

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



We have made our way through the Thanksgiving Holiday and are now almost to the midpoint of 2nd quarter. School is about more than just the academic content knowledge; it is also about learning life skills and formulating dispositions so students are able to graduate ready to be actively contributing and engage citizens. One major lesson we have ALL had to learn over the past 8 months is to be flexible. We do not always know what the next week or even day will bring, but we have worked hard as a school community to establish routines and foundations so that we can continue our teaching and learning in the most consistent way possible. There are a lot of things that are outside of our control, but the things we can control--such as showing up and participating in classes and school activities--are of great value. Regardless of the learning model, we are committed to making Amity a place of learning, support and growth for all members of our community. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College/Career of the Week: The [University of Maine](#)'s flagship campus is located in Orono, Maine, approximately 375 miles away from the BOW area. Originally established in 1862, UMaine has 5 other branch campuses located in Augusta, Farmington, Fort Kent, Machias and Presque Isle. [Almost 100 majors](#) are offered within 7 schools and colleges. UMaine is well known for exceptional environmental science programs among the other strong majors offered in business, nursing, psychology and engineering. One of the most unusual courses taught is in polar research - [the study of glaciers](#). **[Annual tuition, fees and room & board is approximately \\$45,000 for out of state students.](#)** **HOWEVER, UMaine offers a [Flagship Scholars Program](#) - out-of-state students who qualify can attend UMaine and pay the same tuition as their home state's university.** Learn more by visiting UMaine's [admissions website](#), viewing their [quick facts](#) or by [taking a tour here](#).

[“Zoologists and wildlife biologists](#) study animals and other wildlife and how they interact with their ecosystems” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). A bachelor's degree is required for entry-level positions as a [zoologist/wildlife biologist](#) and most will end up specializing in a specific animal or species. Most work in laboratories and will do research in the outdoors. The average annual salary for zoologists is \$63,270 and average job growth is expected (4%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019). To learn more, visit the following websites: the [American Institute of Biological Sciences](#), the [Animal Behavior Society](#) or the [World Wildlife Federation](#).

Some colleges that offer programs in zoology include:

UMaine/Orono	Univ of Connecticut	Connecticut College
Becker College	UMASS/Amherst	Hampshire College
College of the Atlantic	Univ of New England	Univ of Rhode Island
Unity College	Cornell University	Bucknell University
Penn State University	Rutgers University	SUNY/Env Science & Forestry
SUNY/Oswego	UMaryland/College Park	Univ of Delaware

or visit NAVIANCE to search for more choices!

Happenings and Information

Monday Early Dismissal Schedule: Monday, December 7th, will be an **early dismissal** (12:12) for students to accommodate the professional learning workshops for teachers in the afternoon. The bell schedule can be found [here](#). Please note: this was adjusted from the previously posted late arrival PD on the District Calendar.

Updated December Calendar: Please refer to [this calendar](#) for the plan through December for hybrid learning (starting December 7th) through the new end of the marking period on January 22nd. The letter days reflect the removal of midterm exams.

Changes in the Main Office: We would like to welcome Ms. Kristin McNamara to the attendance desk in the main office. You can reach Ms. McNamara directly through the attendance line (203-397-4844) or via email, Kristin.McNamara@amityregion5.org.

Amity Creative Theater fall play performance: After a one year hiatus the Amity Creative Theater is back!!!! ACT proudly presents “*It’s A Wonderful Life- A Live Radio*”

Play". This virtual presentation is a filmed live radio play circa the 1940's, complete with live sound effects, voice actors, orchestra and singers. The theater department is proudly joined by the Amity Music Department band and choir for this production. The show will stream "On Demand" December 17,18,19,20 and will be available anytime day or night from the comfort of your living room. The show will be streamed by Broadway on Demand and the link will be available on the theater department webpage www.amitytheaterdepartment.com. "Ticket" price is \$10 plus the streaming fee. Please join us for some much needed holiday magic!

AP LATE registration is open! Thank you to everyone who signed up during the general registration window. For those who missed it, you can still sign up with a late fee. Use this [link](#) to register and pay for AP exams:

- The late registration window is from December 4, 2020 - March 5, 2021. There is a \$40 extra late fee (as set by College Board, not ARHS)
- AP Exam Fee: \$98 per exam (\$138 with late fee)
- AP Seminar and Research Exam Fees: \$146 per exam (\$176 with late fee)

OPEN CHOICE REGISTRATION is HERE! – Open Choice means it is recruitment season for many public schools in Connecticut. If your family is interested in exploring the many different types of K through 12 public schools available to Connecticut residents, please take the time to visit some of the following websites:

- Visit the State of CT's [Regional School Choice Office](#) for fair information and info sessions about interdistrict magnet schools and Open Choice programming.
- Visit the [CT Technical High Schools](#) website for information about the xx schools statewide.
- Visit the [Regional Science and Technology Education](#) website for information about schools in your area.

Fall 2020 PSAT Results: On Tuesday, December 8th, online score reports for the PSAT will be available for all 11th grade students who took the test in October. Students will need to access their College Board accounts.

Senior Happenings

Time to Order Caps and Gowns!: The Amity Board of Education set your graduation date. Now is the time to start preparing for your June 8th Graduation. In

order to do that we need some information to get us started. This [form](#) is due no later than December 16, 2020.

For Seniors: Students who are looking to apply to a college/university with a January 1 deadline must submit a transcript request in Naviance no later than December 7th. Please keep in mind that school counselors will be on winter break beginning on Dec. 23rd and not returning until Jan. 4th so no materials will be sent out during that window.

College Planning Webinar hosted by Sallie Mae will be offered to the public on **Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 from 1-2pm and Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 from 8-9pm**. This virtual event will help you understand how to save, plan, and pay for college. If college is in your future, you will want to attend this webinar. Please register [here for Dec. 9th](#) and [here for Dec. 10th](#).

General Scholarship Information: Scholarships can be a helpful way to fund your college education. They provide you with free money that can go towards tuition or other educational expenses. Please find some safe and free scholarship sites:

- <https://pages.collegeboard.org/scholarship-opportunities-from-collegeboard>
- <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- <https://www.scholarships.com/>
- <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>

You can also find scholarships on Naviance under your "college tab." Please **find a new site, Going Merry, that can also be helpful.** Going Merry (<https://www.goingmerry.com>) is free and has thousands of national, regional, and local scholarships. They offer opportunities **for every grade level, from freshmen to seniors**. To sign up, go [here](#). You can also download the Going Merry mobile app (and sign up that way) on [iOS](#) or [Android](#). Most of your scholarships will request an official transcript. To request a transcript for a particular scholarship, please click [here for a transcript request form](#). **If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Vallie at: paula.vallie@amityregion5.org.** Happy applying--and good luck winning!

Local Scholarship Opportunities:

- **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. Applications, must be submitted by **February 1, 2021** and must be filled out online [here](#).

- **Silver Pen Essay Contest**, sponsored by Evergreen Woods Retirement Community in North Branford, is offering high school seniors, within a 25-mile radius of any Senior Living retirement communities, an opportunity to apply for 3 scholarship award. Students can apply by writing an essay in response to a specific topic. Community members on the Resident Advisory committee will choose who will receive cash prizes. This Advisory Council consists of successful retired business professionals, educators and community leaders. Please visit their website to apply online [here](#).
- **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](#).

Notes from Counseling Department

Hamden Adult Education Program: Any students (17 years or older) who would like to consider enrolling in Hamden Adult Education's Credit Diploma Program, must attend the registration days from 6-8 pm Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020 or 6-8 pm Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. Please see the information below or contact your school counselor or Hamden Adult Education at 203-407-2028 for more information. Please note that students must withdraw from Amity to attend this no cost program.

Important Reminders

2020-2021 Midterm Exams: In an effort to focus on instruction and supporting our student social and emotional wellbeing, the high school will not be holding midterm exams for this year. The first semester will still equal 50% of the full year grade (with each marking period counting 25% toward the final grade). The plan is still to have the second semester follow the regular published plan (20% for each marking period; 10% for the final exam).

IMPORTANT HEALTH OFFICE INFORMATION: Please continue to contact the school nurse's office when a member of our community tests positive for COVID-19. Not only does this allow schools and health districts to contact trace efficiently – it will also provide us with information during our weekly meetings to determine the appropriate instructional model based on current data. Parents/guardians should also contact the nurse's office if a student is ill so a date for that student to return to in person learning/school activities can be determined. The direct line to the high school health office is 203-397-4850. Test results may be faxed confidentially to 203-397-4868 or emailed to Kendra.luth@amityregion5.org.

Reminder About Remote Learning Classrooms: Thank you to parents and families for your support throughout the fall as we have navigated this new landscape of hybrid and remote instruction. Please remind your child to have the camera on the device turned on during direct instruction/classroom time, unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. This helps ensure student engagement and supports a cohesive classroom community.

Community Happenings

“We Care” Kits to Aid Homeless/Community Service Project: Youth Services invites teens to help the homeless this holiday season by making kits of essentials to donate to our local shelters. Your kit should be a minimum of a gallon size, zip lock bag or drawstring size bag. We suggest decorating your bag letting someone know you are thinking of them, and you care. Some ideas to include in your kits; toiletries (travel size), feminine hygiene products, hats, gloves, socks, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizers, masks, band-aids, water, mints, \$5 GC, granola or protein bar, fruit cup (spoon), flashlight, peanut butter crackers, lip balm, etc. Youth Services will have a drop off time on December 9th, between the hours of 1-2:30 pm beside the Center at 4 Meetinghouse Lane (under the canopy) or by appointment. We will be giving one hour of community service for every kit made. Please make sure you bring your completed community service form for approval (if needed). Should you have any questions, please call Youth Services at 203-389-3449 or email us at youthone@woodbridgect.org.

CT State Department of Education Public Meeting: Please see this [flyer](#) for information about a December 8th Virtual Town Hall with CSDE.