more information.

Amity Adult & Continuing Education Program: The Amity Adult & Continuing Education Fall catalog is ready! Come check out some great

courses! Returning this year are our Bus Trips! Questions? Contact us at philip.dolan@amityregion5.org Log on to [this site](#) today and register!

Community service opportunity: The 19th Annual Bethany Harvest Festival is looking for volunteers to help with their fall event on Sunday, Oct. 6th from 11-4. Interested students can sign up online at this [link](#). Click on volunteer signup.

