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## **ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER**



Today is the conclusion of our 3-day BOW bus tour to visit our seniors, say hello after many months of only seeing them on screens and give them their senior gifts. Despite wearing masks, the inability to shake hands, give a hug or have regular face-to-face contact, it has been wonderful to see our students in person. This year, particularly these last few months, have been a roller-coaster of emotions as we worked to reimagine school, plan with ever-changing guidelines and troubleshoot logistics. We continue to work in this mode, but we have shown that, by working together, we are strong; we are resilient--we are Amity. Please take a few minutes to watch this video compilation, put together by our school psychologists and social worker, focusing on gratitude for our school community. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

***Anna N. Mahon***

Principal

**College and Career of the Week:** This week's college is **Housatonic Community College** and the career of the week is **Aircraft Mechanic**. Housatonic Community College (HCC) is located in Bridgeport, Connecticut, with courses are also offered at Jonathan Law HS in Milford. According to their website, HCC was established in 1967 and their current enrollment is approximately 5,500 students (both full and part time). Over 75 degree, certificate and transfer programs are offered including allied health (surgical technician, medical assistant, paramedic studies) business, aviation maintenance, graphic design, and early childhood education. Annual tuition for full time, in-state residents is **\$4,556.00** (2020-2021). Visit the PACT website here to learn more. "Aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and technicians repair and perform scheduled maintenance on aircraft" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). Aircraft mechanics train by attending a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved program at a trade school, by enlisting and learning through the military or through on the job training. Students must also become certified mechanics by meeting strict FAA requirements. The median salary

is \$64,310 (national average) per year (BLS, 2019). Note that the average salary in Connecticut for aircraft mechanics is higher at \$76,050 per year (BLS,2019). For more information, please visit the Professional Aviation Maintenance Association or the Federal Aviation Administration websites. Visit our website for a list of programs/schools in our area.

## **Happenings and Information**

**Class of 2020 Senior Activities:** Today is the last day of classes **for seniors and** our pre-Senior Week 2020 gift-delivery. Next week, seniors will return materials to campus on Monday and Tuesday (if they have materials to return) and **all** students will pick up caps, gowns and other graduation materials on Thursday and Friday. In addition, the senior class council will be running virtual challenges where seniors can earn prizes. Please see this flyer for more information.

**Underclass Material Returns:** School-issued material return will be held for 9th-11th grade students during the last week of classes (the week of June 8th) and, if necessary, through the following week. More detailed information will be sent next week in a separate email. Stay tuned!

**LAST CALL-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.

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

## **Senior Happenings**

**Virtual Yearbook Signing for Seniors:** Please remember to check your school email for information about the special virtual yearbook signing program for members of the Class of 2020. The email will be from "Embers Yearbook."

**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.

## **Junior Class Announcements**

**College-Searching Juniors:** Are you looking at Princeton? Dartmouth? UC/Berkeley? Vanderbilt or Northwestern? There is a special webinar/opportunity through "[Coast to Coast Tours](#)" [here](#). NOTE - If the east coast dates are full, please register for one of the other dates/times. (Pay special attention to the start times and time zones though!) Remember to take a look at our [College & Career Center's web site](#) with other up to date [college search resources](#) for you as well.

**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**

**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.***

**Looking for a summer job?** There are many summer employment opportunities starting to become available in our surrounding communities. Here are a couple of sites to browse through as we head into summer: [Glassdoor](#), [Indeed](#), [Snag a Job](#) & [SimplyHired](#). One of the best job research skills you can develop as a teen is researching employers and job openings before applying. If you need assistance, please reach out to Mrs. Vallie at: [paula.vallie@amityregion5.org](mailto:paula.vallie@amityregion5.org) or call the Career Center at 203-397-4836.

**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.

**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**

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

**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.

**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.

**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!