

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Today marks the day that was meant to be senior prom and the beginning of the concluding celebrations of the school year. It is also the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, where we commemorate all those who have died while serving in the United States Military. This has been a difficult spring for all of us, but one thing it has helped us recognize as an entire community is how inter-connected we all are regardless of what seeming differences we may have. Practicing gratitude, appreciating resilience and actively building community are all important factors to pulling together and actively working our way through these difficult and uncertain times. This week Amity participated in the ADL online campaign to promote diversity, inclusion and allyship with the #noplacforhate movement. Through participating in this larger community effort and reflecting on the intentional work we have completed as a school, my appreciation has only grown for what it means to be Amity. Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: This week's college is **Norwalk Community College** and the career of the week is **Physical Therapy Assistant**. Norwalk Community College (NCC) is located in Norwalk, Connecticut and was the first public, two year college established in Connecticut and their current enrollment is approximately 13,000 students (both full and part time). Over 50 degree and certificate programs are offered at NCC including allied health (physical therapy assistant, nursing, respiratory care tech, veterinary tech) business, legal assisting, web development, and tech studies. For more information, check out NCC's Fact Sheet [here](#). Annual tuition for full time, in-state residents is **\$ 4,546.00** (2020-2021). NCC 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. "Physical therapist assistants and aides are supervised by physical therapists to help patients regain movement and manage pain after injuries and illnesses" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). An associates' degree is usually required of PT Assistants in most states. Additional credentialing is also required that varies by state boards of physical therapy. The median salary is \$48,990 (national average) per year and the profession is expected to have ***faster than average growth at 26% through 2028*** (BLS, 2018). Note that the average salary in Connecticut for PT Assistants is much higher at \$65,510 per year (BLS,2019). For

more information, please visit the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) or the Connecticut chapter of APTA [here](#).

Happenings and Information

Class of 2020 Senior Celebration Update: Seniors will be concluding their academic class at the end of May. Students will be returning school-issued materials on June 1st and 2nd and picking up caps, gown, project graduation balloons and other graduation documents on June 4th and 5th. There will also be virtual challenges throughout the week where students can win prizes. The ceremonial portion of the graduation will be published online on the evening of June 9th and the distribution of diplomas will be conferred to graduates throughout the day on June 10th. A detailed explanation of the activities will be sent on Tuesday, May 26th.

OBOA IS HERE!: Please find this year's official release for the 2020-2021 OBOA program [here](#). Enjoy!!

REMINDER-PTSO Project Graduation Balloon Sales: It's back! Project Graduation Balloon sales are open until Sunday, May 31st. Please [click here](#) for the information on ordering.

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](#).

End-Of-Year Survey: Please remember to complete the end-of-year survey by May 29th (next Friday) to give feedback on technology and the off-site learning. The link can be found [here](#). Thanks!

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 Updates

Junior Check In with Counselors: School Counselors will be hosting a Zoom meeting with all juniors on their caseloads on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the college admission process and things to work on this summer in preparation for college applications this fall. Please encourage your child to attend. Students were sent a link to the meeting via school Google email.

Attention Juniors! The AMERICA EAST Athletic Conference will be offering a VIRTUAL COLLEGE TOUR on Thursday, May 28th at 4pm. If you are considering any of these 9 universities OR wish to play a D1 sport, please check out this event. The schools included are:

SUNY/Albany
SUNY/Binghamton
SUNY/Stony Brook
University of Hartford
Univ of Maine/Orono
Univ of Maryland/Baltimore County
UMASS/Lowell
Univ of New Hampshire/Durham
University of Vermont

[REGISTER HERE](#) NOTE - under "JOB TITLE", type "STUDENT"

This link and many others can also be found on the College & Career Center's "College Search Information" [webpage here](#).

Virtual College Tours and Information: Admissions officers from Dartmouth College, Northwestern University, Princeton University, University of California, Berkeley, and Vanderbilt University invite you and your students to learn about our institutions, hear advice about the college search and application process, and get your questions answered. Join them on **Sunday, May 31, 2020, 3 p.m. Eastern Time**, (Webinar link sent upon [registration](#)) **OR Monday, June 1, 2020, 5 p.m. Eastern Time** (Webinar link sent upon [registration](#).) An RSVP is required.

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](#).

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

Peer Mentor Program: Students who are interested in becoming a peer mentor next year should check Student Happenings this week for a link a Google form.

GAP Year Ideas: Taking a gap year has become an increasingly popular choice for many students around the country. If you are someone who might be interested in completing a gap year, please find a list of websites we have compiled on our school website. Please click [here](#) for gap year opportunities. *Please note that the Amity Regional School District #5 has not conducted any review or background checks of these programs/opportunities. Students should consult with their parents/guardians before deciding to pursue any of these options.*

Community Service: If you are interested and able to volunteer, the United Way in New Haven has a list of urgent short term volunteer opportunities on their website [here](#). All volunteer should exercise appropriate precautions given their individual circumstances and follow the guidance of public health officials on how to stay safe.

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.

Hamden Adult Education Upcoming Registration: The following information is for fall 2020 registration dates for the Credit Diploma Program at Hamden High School--Rm. D-102, August 3 – August 4, 2020, 6:30-8:30 p.m. August 5, 2020, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Important Reminders

For students who have medications/health supplies in the health office: 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.

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.

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!