

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Mission Statement

The mission of Amity Regional High School is to create an inclusive community that affirms the contributions, strengths, and talents of all of its members. We bear a responsibility to ourselves and to the school community to develop in all students the skills and the desire necessary to become contributing members of a just society.

Welcome to the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Over this summer, members of our Amity Community--faculty, staff, administrators and students--have worked tirelessly to create a plan for school that is founded on physical safety for all school community members, a transparent and reflective approach to meaningful and inclusive curriculum, leveraging technology to create engaging and consistent learning experiences and supportive measures for students, faculty, parents and staff as we transition back from the summer and a highly unusual end of the 2019-2020 school year. The 2020-2021 school year will start in an historic way and will, undoubtedly, bring continued need for flexibility. We began learning this lesson last spring. We learned that school is not founded on the physical place, but rather in the relationships that are built and the experiences we share. Additionally, in the spring, the Amity community joined many other communities across the state and nation in the dialogue about combating racism, working to address systemic exclusion and creating a more inclusive community. Throughout the summer, resources have been shared from the ARHS Student Government and Amity Educators. Kevin Booker, Jr., one of the panelist from the ADL Webinar on Thursday, August 20th, stated "get comfortable with being uncomfortable." Through an intentionally reflective approach to our curriculum and programming, we will grow to become the "just society" we refer to in our school's mission statement. We have an opportunity and a responsibility to learn and grow from all of these experiences. We have grown, individually and as a school community, from our experiences last spring. I look forward to continuing this journey with the entire Amity Community. Have a fulfilling 2020-2021 school year!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

Happenings and Information

Monday Reopening of Schools Webinar: Please be sure to read the communication sent from Dr. Byars, superintendent of schools, on Friday, August 21st regarding the upcoming webinar on school reopening that will take place on Monday, August 24th at 6:30pm. If you are unable to register for the webinar, the conversation can be viewed via the livestream. The webinar will also be viewable as a recording after Monday night.

2020-2021 Student Schedules: Student schedules will be available through PowerSchool beginning Monday, August 24th. We will begin school for students on August 31st following the District's Hybrid Learning Plan. Please also refer to [this letter](#) from Dr. Byars, which explains the phase-in approach for the first week of school for students.

2020-2021 Parent/Guardian Drop Off/Pick Up Instructions: Please find a copy of morning drop off and afternoon pick up instructions [here](#). Please note: students will not be allowed in to the school building until 7:15 and **must report directly to their 1st session classroom**. There will be no congregating allowed in the hallways. Also please note: **for safety reasons, Newton Road is not a designated student drop-off area.**

Information about Amity Regional School District #5 Required 1:1 Program: Please see this [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for information about the 1:1 program for 7th-11th grade Amity students. All 7th-11th grade students will be required to use the district-issued devices beginning this school year. Seniors will be part of a separate program (required BYOD or school issued). As always, all students will be expected to adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).

Student Parking: Student parking at Amity Regional High School is restricted to juniors and seniors. Eligible students who wish to drive to school must register their vehicles and pay a \$100.00 registration fee. If there is a need to cancel in-person instruction for an extended period of time, the District will work to appropriately compensate families at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. Please see this [memo](#) regarding the process for registering for a parking tag as well as the parking rules and regulations. **Eligible seniors and juniors may park on campus without**

a parking sticker (while applications are being processed) through September 11th. Parking stickers must be displayed in the lower left-hand corner of the windshield beginning September 14th.

Amity Regional High School PTSO August Meeting: Next Thursday, the ARHS PTSO will be hosting a back-to-school Zoom meeting with Dr. Byars, Mrs. Mahon and Mr. Goodwin. Please click on this [link](#) to register.

2020-2021 Student Handbook: The ARHS Student Handbook can be found on the website at this [link](#) under “school information.”

2020-2021 Region 5 District Calendar: Please find a copy of the Amity Regional School District No. 5 2020-2021 School Calendar [here](#). As with other aspects of school this year, the calendar and/or programs may be subject to change.

Hybrid Bell Schedule: For the start of school, we will be following a hybrid learning approach and, as such, will follow an early-dismissal bell schedule for Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We will follow a late arrival modified bell schedule on Wednesdays for all-remote learning.

Updating Preferences in PowerSchool: Please see this [informational](#) sheet on how to change preferences in PowerSchool. Guardians are able to change their own preferences in Swift K12 to adjust, for example, who receives general emails and who doesn't. All family members receive emergency emails, like closures.

Free and Reduced Lunch Form Application: All information regarding the free and reduced lunch program can be found on the district website at this [link](#).

OBOA Community Reading: As a reminder, this summer's whole high school read is based on genre-memoir, a true-life story of someone who inspires you. Look on the [AHS Library website](#) for information and a link to suggestions for titles. Pick one that suits you in terms of topic and reading level. Happy reading!

Annual Pesticide and Asbestos Letters: These letters contain information about the district's [pesticide use](#) (CT Public Act 99-165) and [asbestos abatement](#) information.

Athletics

FALL ATHLETICS INFORMATION: Updated information, based on CIAC guidelines, about fall sports will be forthcoming from the athletic department next week.