

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



“Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and feeling with the heart of another.”

~Alfred Adler

One of the most effective ways to grow is through engaging in new experiences that push us outside of our comfort zones. On Wednesday the Amity Regional High School community did just that by hosting a school-wide story exchange through Spartan Seminar during an extended advisory period. This activity was the result of a large amount of preparation and a commitment to our students, our school and our community to live by our core values, beliefs, learning expectations and mission statement. Wednesday’s program demonstrates our student’s potential to be positive influencers within our school community.

Students and teachers shared their feedback throughout the day, and what we heard over and over again was that people were pleasantly surprised. Teachers said that many students who are often reluctant to share, did, and that many of the student facilitators, often reluctant participants themselves, rose to the occasion. Many students who entered the room annoyed or skeptical left feeling more connected to each other, and one teacher shared that her normally disinterested seniors said, “I wish we had done this freshmen year to get to know each other better.” One teacher shared the following about his group: “We’ve been together for 3 1/2 years - dancing around each other's identities. And today changed all that in a quiet and profound way. Sure - some of the kids were reluctant at first and a few didn't attend - but those that did made discoveries and connections that left us all quiet and humbled by the bravery and honesty of what we shared with each other.”

While that may not have been the experience of every student at Amity, for many throughout the building, little pockets of bravery and connection were taking place and those moments couldn’t happen without us embracing a little discomfort and being a little brave ourselves.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon, Principal and **Jeni Bonaldo**, Amity Teacher and N4 Master Practitioner

Happenings and Information

A HUGE thank you: Many thanks to Amity English Teacher Jeni Bonaldo for her amazing work in bringing the whole-school story exchange to ARHS this week. Ms. Bonaldo worked for many months to organize the program, train facilitators, orient the staff and students and finalize all of the preparations for a hugely successful program on Wednesday. Thank you!

Yearbooks Are Sold Out: The yearbook staff is excited to have reached its sales goal for this year; at this point, there are no longer any books available for purchase. The publisher may be able to provide us with additional books prior to distribution day, but as there is no guarantee that they will be able to do that or how many they will be able to provide, the yearbook staff has begun keeping a waiting list for those still interested in purchasing books. In order to get their name on the waiting list, students must see either Mr. Clark or Mrs. Hulse in person (we will not honor e-mail requests), and they must provide the full purchase price of \$85, either in cash or by check (made out to ARHS). Students will be refunded if their requests are unable to be fulfilled after Tuesday, June 9th. Please note that the waiting list will prioritize seniors over underclassmen.

Senior Yearbook Distribution (Thursday, June 4th): The 2020 yearbook dedication, distribution, and signing celebration will take place in the John J. Brady Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, June 4th, from 4:30-6:00. Please note that this event is for seniors only; there will be a separate, in-school distribution event for underclassmen, and no underclassmen in attendance at the senior event will be given books.

Yearbook Blowout Sale: Hey, senior families! Did you miss out on a previous copy of *Embers*? Not to worry—the yearbook staff will have copies of the 2017 (freshman) and 2018 (sophomore) books available for purchase at the senior distribution event. Prices are as follows:

- *Embers* 2017: \$50;

- *Embers* 2018: \$60;

- "Spartan Special" Bundle (includes *Embers* 2017 and 2018): \$100.

Please note that as we sold out last year, there are no copies of *Embers* 2019 available for purchase.

2020-2021 Course Selection Process: Scheduling for next school year began on Monday, 2/10. Students are now able to see their course recommendations and input electives. Parents will be receiving an email to verify these course requests. School counselors are meeting individually with their students throughout this month to help with academic advising. Our Program of Studies is available on our website. In addition, please spend some time to consider

the performing arts electives for next year. Courses offered can be found [here](#), testimonials from current students can be found [here](#) and the music department [video](#) can be found here.

Senior Happenings

Attention Seniors: SSLP Update – thank you to all participating seniors who have completed their “LINKEDIN PROFILE” task! The next deadline is Friday, February 21st – SSLP Preliminary Contracts are due. Please see Mrs. Cocco or Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center if you have any questions or concerns.

Scholarship Opportunities for Seniors: Throughout the academic school year, local, state and federal organizations or agencies provide the opportunity for graduating seniors planning on pursuing post-high school education to apply for scholarships. This year, there are many scholarships with application deadlines in February, March, April, May and June. Although many have financial need as part of their criteria, there are scholarships that seek to reward students for personal or academic achievements, community service and/or by degree to be pursued in college. A list of active scholarships and applications are listed on Naviance. Please note, students are responsible for mailing their scholarship applications materials and transcripts, if requested. Do your research, make your scholarship lists and apply to as many awards that you are eligible for. All seniors are welcome to stop by the Career Center for any help or questions regarding scholarship applications.

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](#).

Current Local Scholarships available! Applications available in the Career Center.

- Bethany Lions Club (Bethany seniors only)
- Orange Scholarship Fund Association (Orange seniors only)
- Glenn Moon Scholarship (Open to all seniors pursuing Education)
- Amity Charitable Trust Fund-(Orange/Woodbridge Seniors only)
- New Haven County Tax Collectors Association Scholarship (Open to all Seniors)
- UConn Waterbury Campus Scholarship: Click [here](#)

- Orange Community Women's Scholarship (Orange seniors only)
- Yale New Haven Hospital Auxiliary/Allied Health Scholarship
- Yale New Haven Minority Nursing & Allied Health Scholarship
- West Haven & Orange Chamber of Commerce Women in Business Scholarship
- Junior League of Greater New Haven Voluntarism Scholarship Award
- Orthopaedic Specialty Group Scholarship

Notes from Counseling Department

ASVAB at Amity: The College & Career Center would like to know if anyone is interested in taking the ASVAB this spring. The ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is a career placement test that is used by the United States Military. Civilians also use the ASVAB as a career interest inventory to help job seekers find compatible jobs and careers. **If you would like to take the ASVAB this spring, please fill out this [registration form](#).** The actual test date is yet to be determined.

Are you a female interested in the Engineering & Medical Field? UConn Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine is excited to announce the next IWEM (Inspiring Women in Engineering & Medicine) workshop. It will take place on **Saturday February 22nd, 2020** at the Musculoskeletal Institute at UConn Health in Farmington Connecticut. Female students (grades 10-12) in Connecticut are encouraged to apply. This will be a FREE, four hour hands on workshop. Participants will get to perform 3 different mock orthopaedic surgeries, hear from prominent women surgeons and interact with other successful women in the medical field, such as engineers, physical therapists and advanced practicing registered nurses. The deadline to apply is **February 6th, 2020**. Apply now at this [link](#) (application available 1/20/2020).

Do you care about the Environment? The Natural Resources Conservation Academy Conservation Ambassador Program at UConn is a summer opportunity for high school students (grades 9-11) who are interested in the environment, science, and community engagement. Through a week-long field experience at UConn and a community conservation project, this program engages students in natural resource science and conservation biology in a fun and exciting way through experiential, place-based learning. The field experience will take place from **July 19-25** at the UConn Storrs Campus. **Applications are due by April 1, 2020.** Please click [here](#) for more information.

Are you thinking of becoming an EMT? The Bethany Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Karen R. White Memorial Training Program will host an EMT-Basic Initial Certification Course

starting **Sat. Feb. 22nd through Mon. Jun. 15th**. Classes will take place Monday & Wednesday nights 6:00pm-10:00pm, including four Saturdays Feb. 22nd, Mar. 28th, Apr. 25th and May 23rd. Classes will be held at the Bethany volunteer Fire Dept. Headquarters. For more information or to register, please click [here](#).

Community Service Opportunities:

Woodbridge Youth Services and Orange Youth Services are seeking parent volunteers and high school juniors and seniors to help at a Mardi Gras Party for Bethany-Orange-Woodbridge 8th graders on Friday, February 21 from 6:00 to 8:30 pm in the cafeteria at Amity High School. Community service hours will be approved. Please register at 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org.

Important Reminders

Important ARHS Dates: Please see this [list](#) of important dates from the counseling department and administration for the spring 2020 semester.

Chartwell's Announcement: Please click [here](#) to read an announcement from Chartwell's Food Service about school lunch charging procedures.

Athletics

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

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

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

Community Happenings

Amity Adult Education Spring Semester: There are a few winter courses being offered. Check out our online [catalog](#).

Substitutes Needed: Please note that the Amity Regional School District is currently looking for daily substitutes in all three buildings. Please see this [link](#) for more information.

Orange Youth Services Activities: Please see the following flyers for opportunities through Orange Youth Services. This flyer has information about a town-wide talent show. Please click [here](#) to learn about the upcoming program on the “QPR Signs of Suicide” for both teens and parents.

Do You Know An Outstanding Woodbridge Student?: Woodbridge Youth Services, in collaboration with First Selectman Beth Heller, is accepting nominations for the First Selectman’s Youth Award. The annual award, now in its twenty-first year, will be presented to a deserving young Woodbridge resident at the Human Services Volunteer Tea on Thursday, April 23. Call 203-389-3429 for more information or find the nomination form on the Town’s [website](#). Please submit nominations to Woodbridge Youth Services at 11 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge, CT 06525, by Monday, March 13, 2020.

Job Bank Teens Looking for Work: Woodbridge Youth Services has teens who want to do odd jobs in Woodbridge like snow shoveling, yard work, babysitting, and tutoring. Residents may call 203-389-3429 for assistance.

Congratulations to ARHS Debate Team: The Amity HS Debate Team has been competing in the 2019-20 International Public Policy Forum (IPPF) competition, most recently qualifying for the “sweet 16” IPPF Global Debate Competition. Please see this [press release](#) for more information. Way to go, Spartans!