

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



While this has been a tumultuous week both locally and nationally, I am grateful for every week that we are able to continue to work together as a school community both onsite and remotely. When I think back to mid-summer and to helping to formulate the reopening plan, I remember how many unknowns there were and the tenuous feeling about how long we would be able to keep our schools open for in-person learning. Since that time, we have learned a lot as an organization, grown as a community and individuals, and continue to persevere through difficult situations, both emotionally and regarding health metrics. While the immediate and long-term future continues to be unknown, one thing that is certain is we will be a resilient school and will work together to be a "just society" where all of our members can have the opportunity to learn, grow and demonstrate the core values of **fairness, respect and passion**. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: [Pennsylvania College of Technology](#) (PCT) is located in Williamsport, PA, approximately 250 miles from the BOW area. ***PCT offers its 4,500 students both college degrees AND trade-school certifications all on one residential college campus.*** Three schools - [Business-Arts & Sciences](#), [Engineering Technology](#) and [Nursing & Health Sciences](#) offer over 100 academic programs in fields such as information technology, nursing, welding, management and automotive. [Annual tuition](#), fees and housing/board costs average approximately \$40,000 per year - however, this number will vary based on a student's major. To learn more about PCT, take a [virtual tour](#), look at their [fast facts](#), or visit their [admissions page](#). **PCT will also be hosting a virtual visit with Amity HS students on Tuesday, November 10th at 3pm. Register for this visit on Naviance.** [Electricians](#) install, maintain, and repair electrical power, communications, lighting, and control systems (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). They work in a variety of settings both indoors and out. [Electricians](#) receive their training from trade schools

and/or apprenticeship (on-the-job) programs. The average annual salary is \$56,180 and *much faster than average job growth is expected (8%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019)*. To learn more, please visit the following websites; the [National Electrical Contractors Association](#), [Independent Contractors Association](#) and [Federated Electrical Contractors](#). *Some organizations that offer various electrical programs include:*

Penn College of Tech	State of CT-Apprenticeship	Industrial Management Training Institute
Lincoln Tech	Porter & Chester	Naugatuck Valley CC
Gateway Comm College	Valley Regional Adult Ed	Hamden Adult Education

Happenings and Information

College Admissions Virtual Program: The Counseling Departments at Amity Regional High School and Fairfield Ludlowe and Warde High Schools have partnered to offer a virtual presentation on **Monday, November 9th at 7:00 PM** with Jeff Selingo as he presents on college admissions. His recent book, *Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*, was published in September 2020. He takes readers on a journey through the selection process from inside three admissions offices to reveal what really matters to the gatekeepers. Please see the attached flyer for more information. All students and parents are welcome to attend this event. The webinar will be moderated by Jill LaPlante, Director of Counseling Services for Amity, and Vanessa Montorsi, Director of Pupil Services and Counseling at Fairfield Ludlowe High School. There will be time for additional Q and A. To submit a question for consideration ahead of time, please complete this [Google Form](#). To register for the presentation, please click [here](#).

Underclass Photo Makeups and Retakes for In-Person Learners: Underclass photo makeup and retake sessions for in-person A-K students will be held in the district presentation room on Thursday, November 19th, from 10:00 a.m. until the end of the school day. Sessions for in-person L-Z students will be held in the district presentation room on Friday, November 20th, from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. No appointments are necessary; students should drop in during a study hall period if possible. Students who do not have a study hall during these sessions should see Mrs. Hulse to obtain a pass before the end of the day on Wednesday, November 18th. Makeup sittings are free, but

there is a \$5 fee for retakes; checks should be made out to Robert Taylor Photography. Students desiring retakes will also need to return their original photo packages, including all photos.

Underclass Photo Makeups and Retakes for Remote Learners: Underclass photo makeup and retake sessions for remote learners will be held in the district presentation room on Thursday, November 19th, from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. No appointments are necessary. Makeup sittings are free, but there is a \$5 fee for retakes; checks should be made out to Robert Taylor Photography. Students desiring retakes will also need to return their original photo packages, including all photos. Remote learners will need to enter through the high school's front entrance for a temperature check and then proceed to the district presentation room via the side exit. Security personnel will assist in providing direction.

Grade 10 HOBY Leadership Seminar: ARHS will sponsor one sophomore student to attend the annual Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) Seminar to be held the first weekend of June (specific date and time are TBD, but they are planning for an in-person event at a local college). Students spend the time engaging in leadership development activities, collaborating with like-minded students from throughout the state, and exploring leadership from three perspectives: individual, group, and society. For more information about HOBY, please visit their website [here](#). Interested students should complete the application found in their Counseling Google Classroom and submit to their school counselor. Applications are due by Friday, November 13th. Please be aware that the selected student is required to stay overnight at the location of the event under the supervision of HOBY for the entire duration of the event.

Senior Happenings

Attention seniors-first quarter grades: If you would like first quarter grades to be sent to colleges, you must fill out a Google form. We will plan to send out first quarter beginning the week of November 16th, according to the college deadlines. Please use [this](#) Google doc. If you need grades sent to more than 10 schools, please fill out the form multiple times. This form is also available on the Counseling Google Classroom along with a short video explaining who needs to request grades and how to do that.

ON-SITE ADMISSIONS DAYS - Some local colleges will conduct (virtual) on-site admissions appointments with Amity HS seniors. (Please see the list of participating schools and dates [HERE](#).) Seniors are encouraged to participate as they will receive admissions decisions during their appointments! **Applications MUST be submitted to each college at least TWO WEEKS BEFORE the scheduled date.** [CLICK HERE](#) to make an appointment with any of these college representatives.

Yale College Essay Workshop is being offered to high school seniors on **Sunday, November 15, 2020 from 1:00-2:30PM**. Seniors will work directly with a STEM Mentor over Zoom. A draft of your essay must be uploaded to register. If interested, registration is required at onha.yale.edu/2essay2020. Parental permission is required to participate. For questions, please email sateja.paradkar@yale.edu.

Register for a free webinar hosted by Sallie Mae! This webinar is geared to help college-bound students and parents learn the key tips on applying for scholarships and how to create a winning scholarship essay, and more. Space is limited, so please register early! Please register [here](#) for the **Wednesday, Nov. 11th 1-2pm** webinar or [here](#) for the Thursday, **Nov. 12th 8-9pm** webinar.

Local Scholarship-American Legion-Post #127 of Orange Award-This scholarship is awarded to a male or female in the 2021 graduating class for citizenship, overall academic achievement, and excellence in U.S. History and Americanism. The student must be a child of a current member of the Orange Post #127 with a continuous membership for a term of not less than 3 years. Applications are available in the Career Center.

Additional College Resources: Seniors and parents are encouraged to visit our College & Career website [here](#), where you can find general information about college search resources, weekly college visits, Direct Admission Days at Amity, College & Career of the Week, career search resources, community service information, and working papers requirements/employment guidance.

Attention Seniors/Financial Aid Information: Please be aware - the **FASFA** has been made available as of **Oct. 1st**. Students and families should begin applying for [financial aid](#) as soon as possible. Colleges use FASFA information to determine need for institutional-based aid and grant money. Find out what documents you will need to complete [here](#). Get started now as many financial aid awards are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Some colleges will also require the CSS Profile as part of their financial aid process. Please click [here](#) for a list of schools that require this form. Additional information can also be found on our AHS [website](#).

Free Workshops for FAFSA: New Haven Promise, Higher Heights Youth Empowerment Program and CT Students for a Dream are joining forces to host a series of FAFSA workshops for the Class of 2021. Financial aid professionals will be on hand to help students and families navigate the process of need-based federal aid. For workshop dates and to register for free please click [here](#). Sessions are capped at 100 participants. Those who sign up will receive a checklist of items that they will need to have during the workshop in order to successfully complete the process. Zoom call details will be sent in advance to the meeting.

College Visits Throughout the Fall: This fall, college representatives will be visiting us virtually. Juniors and Seniors may register for virtual college visits by signing into NAVIANCE and following these instructions:

- Click on COLLEGES - RESEARCH COLLEGES - COLLEGE VISITS
- Scroll through the listing of colleges (sorted by date and time)
- REGISTER for those visits you want to attend. (More details to follow.)

Virtual visits will be held afterschool on week days between the hours of 3pm to 7pm. You can view the complete listing of visiting college representatives in Naviance, OR you can view the [upcoming week's visit listing HERE](#). Visits begin on Monday, September 14th and conclude in mid-November. For more information about virtual college visits, please contact the [College & Career Center](#).

Last Chance: Sign up NACAC Virtual College Fair? Here's your chance to hear from admission representatives from more than 600 colleges and universities locally, across the country, and around the world. Topics will include how to apply, financial aid, student life, diversity, academics, athletics, study abroad and more! Click to see the list of exhibiting colleges on the following date: [Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020 from 2-10pm](#). This virtual fair is a free, one-day event. Parents are invited, too. Simply sign up at virtualcollegefairs.org now and register. On the event date, use your phone or computer to log in. Learn, connect, ask questions, and discover your best college fit!

Notes from Counseling Department

Looking for a part-time job? The College & Career Center will be posting part-time employment opportunities for students to browse through in the Career Center. A list of the companies in the BOWA area, who have hired Amity students in past, are listed for your own research. Please stop in the Career Center if you need assistance with the process of finding a job.

Are you looking for Community Service? As we all know, Community Service within our towns and beyond is pretty limited these days. However, there are opportunities that will arise throughout the year. The College & Career Center will advertise these opportunities as they become available through many venues. Please check our website [here](#), the Career Center's bulletin board, Happenings and [here](#) for other local opportunities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mrs. Vallie at paula.vallie@amityregion5.org.

The CT Bar Foundation is running their **21ST Annual Quinton Johnstone Statewide High School Essay Contest**. Prizes will include one \$2,000 winner and two runners-up for \$1,000 each. Essay submissions are judged on content/originality, organization, use of resource materials and writing. For more information and application, please click [here](#).

Important Reminders

First Quarter Parent-Teacher Conferences: Please be reminded that Parent-Teacher Conferences will be virtual this year. Registration will be completed through PowerSchool Forms. Teachers will be sending links for the virtual meetings via email. Directions for registering for conferences can be found here.

Notes from SRO Sapione:

- **Student Driver Information:** Please be reminded that newly licensed drivers must comply with all CT State Driving Laws, including passenger restrictions for the first six and twelve months of receiving a license. Aside from safety concerns, there are legal ramifications to not following the laws. Please see [this link](#) for a full review of the expectations and CT State Statutes for Parents, Teen Drivers and their passengers.
- **Newton Road Safety:** Please be aware, Newton Road and the surrounding roads are town roads and not part of the Amity Regional High School campus. As such, parents are discouraged from stopping cars to drop off or pick up on Newton Road, Old Mill Road or any of the surrounding side streets. For safety purposes, please follow the directions for drop off and pick up set by the high school.

Snacks during the school day: Students are able to eat in the cafeteria at the designated tables during study hall or passing time, if space allows. Only students who do not have a cafeteria study hall should use passing time for a snack break. Security personnel will monitor table use during passing time and all tables will be sanitized in between use. Students will not be able to eat in the school building before school.

Peer Tutoring help: The ARHS Peer Tutoring program is back and eager to help Amity students. To request PEER TUTORING, please use [this new link](#). Thank you!

AP registration is officially open! Use this [link](#) to register and pay for AP exams: CollegeBoard is strict about deadlines for registration so please sign up on time! Registration is open through Friday, November 6, 2020 (today). AP Exam Fee is \$98 per exam; AP Seminar and Research Exam Fees is \$146 per exam. Late Fees:

Registration will reopen from November 15, 2020 - March 1, 2020 but will have a \$40 extra late fee (as set by CollegeBoard, not ARHS).

Athletics

CONGRATULATIONS to all the fall athletes. Keep working hard through the conclusion of the fall season, Spartans!

Community Happenings

Trident Newspaper Fundraiser: As a fundraiser, the *Amity Trident* School Newspaper is selling Pura Vida bracelets in Amity's black and gold colors for \$7.50 each. All proceeds go toward publication costs for the *Trident*, and this is open to all students and staff. Students can order bracelets through their parents' account on PowerSchool Forms, and others can contact Mrs. Clark at emily.clark@amityregion5.org if they are interested in buying one. Orders will be taken through November 13. Thank you for your support of the *Trident*!