

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



As we close out this academic year, I want to take a moment to thank everyone in the Amity Community, including faculty, staff, parents and students, for trusting in the school and district as we navigated a quick switch to a completely new way to do school. As we move in to the summer, we will reflect on what has gone well, what needs to be improved and prepare various contingencies for what school may look like when we return for the 2020-2021 school year, depending on the guidance we are required to follow from the State. We will also continue the important conversations to address systemic issues, such as racism, that plague our society and the role public education plays in confronting these issues and working to address them through programing, curriculum redesign and fostering an inclusive environment. We stand by our core values of **fairness, respect and passion**. Finally, it has become a tradition of mine to bring the entire senior class in to the Brady Center on the day of graduation, just before we walk out to the athletic field, so I can address them one last time as a full senior class. Usually I commend them for their hard work, congratulate them on their accomplishments and then show them a slideshow of pictures that I prepare specifically for their class. This year, that was not possible. However, members of the PTSO and the senior class came through. Please take a moment to view this Slideshow as a send-off to this year's graduating seniors.* Enjoy and happy summer!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

*Special thanks to parent Cindy Figuly and President of the Class Jayson Hutchinson for compiling and creating the slideshow.

Happenings and Information

Information on the 2020-2021 School Year: Information will be shared via email regarding the reopening of school as it becomes available, most likely beginning in August. Stay tuned!

Summer Hours for Main Office and Counseling Department: Summer hours will begin on Monday, July 15th and last through Friday, August 24th. Please contact an administrative assistant between the hours of 7:30-2:30 at 203-397-4830 if you have a question or need assistance.

Calliope: This year's edition of the Amity art and literary magazine, *Calliope*, has gone virtual! Please ask your child to check out the edition [here](#) (using amityschools.org email to access).

OBOA: As a reminder, we are continuing with the OBOA High School program. Please find this year's official release for the 2020-2021 OBOA program [here](#). Enjoy!!

NHS School Materials Drive: During underclassmen school supply collection in the next week (June 15-22), the National Honors Society will be collecting new or gently used school supplies for all ages, including pencils, calculators, textbooks, notebooks, scissors, crayons, markers, etc. There will be donation boxes and signs at the front of the school next to school-issued underclassmen collection. All school supplies will go towards the New Haven Public Schools, including Worthington Hooker Schools, to help families and students impacted by quarantine and need assistance with school supplies.

Underclass Material Returns: School-issued material return will be held for 9th-11th grade students from June 15th through June 22nd. Please check your email for individual materials that need to be returned.

Underclass Awards Night: We will be holding the 2019-2020 Underclass Awards Ceremony after school begins for the 2020-2021 school year. More information and details will be sent in mid-August.

2020-2021 Student Schedules: Schedules will be sent to students and families for the 2020-2021 school year by the beginning of August. Necessary schedule changes (due to missing required classes, summer school credit recovery, etc) will be made between then and when school begins for the 2020-2021 school year.

June Trident Issue: The final issue of the school newspaper, *The Trident*, can be found [here](#).

Senior Happenings

Congratulations to the Amity Class of 2020! The virtual portion of the ceremony may be found [here](#). A full rendition of the June 10th conferment of diplomas will be up on the website as soon as the editing is complete. An email will be sent once it is available!

Other Coverage of 2020 Commencement: You can find the recap from WPLR 99.1 [here](#) as well as a news clip from CT FoxNews 61 [here](#). Thank you to our community supporters!

Junior Updates

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.

Athletics

Fall Sports Sign-Up Meeting: The athletic department is currently working on fall registration that may include additional requirements regarding Covid-19 permissions and protocols. There will be a mid-summer update, sent via email, based on the latest guidelines and preparations. Stay tuned!

Community Happenings

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

[How to talk with your kids about anti-racism: A list of resources](#) (PBS.org article and resources)

[Talking to kids about racism](#) (NY Times article and resources)

[How to talk to your kids about injustice, racism and protests](#) (Healthline.com resources)

Continue to be safe and well, Amity!