

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



This week has been jam-packed with various co-curricular activities for students. Representatives from each advisory Spartan Seminar (all grades) were trained on Monday and Tuesday to be facilitators for the Narrative 4 whole-school story exchange that will take place in February. The 10th grade participated in an English Department in-school “conference” on Wednesday to support their study of *The Crucible* and/or *The Scarlet Letter*, and students in Spanish Language classes attended an assembly today to watch a movie and listen to a speaker regarding Peru. These activities along with stellar classroom lessons and amazing extra-curricular activities are the reason Amity Regional High School continues to be a wonderful learning environment. There are so many opportunities to work toward and apply learning. While this calendar year of 2019 is coming to a close, the opportunities for new and exciting approaches to learning continue to grow at ARHS. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: College and Career of the Week: This week’s college is **American University** and the career of the week is **Foreign Service Officer**. [American University](http://www.american.edu) is located in Washington, DC. The University enrolls over 14,000 students within 8 different schools/colleges and offers over 170 academic programs. AU emphasizes the importance of experiential learning as 89% of all undergraduate students participate in internships. [Annual costs](#) are approximately \$63,000 per academic year (tuition, fees, room and board). Most [Foreign Service Officers](#) are employed by the United States government’s Department of State (www.cfnc.org, 2019). FSOs represent the United States all over the world to protect and serve America’s people, interests and values. The five areas overseen by FSOs are consular, economic, management, political and public diplomacy. While a college degree is not required in order to work in the Foreign Service, most FSOs hold at least a bachelor’s degree. Applicants must endure a lengthy hiring process that includes a thorough background check and an exam called the [FSOT](#). The average FSO’s salary is approximately \$99,000 annually (www.cfnc.org, 2019) but vary widely. For more information, please visit the [American Foreign Service Association](http://www.americanforeignservice.org) website or watch this [video](#), sponsored by the US Department of State.

For more information, students can view the bulletin boards in the main hallway and in the Career Center and/or speak with the Career Center staff.

Happenings and Information

December 20th Early Dismissal: As a reminder, next Friday, December 20th, will be an early dismissal day with students being dismissed at 12:12.

SAVE THE DATE-Junior Planning Night: ARHS Junior Planning Night has been scheduled for 1/7/2020 starting at 6:30 in the Brady Center. Ann Fleming-Brown, Director of Admissions at Union College, will be our presenter.

Attention Juniors/Parents-PSAT Scores: PSAT scores were released through College Board this week. All scores have been updated in Naviance. Students received their actual PSAT booklets and a brief lesson from the counseling department on an explanation of the scores and an overview of the junior timeline.

Attention Sophomores/Parents-Pre-ACT Scores: All students received their Pre-ACT scores and booklets this week. In addition, scores have been uploaded to Naviance.

SAT/ACT Outside of Amity: For any students taking an ACT or SAT exam outside of Amity, please be sure to include our school code and your student ID in the secondary ID section of the test.

2019 Winter Concert: The Amity Music Department Winter Concert will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 7:00pm in the John J. Brady Center. This is a FREE concert open to the public! Come and listen to great music performed by the talented students of the Amity High School Music Department. The Amity Choirs, Band and Orchestras will be featured. We hope to see you there!

Senior Happenings

May, 2020, Senior Service Learning Program Prep– if you are planning to participate in the Senior Service Learning Program (SSLP or internship) OR the Senior Interest Project (SIP), **please check your school email OFTEN**. The SSLP is an unpaid, experiential learning program where seniors may leave school to work at job sites. The SIP gives seniors an opportunity to conduct a research or mini-capstone project on a topic of one's own choosing. BOTH programs occur during the last month of the school year **and more information will be emailed to all seniors before the winter vacation**. Participants are expected to meet program deadlines beginning in January, 2020.

Senior Service Learning Program Parent Informational Evening: The **SSLP Parent Informational Evening** will be held on **Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:30pm in the Brady Center**/Auditorium. Lynn Cocco, the College and Career Counselor, will be presenting the expectations and guidelines of the 2020 Senior Service Learning Program (generally referred to as the SSLP or internship) and the Senior Interest Project (SIP). Parents are encouraged to attend if your senior is likely to participate in either of these programs.

Additional Scholarship Resource Information: Naviance is only one of the many resources for researching scholarships. The Amity College and Career Center posts local and national scholarships on Naviance throughout the school year. Students can navigate through these scholarships in Naviance under the scholarship tab. Additional merit based and need based scholarships may be available by checking with the individual college or university or additional websites like [this one](#).

Important: Financial Aid Form – By now, most of you have filled out the FAFSA form to apply for financial aid. In addition, some colleges require the CSS Profile form to be submitted as well. Click [here](#) for a list of those colleges and universities that require the CSS Profile Form. Also, please be aware that December 16th is the transcript request deadline for any students who would like transcripts sent out for a 1/1/2019 application deadline.

Notes from Counseling Department

OPEN CHOICE SEASON is HERE! – Open Choice means it is recruitment season for many public schools in Connecticut. If your family is interested in exploring the many different types of K through 12 public schools available to Connecticut residents, please take the time to visit some of the following websites:

- Visit the State of CT's [Regional School Choice Office](#) for fair information and info sessions about interdistrict magnet schools and Open Choice programming.
- Visit the [CT Technical High Schools](#) website for information about the xx schools statewide.
- Visit the [Regional Science and Technology Education](#) website for information about schools in your area.

Local Gap Year Fair: The USA Gap Fair at Fairfield Ludlowe High School in Fairfield, Ct will be offering a gap year fair for all to join on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 6:00-8:30pm. This is an opportunity to learn about a number of life-changing gap year programs from all around the world. Many of these programs also offer summer opportunities for students. For more information or to register for this event, please click [here](#).

EMT Course: The Naugatuck Valley Community College is offering an EMT Course to the public. Classes beginning January 22, 2020 to May 17, 2020. You can earn 6 college

credits while training to be an Emergency Medical Technician. Classes are conducted by Connecticut State Certified EMS-Instructors. For course information, please call 203-596-8746. For Registration, please call 203-596-2177.

The **Volunteer Service Department at Yale New Haven Hospital** needs and welcomes energetic volunteers for their York Street and Saint Raphael campuses. Interviews are in the process now so please sign up for the upcoming winter/spring session, which runs **January 27, 2020 through April 10, 2020**. Please sign up [here](#). They are also adding a date which will not appear on the website, but will be available for Amity students on **Monday, December 9, from 3:00-5:00pm**. Please sign up for this interview by calling 888-700-6543 ext. 2.

Community Service: The Bethany Clark Memorial Library is looking for volunteers to help with their annual Charles Dickens Dinner on Sunday, December 15, 2019 and their mini-golf fundraiser on February 1, 2020. Please sign up in the Career Center.

Summer Opportunity: The United States Air Force Academy's summer seminar application is now open to all high school juniors from **December 1st 2019 until January 15th 2020**. The link to apply for summer seminar can be found [here](#).

Important Reminders

Speak-Up Reminder: Parents and students can help stop intolerant and inappropriate behavior by using our anonymous "Speak Up" system to report any bullying, drug possession, crime, and other school or community safety concerns by calling or texting 203-936-6784. There is also a [link](#) on the District 5 website.

Athletics

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

For a copy of next week's schedule, please click [here](#).