

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Today marks the day of our scheduled Class of 2021 Junior Prom. It is disappointing that we are unable to celebrate with our students, but we continue to be proud of the work and resilience our students have shown. Throughout the week, we have celebrated National Teacher Appreciation Week. It was also the week that we found out officially that we would not be returning to onsite school for the remainder of the school year. This has been an emotional week, but it has also been a week of reflection and gratitude. I continue to be impressed by the dedication of our faculty and the resilience of our students. This has impacted all of us and we will continue to learn from this experience as we move forward. The most important thing to remember is that we will move forward, we will continue to grow and we will return to the brick and mortar of our school and the face-to-face interactions with each other that we are longing for. Our seniors are making history. Their culminating experiences will not follow the same traditions as former graduating classes, but will create new experiences and lay the foundation for new experiences for future students. We've got this, together.

Sincerely,

**Anna N. Mahon**

Principal

**College and Career of the Week:** This week's college is **Naugatuck Valley Community College** and the career of the week is **Machinist/Tool & Die Maker**. [Naugatuck Valley Community College](#) (NVCC) is located in Waterbury, CT. A second, satellite campus is located in Danbury, CT. According to their website, the current enrollment is 6,250 students (2019-2020). Many degree and certificate [programs are offered](#) at NVCC including allied health, engineering technology, aviation science, horticulture, legal assisting, and manufacturing technology. Students are also offered "[transfer tickets](#)", where they can attend community college for 2 years and then transfer to a 4-year institution. [Annual tuition](#) for full time, in-state residents is **\$ 4,516.00** (2020-2021). NVCC is one of the 12 community colleges in Connecticut where students can attend for *little or no cost*. Visit the [PACT website](#) here to learn more. "[Machinists and tool and die makers](#) set up and operate machine tools to produce precision metal parts, instruments and tools" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). To become a [tool and die maker](#), one must complete some additional training after high school through apprenticeships, technical programs and/or on the job training. The median salary is \$45,750 per year and the profession is expected to have little to no growth at no more than 1% through 2028 (BLS, 2019). However, many believe that manufacturing careers will soon be in higher demand in the USA. For more information, please visit the [National Institute for Metalworking Skills](#), [National Tooling and Machining Association](#), the [CT Center for Advanced Technology](#), or [Resources for Manufacturers in CT](#).

## **Happenings and Information**

**PTSO Project Graduation Balloon Sales:** It's back! Project Graduation Balloon sales are now open. Please click [here](#) for the information on ordering.

**Mental Health Awareness Month:** May is mental health awareness month. The school psychologists and social worker have the following message:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. One of the best ways to stay mentally healthy is to spread gratitude. We are asking our staff, students, and parents/caregivers to please complete this quick survey by next Wednesday, May 13th, 2020 to share what, within the Amity school community, you are grateful for. These responses will then be compiled into a short video that will be distributed for the Amity community to enjoy. Please click [here for the parent form](#), [here for the senior form](#) and [here for the underclass form](#).

**Library Books/Materials Return:** Please return all books and electronics borrowed from the library as soon as possible. There is a cart between the inner and outer doors of the front door of the high school, available from 7:30 AM until 2:30 pm. All books should be returned by June 1st. Thank you! For questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Hulse or Mr. Musco: [victoria.hulse@amityregion5.org](mailto:victoria.hulse@amityregion5.org); [robert.musco@amityregion5.org](mailto:robert.musco@amityregion5.org)

**Student and Administrator Thank You Videos:** Throughout this week of appreciation, students shared their appreciation for teachers at the beginning of the week through these [videos](#) published on the bottom of the high school website, while this [slideshow](#) was sent to the faculty and staff on Wednesday by the administration.

**Parent Resource:** We have updated the COVID-19 Parent/Guardian Resources on our website. To view the document, click [here](#)

## **AP Updates:**

**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

**Exam Access:** Two days prior to each exam, students should receive an e-mail containing an exam ticket that is unique to each exam they are registered for. If an e-mail does not come through, the exam ticket can be accessed through their AP Classroom account. If neither option works, please reach out to your teacher, Ms. Boyns

([Marian.Boyns@amityregion5.org](mailto:Marian.Boyns@amityregion5.org)), or Mrs. Ferguson  
([Gerilyn.Ferguson@amityregion5.org](mailto:Gerilyn.Ferguson@amityregion5.org)).

**Troubleshooting during exams:** We have set up a Google Voice account that can be accessed at the following number: 203-516-0430

Students should call this number if they are having difficulty accessing exams, submitting responses, or if they are experiencing other problems. It would be a good idea for students to write this number at the top of their AP Checklist, if they should need it during the exam. The number will be answered during the hours of the AP exams.

**Cancellation/Refunds:** If a student has already requested an exam cancellation in Total Registration, please know that we are aware of that request. We are not approving those requests at this time because College Board still plans to send exam tickets out, regardless of cancellation requests. As a result, students can essentially wait until the time of their exam to decide whether or not to take it. It is not necessary to request a cancellation. Any student who does not take an AP exam that they registered for will be eligible for a full refund. During the first week of June, we will receive a full list of which students completed an exam. Once we receive that information, we will begin processing refunds through Total Registration. This will not happen until June 5th, at the earliest. Thank you for your patience!

## **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.

**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**
- **Joseph Cuzzocreo Scholarship**
- **Orange Congregational Church Scholarship**
- **Orange Foundation Scholarship**
- **Orange Rotary 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**

**College Admissions Announcement:** The College Admissions Collaboration Highlighting Engineering and Technology (CACHET) we are pleased to announce Virtual STEM Week! This collaboration between CACHET members and Strive Scan will highlight several unique presentations about the STEM fields as well as an individual presentation about the member institutions. You can register at the following [link](#). Please note that these presentations are open to all prospective students, parents, and school counselors.

**UPenn Summer Programs:** The University of Pennsylvania summer high school programs are moving online. Please visit their website [here](#) to browse through the many offerings to high school students around the globe.

**Air Force ROTC Scholarship Opportunity:** This program allows rising seniors in high school to apply for a college scholarship while simultaneously setting themselves up for success to commission as United States Air Force officers. Please click [here](#) for more 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](#).

**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)

**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](#)

**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](#)

**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**

**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**

**PACT Senior Yard Signs:** The Parents of Amity Creative Theater is sponsoring SIGNS OF SUPPORT for our graduates and students with yard signs for the community. Click [here](#) for more information and [here](#) to order.

**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.

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

Woodbridge Youth services is offering several free virtual classes/activities for kids starting in the coming weeks. There are many offerings that will give them the opportunity to explore new talents, help in the community, and focus on physical and emotional wellness. Please Contact [npfund@woobridgect.org](mailto:npfund@woobridgect.org) or call 203-389-3429 to sign-up for classes. You must have a valid email address for your Zoom invitation to join these classes.

### **Free Virtual Classes for Teens - Join Now!**

**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 (New Dates)** – 4 free classes to 'De-stress this COVID 19 Mess'. Dates include 5/12, 5/14, 5/19, 5/21 3:30 – 4:30 pm.

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!