

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



As we begin the final quarter of the school year, I continue to be amazed at the amount of focus, work and diligence our students and staff bring to “school” every day. I have witnessed impressive creativity, compassion and connection. Maya Angelou once said, “You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.” Certainly, none of us can control the international pandemic, but the response by our Amity Community—with offsite learning, intentional connection and refusal to let social distancing mean personal/emotional isolation—is indicative of the resiliency of our families and staff and a major component of what makes Amity such a special place. Have a good weekend and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: This week’s college is the **University of South Carolina** and the career of the week is **Journalist**. The [University of South Carolina](#) is located in Columbia, SC, approximately 800 miles from the BOW area. USC’s Columbia campus is the flagship of an 8-college system and is also the largest in terms of student population and acreage. According to their website, current enrollment totals 26,733 undergraduate students (2019-2020). USC/Columbia has been nationally recognized for their “[University 101](#)” program, a freshmen orientation program that helps students adjust to college life. Read about majors and [programs](#) here. [Annual costs](#) are \$47,197.00 (2019-2020) per academic year for out-of-state students. Learn more about [USC/Columbia](#) here or take a [virtual tour](#). **Journalists**, also known as reporters, correspondents, or broadcast news analysts “inform the public about news and events” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2018). First-time job seekers are expected to have a bachelor’s degree and experience from internships and/or their college media outlets. The median salary is \$43,490; the profession is expected to have **negative growth/job losses at -10% through 2028** (BLS, 2018). For more information, please visit the [Society of Professional Journalists](#) or the [Online News Association](#).

Happenings and Information

Students in AP and Parents: Please review the e-mail that was sent on 4/22 with important information about upcoming exams. Students should complete the survey within that e-mail as soon as possible. Today, 4/24, is the deadline for members of our school community to [contact](#) College

Board if students need devices or connectivity to complete their courses and exams. A Parent Webinar is available through the provided link. You must register first and then you will be allowed to access the pre-recorded [event](#).

Distance Learning Grading: During this period of off-site teaching and learning and distance education we initiated many changes throughout our school system - both locally in Amity, but also throughout the state and country. Since the move to off-site learning, our academic focus has been to support students' social/emotional needs and hone in on the standards and learning expectations that our professional educators consider essential to their class and content. This will lay the foundation for students to continue their academic advancement in the next school year. To that end, we have changed the percentage weights for each quarter as they are calculated toward final averages. Please see the [communication from Dr. Byars](#) for specific information.

ATTENTION JUNIORS: in lieu of visiting colleges this month, the College and Career Center has prepared links to "virtual tours" for the 50 most popular colleges with Amity students (2016-2019). Just click on the [link here](#) (or visit the College & Career Center's webpage) and enjoy the tours!

ALSO FOR JUNIORS: While the SAT will not be available until August, please consider taking the ACT in either June or July. There are many local testing sites to choose from ([see list here](#)). Amity HS may also become a test site - stay tuned. To learn more about the difference between the two tests, [click here](#).

A Message From the ARHS Health Department: This [information](#) has been released from the CDC. Despite wearing face protection, it is extremely important to continue maintaining the proper social distancing of 6 feet, continue with proper sneeze/cough etiquette and frequent hand washing.

NCAA: There has been some updates to the eligibility standards based on the Covid-19 crisis. For information regarding the impact of COVID on college athletics and high school recruiting, visit the NCAA website [here](#)

College Board update: College Board has announced that the June SAT and SAT Subject tests are cancelled. For up-to-date information on College Board tests, please visit their website [here](#). The College Board will be adding an SAT administration for **Saturday, September 26, 2020**. This date will be for the SAT only, in the United States and internationally, with no SAT Subject Tests™ available. Sunday testing for religious reasons will be on September 27. Registration for the 2020-21 SAT administrations will open the week of May 26. Please see their website for more information.

Need help with coping skills? The School Psychologists and Social Worker have created a twelve minute video. To watch, click [here](#).

Senior Happenings

Class of 2020 End-of-Year Activities: As we move in to the final quarter, the administration and senior class council have been working collaboratively to brainstorm ideas, plans and contingencies to celebrate the Class of 2020. Please contact a student government representative or member of the Amity Regional High School administration if you have thoughts or questions.

Financial Aid Information: If your child needs to appeal his/her financial aid package for a college next year, read this article from the Washington Post [here](#). It includes a link to SwiftStudent which has sample letters and detailed explanations about how to appeal your package.

Scholarship opportunity for future military service: Any seniors going into the military, ROTC, or the National Guard after graduation are encouraged to apply for the U.S. Service Scholarship in Memory of PFC Eric Soufrine. To apply please email your response to the question, What does it mean to you to be an American?, to alison.staak@amityregion5.org by May 8th.

Current Local Scholarships: All applications can be found and uploaded through Naviance under each individual scholarship. If you should have any questions regarding scholarships, please email Mrs. Vallie at paula.vallie@amityregion5.org.

- **Bethany Lions Club**
- **Bethwood Baseball League Scholarship**
- **CABO Foundation-CT Association of Latinos in Higher Education, Inc. Scholarship**

- **Joseph Cuzzocreo Scholarship**
- **Orange Community Women**
- **Orange Congregational Church Scholarship**
- **Orange Foundation Scholarship**
- **Orange Rotary Scholarship**
- **Orange Scholarship Fund Association**
- **Orange Scholarship Fund Association**
- **Orange Youth Services Scholarship**
- **The Lucy Scillia Scholarship**
- **The South Central Regional Water Authority Scholarship- Application can be found at: <http://thewatershedfund.org/applications/>**

Notes from Counseling Department

College Admission Webinar Opportunity: A FREE interactive conversation with the Dean's and Admissions representatives from four colleges and universities is being offered. This one-hour online webinar will assist in your preparation, planning, and navigation of all the big changes ahead! Learn more about college admissions, life on campus, COVID-19 concerns, SAT's, scholarships and more! Each speaker offers a unique perspective into college and what parents and students can expect. A portion of the program will be dedicated to Q&A.

"Meet the Deans": Thursday, April 9th at 2 pm a live conversation with UConn, University of Bridgeport, Naugatuck Community College, CT Community Foundations, and INROADS. You can register [here](#).

College Board has released some updates-General College Board updates can be found [here](#). The latest information about AP testing and AP instructional supports are found [here](#). This is a major change in AP testing so if you are scheduled to take an AP exam, please visit the link above.

AP Resources: The College Board, administrator of Advanced Placement exams, is offering students access to free, live AP review lessons, delivered by AP teachers from across the country beginning on Wednesday, March 25th. These optional, mobile-friendly classes are designed to be used alongside work that may be given by schools. These classes will also be available on-demand, so teachers and students can access them at any time. These online classes are not dependent on current AP teachers continuing instruction as we know many AP teachers now face challenges that would make that impossible. Additionally, for the 2019-20 AP Exam administration only, we're developing secure 45-minute online exams for each course. These streamlined digital exams will not require any test booklet shipments, external proctors, or any additional workload for schools. The exam content will focus on what most schools were able to complete by early-March. For each AP subject, there will be two different testing dates. By April 3rd, we'll publish the full exam schedule including the specific free-response question types that will comprise each AP exam. Please find more details [here](#).

Important Reminders

Peer Tutoring returns!: ONLINE PEER TUTORING IS AVAILABLE - please submit your [request HERE](#) or email the advisors: alison.staak@amityregion5.org OR lynn.cocco@amityregion5.org

April edition of *The Trident*: Please find this month's (digital) edition of the student written and produced school newspaper, *The Trident*, [here](#). Additional thanks to advisor Emily Clark for her mentorship with our students.

Student Activities Refunds: The district office finance department has been working to refund paid student activities. MyPaymentsPlus will credit the credit card or bank account, whichever was used to make the payment. Once the refund has been processed, the payee will receive an email of alert that a refund has been processed. It can take up to 7 days for the credit to be reflected in the account.

Parent/Guardian Resource: Our school social worker, Nicole DeNara, has created a Parent/Guardian Resource document. It can be found on our webpage under COVID Resources or click [here](#).

Outside Resources: We've created a community resource document for students so they have resources beyond Amity if they need outside support. [Click here to access](#)

Student Information for Off-Site Learning: Please use the following links for help with getting children ready for off-site/online learning. This is a 3 minute [video](#) of instructions, and written instructions can be found here. These links will also be posted on the Amity Website school pages under *Students-Links/Resources*.

Speak-Up: 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 Update: Spring sports are postponed until further notice. The athletic department has been reaching out to students who have registered for a spring sport with information to get prepared for the season. Please refer to Amity student email for more information.

Senior Student-Athletes: The athletic department is putting together a spring sports senior student-athlete slideshow. Please submit an action or any picture which represents you playing your spring sport. If you cannot find a picture in your uniform, please submit a picture with any Amity gear and a piece of your sport's equipment. Please submit ASAP, the project is already underway!! PLEASE SUBMIT [HERE](#).

Community Happenings

REMINDER-BOW Relay for Life Update: Based on current guidance and out of an abundance of caution, **we have decided to suspend our Relay event scheduled for May 16th.** We invite you, instead, to join us for **Relay USA**, an all virtual Relay event, to be hosted on **Saturday, April 25 at 4pm EST**, on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube! All Relay participants nationwide are invited to join, and they do not have to change their registration from their local event to this online opportunity. Please feel free to contact dana.wolf@cancer.org or bowrelayforlife@gmail.com with any questions. It should be an exciting broadcast for Relayers to stream, participate in, and fundraise during the interactive event. The broadcast will feature the traditional elements of Relay we love – opening ceremony, survivor lap, caregiver recognition, and a luminaria ceremony – in an all-virtual experience.

The Drowsy Chaperone Update: We are still hanging on to hope that somehow, somehow we will present this show in some capacity before the end of the summer and before our seniors leave for college. We do not know when that will be. The cast is still rehearsing twice a week on zoom and keeping their performing dreams alive; they had a nice “shout out” from one of the original Broadway Cast members that you can watch [here](#). More information will be disseminated as soon as it becomes available. There are several options for those of you who have purchased tickets to *The Drowsy Chaperone*, including donate your tickets or a portion of your tickets to help us make it through this time of crisis, or receive a refund. To process your donation or refund please click here to fill out this [form](#). You can also email our box office at amityboxoffice25@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support!

AMSO-Giving Hair and Hope 2020: We are very excited to announce that we will be holding the AMSO 12th annual St. Baldrick's event virtually! This will allow us to virtually come together to continue to support childhood cancer research. St. Baldrick's will be hosting our event via Zoom. Friends and family will be able to view the event on YouTube Live on St. Baldrick's YouTube channel. The event will be held on Monday, May 4 at 7:00 pm. If you have already registered for the event and helped raise funds to fight childhood cancer, we thank you! Please check your email for more information. If you have not yet registered, there is still time, and since barbershops and salons are closed, why not shave for a great cause! If you would like to join us and "Brave the Shave" or make a donation, just click on this [link](#). Please contact Vicki Fielosh if you have any questions (Vittoria.fielosh@amityregion5.org). Hope to see you there!

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!