

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr once said, “Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” Over the past 6 weeks, it feels like we have taken multiple steps without being able to see the whole staircase, but what we can trust is that the staircase is there. While we may not be able to see exactly where we are going in the next few weeks or months, what we have shown as a school community is that, in very little time, we can rebuild a semblance of our school community through an off-site experience and reconnect with each other to continue being Amity. This has been a learning experience for everyone-students, teachers, administrators, parents, and more. There will be a time when we will be able to look back on this experience and reflect on what went well, what needs work and how we can prepare for the future. Right now, we are living through the experience and working with what we’ve got. Next week is National Teacher Appreciation Week and we will do our best to recognize the heroic everyday efforts of our teachers, both during pandemics and on a regular basis. I want to applaud and thank all of you for being surrogate instructors and helping to support your children academically, socially and emotionally through this time. It is by working together that we will make it through this and be stronger for it. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

***Anna N. Mahon***

Principal

**College and Career of the Week:** This week’s college is **Gateway Community College** and the career of the week is **Firefighter**. founded in 1992, [Gateway Community College’s](#) (GCC) main campus is located in downtown New Haven. There is also a small, satellite campus in North Haven where their automotive program is housed. Gateway is one of 12 community colleges in Connecticut. GCC’s current enrollment is approximately 14,000 students and they offer over 90 [degree and certificate programs](#) including allied health (nursing, surgical assisting, sonogram tech, etc.) automotive, business, computer technology and fire administration. [Annual tuition](#) for full time, in-state residents is **\$ 4,476.00**(2019-2020). Learn more about attending GCC **for little or no cost** by visiting the [PACT website](#). “[Firefighters](#) control and put out fires and respond to emergencies where life, property, or the environment is at risk” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). To become a [firefighter](#), one must be a high school graduate, be in excellent physical condition and should complete EMT training. Candidates must interview with hiring agencies (local fire departments) and complete firefighter training at a regional/state fire academy to become certified. The median salary is \$50,850 per year and the profession is expected to have average job growth at 5% through 2028 (BLS, 2019). For more information, please visit the [Uniformed Professional Firefighters Association of Connecticut](#), [International Association of Firefighters](#), and [Firefighter Training and Education in CT](#).

## **Happenings and Information**

**Junior and Senior Proms:** At this point, the originally scheduled junior and senior proms have been cancelled for this year. The administration will continue to work collaboratively with the students through the class councils as well as with the class advisors to make decisions about any possible alternatives going forward.

**PTSO Project Graduation Balloon Sales:** It's back! Project Graduation Balloon sales are now open. Please see this [flyer](#) for more information. Please click [this link](#) to order.

**2020 National Teachers Appreciation Week:** Please remember that next week is Teacher Appreciation Week in the United States. If you have a moment, please consider sending a note to thank your child's teachers for the work they have accomplished this year with our students. They would love to hear from you!

**Student Government Thank You Video:** Members of the Amity Regional High School Student Government created a video as a thank you to everyone working in healthcare-in any capacity. Please take a minute to view the video [here](#).

**Yearbook Distribution Delayed:** Given the impact of Amity's closure on the yearbook production process, the cancellation of many events and activities that would have been featured in the book, and the closure of our publisher's printing plant, the completion and distribution of *Embers* 2020 has been delayed. At this time, the yearbook staff hopes to distribute books sometime in July. However, additional delays are still possible as the situation evolves.

**Students in AP Classes and Their Parents:** Please visit the Covid section of the Amity website for important AP updates that were released this week. Also, please watch for e-mails from AP teachers and coordinators for specific exam info.

- For students: We will be holding an open Zoom meeting for any AP students who have any questions about the up-coming exams on Tuesday, 5/5 and 5/6 from 11:30-12:30. To join the meeting, click [here](#) and use this password: 5MHVig

**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](mailto:alison.staak@amityregion5.org) by May 8th.

**Current Local Scholarships:** All applications can be found and uploaded through Naviance under each individual scholarship. Be sure to read all criteria carefully before applying. If you should have any questions regarding scholarships, please email Mrs. Vallie at [paula.vallie@amityregion5.org](mailto: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 Claire B. Bennett Watershed Fund Scholarship/South Central Regional Water Authority- Application can be found [here](#).
- Rotary Club International Scholarship

## **Notes from Counseling Department**

**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](#).

**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.

**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.

## **Important Reminders**

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

**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.

**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**

**Research Survey Opportunity for Parents:** Dr. Daniel Swartz, of Southern CT State University, is conducting a study to determine the type and amount of physical activity children are participating in while home during the COVID-19 school closures. He and his team are also seeking to determine what type of activities physical educators are requiring of their students and what method of instructional delivery were used during the COVID-19 school closures. The results of this study have the potential to contribute to the fields of health (specifically physical activity) and physical education by providing information on physical activity participation and perceptions of physical education and physical activity during home-based learning experiences. **Parents are asked** to complete a short 8-10-minute [survey](#) to help us with this research project.

**Reminder-AMSO-Giving Hair and Hope 2020:** We are very excited to announce that we will be holding the AMSO 12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Vittoria.fielosh@amityregion5.org)). Hope to see you there!

#### **Woodbridge Youth Services Volunteer Opportunities and Virtual Classes:**

- • **Make Masks** – Let’s do our part to keep our seniors safe. Follow this [link](#) to access Sew or No-Sew patterns. Please call Human Services to donate elastic or masks at 203-389-3429. Kids/Teens may call Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 to approve community service hours if needed.
- • **Youth to Write Letters, Poems, Artwork for Seniors (70+)** -Any youth (5-18) interested in sharing thoughts with a local senior should place items in an unsealed envelope. Call Human Services at 203-389-3429 or email: [jglicksman@woodbridgect.org](mailto:jglicksman@woodbridgect.org) or [npfund@woodbridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org). to schedule no-contact drop-off. Your notes will be forwarded to our older friends who will truly appreciate the love.
- • **Youth Yoga for Teens (11-15) with Bill Banick** - 4 free classes to stretch and relieve stress. Dates include 5/8, 5/11, 5/15, 5/18, 1:15 – 2:00 pm.
- • **Zoom Into Mindfulness with Dr. Jen Botwick for Teens 13 - 18** – 4 free classes to ‘De-stress this COVID 19 Mess’. Dates include 5/7, 5/12, 5/14, 5/19, 3:30 – 4:30 pm.

Contact [npfund@woobridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woobridgect.org) or call 203-389-3429 to sign-up for classes. Must have a valid email address for your Zoom invitation to join these classes.

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!