

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Over the past 7 days we have seen our already-reeling country erupt with protests and unrest after witnessing yet another horrific and unacceptable act of violence against a person of color. Racial inequities exist at all levels of our society. It is the mission of Amity Regional High School *"to create an inclusive community that affirms the contributions, strengths, and talents of all of its members. We bear a responsibility...to develop in all students the skills and the desire necessary to become contributing members of a just society."* It is our responsibility, as a school community, to work to build a culture that is inclusive and safe for every single person and prepare our students to become contributing members of a **just** society. Our larger society is far from just at this moment, but through education, deep listening, standing side by side and working to be the change, our school community--and every school community across the state and country--can become examples of justice and inclusion where all members are safe, valued and included. As stated in an email sent to the student body earlier this week by the ARHS Student Government, "Every one of our actions, no matter how small, can impact the community at large... Change does not take days or weeks or months. It is long and gradual. But it needs to start somewhere." Our students are ready to work with each other and with the adults in our community to listen, reflect and support a change. We can encourage them by doing the same. Throughout the summer months, I will continue to work collaboratively with the Student Government to provide resources to the community, via the Student Government tab on the high school web page, for students, parents, educators and community members regarding ending systemic racism and building a just society. By recognizing that every one of us has the responsibility to and can make a difference, the slow wheel of change can begin to pick up speed. Let's work together on this. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: This week's college is **Tunxis Community College** and the career of the week is **Dental Assistant**. Tunxis Community College (TCC) is located in Farmington, Connecticut and currently enrolls about 7,000 students (both full and part time). Over 60 degree and certificate programs are offered including graphic design, manufacturing, criminal justice, computer information systems, human services and dental assisting. Annual tuition for full time, in-state residents is **\$4,556.00** (2020-2021). TCC is one of the 12 community colleges in Connecticut where students can attend for *little or no cost*. "Dental assistants provide patient care, take x-rays, keep records, and schedule appointments" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). While training to become a dental assistant varies by state, most require training from an accredited program and certification

from a governing agency. The median salary is \$40,080 (national average) per year and the profession is expected to have ***faster than average growth at 11% through 2028*** (BLS, 2019). For more information, please visit the American Dental Assistants Association, the National Dental Assistant Association or the DALE Foundation websites. Visit our website for a list of programs/schools in our area.

Happenings and Information

Commencement and Conferring of Diplomas: Next week's commencement exercises will be a dedicated time to celebrate the accomplishments of the members of our senior class. The commencement exercises for the Amity Regional High School Class of 2020 will begin on the evening of June 9th with a virtual ceremony of salutations and speeches, continue through the day on June 10th with conferring of diplomas to students and into the evening with an audio version of the entire ceremony shared on WPLR, radio station 99.1 beginning at 5:00. The alternative date(s) for conferring of diplomas will take place during the week of July 6th.

A HUGE THANK YOU: Thank you to the PTSO including, Margaret Hamilton, Penny Zamkov and Nada McGovern and all of the other family volunteers, for their work with the ARHS Project Graduation Balloon initiative. Over 5300 balloons were inflated and distributed to our graduates this week.

June Trident Issue: The final issue of the school newspaper, *The Trident*, can be found here.

Underclass Material Returns: School-issued material return will be held for 9th-11th grade students from June 15th through June 22nd.

Senior Happenings

Virtual Yearbook Signing for Seniors: 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 came from "Embers Yearbook."

Junior Class Announcements

Fall SAT Date: Based on the survey results regarding SAT testing for the Class of 2021, Amity will be administering the SAT in school on October 14th to all seniors. There will be no charge

for the exam as it is paid for by the State of Connecticut since testing was canceled this year. The essay will not be offered for this test.

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 or call the Career Center at 203-397-4836.

Important Reminders

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.

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

Community Happenings

Resources for Combating Violence and Hate: Please find a list of resources to use to talk with your children about anti-racism:

[Resources on anti-racism](#) (list of resources from Mind/Shift)

["Coming Together: Standing Up to Racism. A CNN/Sesame Street Town Hall for Kids and Families"](#) (article and announcement)

[How to Talk to Your Children About Protests and Racism](#) (article)

Woodbridge Youth Services announcements:

Programs-With concerns over racism, Covid-19 and social distancing, our teens need time to express their frustration. Please consider writing your thoughts for discussion or to share in a socially distant or virtual group. Woodbridge Youth Services provided free virtual classes in Yoga and in Mindfulness in May, and advises families to check out the Town of Woodbridge website and Facebook to learn about future programs. Contact Youth Services at 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org with questions or suggestions.

Chalk Art Challenge for Woodbridge & Bethany Families-Let's fill our towns with beauty and color! Make a chalk picture on your driveways or sidewalks to celebrate spring, thank our essential workers or, or depict your feelings of happiness or frustration. Forward a photo of your chalk art to Youth Services for a chance to win gift cards to our local businesses. Use your favorite chalk colors and inspiration to share your artistic talent or your pavement poetry. Email photos by June 26th to nfpund@woodbridgect.org, and include the Family Name(s), address, and phone # to be reached. Photos and family names may be shared with the community. No addresses will be published. Call 203-389-3429 for more information. Thanks to a generous donation from Bailey, Moore, Glazer, Schaefer, and Proto, LLP we can provide gift cards to support local businesses. Donations of gift cards and financial support for this and other programs to benefit youth are appreciated. See the Town of Woodbridge website for more details.

Job Bank-Residents who wish to hire teens for outdoor work (with social distancing), and responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call 203-389-3429 for more information.

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!