

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Author, speaker and educator Gever Tully is credited with saying, “Persistence and resilience only come from having been given the chance to work through difficult problems.” We have been working together, through this difficult time, for two months and have learned quite a bit as a school community, a local community, a national community and a global community. While the struggle has not been easy, what has been apparent is our strength and resilience, particularly within our Amity High School community. We continue to have to make hard choices and mourn the loss of expectations, but we have had the opportunity to work together to build new experiences and expectations and teach each other what it means to be creative, supportive and true to our core values. The final four weeks of the 2019-2020 school year will, undoubtedly, continue to present challenges. With persistence and resilience, we will persevere together. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: This week’s college is **Middlesex Community College** and the career of the week is **Veterinary Technician**. [Middlesex Community College](#) (MxCC) is located in Middletown, Connecticut, approximately 32 miles from the BOW area. A second, satellite campus is located at Platt High School in Meriden, CT. According to their website, the current enrollment is approximately 4,200 students (2018-2019). Over 70 degree and certificate [programs are offered](#) at MxCC including allied health (CNA, EMT, nutrition, pharmacy tech, veterinary tech), business, manufacturing technology, STEM and humanities. [Annual tuition](#) for full time, in-state residents is **\$ 4,476.00** (2020-2021). MxCC 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. “[Veterinary technologists and technicians](#) do medical tests that help diagnose animals’ injuries and illnesses” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). They also work alongside veterinarians to care for animals. To work in this career, [vet technologists](#) need a bachelors’ degree, vet technicians need an associates’ degree and both must pass certification exams, depending upon local state laws. The median salary is \$35,320 (national average) per year and the profession is expected to have **faster than average growth at 19% through 2028**(BLS, 2019). Note that the [average salary in Connecticut](#) for vet techs is much higher at \$49,900 per year (BLS,2019). For more information, please visit the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America, ([NAVTA](#)). For information about AMVA accredited vet tech programs, see [listing here](#) and vet tech’s [national exam info here](#).

Happenings and Information

Class of 2020 Senior Activities: Seniors will be concluding their academic class and work by the end of May (last day of classes will be May 29th and last day for assignments due will be May 31st) in advance of Amity's first ever Senior Week Celebration! Throughout the first week of June there will be virtual challenges, senior awards night, cap and gown and balloon pick up and other activities to celebrate our senior class of 2020 in a unique and special way. More information about Senior Week 2020 and official graduation plans will be sent to parents of seniors and members of the class in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

For students who have medications/health supplies in the health office: Beginning on May 20th the health office will begin returning medications and supplies back to students/parents. Nurses will be contacting families to arrange a pick up date and time.

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

Mid-Marks are May 15th: Today, Friday, May 15th is the mid-marking period for 4th quarter. Please take some time to review PowerSchool with your child to discuss progress so far through the 4th marking period.

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; robert.musco@amityregion5.org

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

AP Exam Update

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), or Mrs. Ferguson (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

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.

- **Bethany Lions Club**

- **Joseph Cuzzocreo Scholarship**
- **Orange Congregational Church Scholarship**
- **Orange Foundation Scholarship**
- **Orange Rotary Scholarship**
- **The Lucy Scillia Scholarship**
- **The Claire B. Bennitt Watershed Fund Scholarship/South Central Regional Water Authority- Application can be found [here](#).**
- **Rotary Club International Scholarship**

Junior Class Updates

Webinar for College Admissions Process: Salve Regina is offering a number of webinar workshops to help students with the college admission process. Workshop topics range from To learn more about these workshops and to register, visit their [website](#).

Strive Virtual College Exploration Program: From May 19 through 21, 31 colleges will hold information sessions. There are also many STEM-related presentations being held. Presentation topics are:

- Recession-Proof Career Options
- Women in STEM
- Preparation for Science & Engineering Majors
- Research, Internships & Co-op in STEM
- How Engineers Are Building a Better World
- Science, Engineering & the Arts
- Entrepreneurship & STEM
- STEM in a Liberal Arts Environment

Students must register for each individual presentation AND/OR college session they wish to attend. [Register HERE!](#)

NOTE - Events are scheduled for the CENTRAL TIME ZONE which is one-hour behind us! Please plan accordingly!

Alternative for College Visits: 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!

Possible ACT Opportunity: 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](#).

Notes from Counseling Department

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.

Summer Virtual STEM Opportunity: To help continue educational opportunities during this time, a team of Stanford and Harvard students and graduates are offering a Summer STEM Institute (SSI), a virtual summer research program. For more details, please visit the [website](#). The Summer STEM Institute is a six-week virtual summer program consisting of three main parts:

A research and data science bootcamp: SSI will equip students with the valuable skills to conduct computational research. Students will learn how to apply data science to interdisciplinary projects with real-world impact.

A Masterclass lecture series: Students will be connected with 30+ highly accomplished speakers from Harvard, Stanford, MIT, and other top institutions—from Forbes 30 under 30 awardees, Intel Science Talent Search (STS) winners, to International Math Olympiad Medalists.

A research project: Students will also have the opportunity to conduct a research project in a scientific field of interest. Students will be matched to a virtual lab and work closely with mentors, including International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) winners and Research Science Institute (RSI) scholars.

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

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.

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!