

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



This past Wednesday we took some time out of the school day to pause and honor the veterans of our armed forces. In addition to a special announcement regarding the day, our continuous [display](#) in the main hallway of Amity Alumni who are or have served in the military was highlighted to help our students recognize the direct influence these former Amity students have had on our community and our nation. Through their service, the veterans from our community--both the former students who are identified in the display and the members of our faculty and staff who have served--have demonstrated how the Amity Community actively engages with our larger society. While we may have differences of opinion, we must continue to hold true to our mission statement of being "contributing members of a just society" and demonstrating our core values of fairness, respect and passion. These past months have not been easy on anyone for a variety of reasons. As we continue to face these difficult times, please remember that we all need to focus on our strength as a community and on being kind to one another. Have a restful and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: [Boston University](#) is located in Boston, Massachusetts, approximately 135 miles from the BOW area. Founded in 1873, BU is one of Amity High School's "[Top 50 Colleges](#)" (most applications sent). With almost 17,000 undergraduate students who can choose from over [300 programs of study](#), BU is the ultimate large, urban university. BU's [annual tuition](#), fees and housing/board costs are \$74,712. Through the BU [Scholarship Assurance program](#), 100% of financial need may be met (for those who qualify). Learn more about Boston University by visiting the [admissions page](#), reviewing [fast facts](#) or taking a [virtual tour](#). [Biological Technicians](#) help biological and medical scientists conduct laboratory tests and experiments (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). Most [biological](#)

[technicians](#) have earned a bachelor’s degree in biology or a related science. Many entry-level [bio technician positions](#) are filled by recent college graduates who are looking to learn more before pursuing higher education and/or more specialized positions. The average annual salary is \$45,860 and *faster than average job growth is expected (5%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019)*. To learn more, please visit the following websites: [American Institute of Biological Sciences](#), [The American Society for Cell Biology](#), and the [American Society for Microbiology](#).

Some colleges that offer programs in biology include:

Boston University	Southern CT State	University of Connecticut
Univ of New Haven	Sacred Heart University	Quinnipiac University
Trinity College	Univ of Rhode Island	UMASS/Boston
Springfield College	Worcester Polytech Inst	Western New England U
SUNY/Stony Brook	University of Rochester	SUNY/New Paltz
St John’s University	Salve Regina University	Bryant University

or visit NAVIANCE to search for more choices!

Happenings and Information

College Admissions Presentation: The Counseling Departments at Amity Regional High School and Fairfield Ludlowe and Warde High Schools collaborated to offer a virtual presentation this past **Monday, November 9th**. Presenter Jeff Selingo is a researchers and author who has written about higher education for more than two decades and is a New York Times bestselling author of three books, including his latest book, *Who Gets In & Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*. In this [presentation](#), Jeff provided valuable insight about the inner workings of universities and a practical roadmap for students and parents especially in this changing world of college admissions.

ARHS Bus Evacuation Drill: Please note that on Monday, November 16th and Tuesday, November 17th, we will be holding our annual bus evacuation drills during drop-off. Students who take the bus will be allowed in to the school building starting at 7:10am for these two days only in order to expedite the traffic flow. As always, students must report directly to their first session classrooms after exiting the buses.

Student Attendance: As a reminder, students must follow the learning plan for which they are enrolled (i.e. hybrid, opt-out remote, etc). Students are not allowed to choose "remote" intermittently when they are supposed to be attending school in person, unless there is an

extenuating circumstance. Please be sure to call the attendance line if there is an extenuating reason of which the school is unaware if your child must "remote" in to class for the day.

Suicide Prevention Announcement: Please see [this announcement](#) for an important public health message.

It's National School Psychology Week! As part of our comprehensive counseling service department, we have three school psychologists at the high school: Geoff Millenson, Linda Decesare, and Jenna DeRosa. They help to address the social-emotional needs of our students in a variety of ways. Although they do not meet individually with all students, they are available as needed. They are assigned alphabetically as follows:

DeRosa- last names A-F

Millenson- last names G-O

Decesare- last names P-Z

To learn more about what they do at ARHS, please see this [link](#). They are an integral part of our school and we thank them for their contributions!

Senior Happenings

The 13th Annual Virtual College Access Fair for African-American/Black and Hispanic/Latinx students and families, sponsored by the **Commission of Independent Colleges & Universities of New York**, will be offered to students & families from **11am to 3pm on Saturday, November 12, 2020**. Please see a list of participating colleges, universities and organizations [here](#). If you are interested in this virtual event, please register [here](#).

Massachusetts State University's Virtual College Fair will be held Thursday, November 19, 2020 from 7:00-8:30pm. Please register and find a list of the following schools, which will be featured at this event.

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.

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](#).

Albertus Magnus College of New Haven will be hosting a one-hour [virtual Financial Aid 101 Webinar](#) on **Monday, November 23 at 7:00pm**. Parents and students will have the opportunity to learn important information about the financial aid process.

Local Scholarship Opportunity: Big Y Foods, Inc-In tribute to both its employees and its customers Big Y offers an annual scholarship program. This program offers over 300 scholarships each year totaling \$250,000. Big Y scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement and are awarded to the most academically outstanding students in the Big Y area. In addition, there is a scholarship program to commemorate All applications, must be submitted by **February 1, 2021**. Applications must be filled out online [here](#).

Notes from Counseling Department

Local Volunteer Opportunity! The **United Way of New Haven** in partnership with the Vertical Church in West Haven are launching the Day of Care Holiday Drive. UWNH is looking for volunteers to deliver and distribute Thanksgiving baskets to families throughout the Greater New Haven area. Volunteers will meet in New Haven or West Haven locations between 8:30-9:00AM on November 21th, 2020 to distribute turkeys to families in need. Sign up [here](#) to get involved!

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

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.

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!

Athletics

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

ARHS Flag Football: For those interested in playing girls' flag football, we still plan to play in the spring, COVID willing. However, "swag" is available now, just in time for the holiday season. Deadline to order is November 29. Tell your friends who are interested! Anyone can order now by navigating to [this site](#) and using the SalesCode **AHSFF2020** – it's OK if you are on the fence about playing/change your mind.

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*!