
ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



While I was walking my dog before school early Thursday morning, I saw the most vivid shooting star that I have ever seen streak across the sky. This was not only a beautiful celestial display, but also seemed like a sign of brighter things to come. Even though we have reached the mid-marking period for 2nd quarter, this has been a difficult quarter in the midst of a very difficult calendar and school year. It is incumbent on each of us--adults and children alike--to do our best to maintain a positive, resilient disposition during this difficult situation. However, I know it is exhausting. Please remember that ARHS has numerous supports for students, and resources for parents. Please reach out to your child's counselor if you would like to touch base about any concerns--academic, social or emotional. By sticking together and holding each other up, we will continue to work toward becoming a stronger community that has grown so much from these experiences. Happy Hanukah, to all who are celebrating!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College/Career of the Week: [Rutgers University](#), also known as the State University of New Jersey, currently enrolls over 71,000 students within its three campuses located in Camden, Newark and New Brunswick (the largest). The New Brunswick campus is approximately 115 miles away from the BOW area. Undergraduate students are offered [over 150 majors](#), such as aerospace engineering, health sciences, design, supply chain management, pharmacy and video production. [Annual tuition](#), fees and room & board (New Brunswick campus) is approximately \$45,264 for out of state students. Learn more by visiting Rutgers' [admissions website](#), take an [online campus tour](#) or check out their [fast facts](#). [“Pharmacy technicians help pharmacists dispense prescription medication to customers or health professionals”](#) (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). [Pharmacy techs](#) typically work in retail pharmacies or hospitals and may sometimes work irregular hours. Most states require [certification](#) for pharmacy techs and training programs range between 3 months to 2 years. The average annual salary is \$33,950 with average job growth expected (4%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019). For more information, check out the websites listed here: the [American Association of Pharmacy Technicians](#) or the [National Pharmacy Technician Association](#).

Some schools that offer PHARMACY TECHNICIAN programs include:

[Yale New Haven Hospital](#), New Haven, CT - certificate program

[Middlesex Community College](#), Middletown, CT- certificate program

[Ultimate Medical Academy](#), Clearwater, FL and ONLINE programs

Happenings and Information

Remote Learning Opt-In: Please be reminded that if you have opted your child out of in-person learning (which must be completed through the form in PowerSchool), it may take up to 10 instructional school days for the student to return once the opt back into in-person learning form is completed in PowerSchool. The school will be on winter break from December 24-January 4. Families can expect to hear from your school counselor regarding when the opt-back-in form has been processed and the student can return to the District-sponsored learning model. Please note: students are expected to follow their designated learning model unless there are extenuating circumstances. Please contact the attendance desk if your child is going to be out of school for any reason (students are not allowed to choose remote learning at random).

December PTSO Meeting: The December meeting of the ARHS PTSO will be via Zoom on Thursday, December 17th. Please use this [link](#) to register.

Underclass Portrait Distribution and Pickup: Photo packages from picture day makeup sessions have now arrived. These packages, along with any remaining underclass photo packages and proof cards from the initial delivery previously announced by the yearbook staff, will be distributed to in-person learners through their English classes over the next few days. Parents of fully remote learners can pick up their children's photos or proof cards at the high school's front entrance this week any time between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Senior Baby Photos for Yearbook: The yearbook staff is still collecting baby pictures for inclusion in *Embers 2021*. Scan your photos and upload them directly to us! Visit [amityembers.com](#) and click "Submit Photos" beneath either the "For Seniors" or "For Parents" tabs. Please send only high-resolution photos and keep submissions to just one per student. If you send us more than one, the yearbook staff will select a single photo for inclusion in the yearbook. No professional photos as those are copyright protected. All photo submissions are due Friday, December 18th.

Yearbook Grad Ads: Calling all senior parents! Are you looking to honor and encourage your graduating senior with a grad ad in the yearbook? The *Embers 2021* yearbook staff offers you a chance to remember, honor, and encourage your graduate with a grad ad! Visit [amityembers.com](#) to see the grad ad order form for details. If you're looking for ideas and inspiration, you can also view plenty of grad ads from previous years here. All grad ad orders are due on Friday, December 18th.

OBOA Team Trivia Night: Looking for something fun and different to do this holiday season? Join One Book/One Amity for our second annual Team Trivia Night. This year's

contest will take place on Zoom at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 21st and is open to all Amity students and faculty, free of charge. You can sign up as a team of up to six or just sign up and we'll place you on a team. Please register by Friday, December 18th. Once you've registered, using [this QR code](#), we will send you the zoom link for the evening. Categories will range from music to holiday trivia and much more. And, yes, there will be prizes!

PTSO Graduation Balloon Survey: A PTSO subcommittee is seeking to develop a "green alternative" gift option to COMPLEMENT and SUPPLEMENT the annual balloon sales fundraiser (balloons will still be sold!). [Please take this survey](#) to help guide subcommittee efforts toward making a green alternative available for those who want it. Thank you!

Attention Stop & Shop shoppers: please choose Amity PTSO to receive A+ Rewards from your Stop & Shop card! This is free to you (does not interfere with Gas Rewards or any other rewards program), and brings free \$ to Amity. To sign up, please register your 13-digit Stop & Shop card #, if you haven't already, at Stopandshop.com. Then go to "My Account," then "Rewards & Savings," then "A+ School Rewards." When asked for School ID #, please enter: **07220**. That's it! You will automatically earn points for the school every time you shop! If you need assistance, please call 1-877-366-2668, option 1. Please encourage friends and family to sign up too, thanks!

Senior Happenings

Members of the Class of 2021--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. This form is open to all members of the Class of 2021.

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.

Connecticut FAFSA Days (in collaboration with New Haven Promise & Higher Heights Youth Empowerment). Connecticut FAFSA Days are a collaborative series of workshops designed to connect students with trained facilitators in order to complete the FAFSA. This workshop will be held **December 16, 6:30–8:00 p.m.** (Open to all, virtual) To register, please visit [here](#).

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.

Volunteers Needed: The Orange Youth Services Program is looking for student volunteers to help with organizing the food bank at the High Plains Community Center in Orange. Students will help sort and date food that has been donated through food drives throughout the town. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Orange Youth Services Coordinator, Jessica Simone, at 203-891-4785 or email jsimone@orange-ct.gov. For questions, please stop in the Career Center.

Working Papers: Due to restrictions governed by the Connecticut Department of Labor, some jobs may require WORKING PAPERS. In order to obtain WORKING PAPERS, a student must present a promise of employment letter from the hiring employer as well as a copy of **one** of the following: student's birth certificate, passport, driver's license or a learners permit. WORKING PAPERS are needed for formal employment by students under the age of 17. You may obtain working papers in the College & Career Center.

Military Programs Students who are interested in Military Programs can come to the Career Center to obtain information regarding the Armed Forces. Representatives from all divisions visit Amity High School virtually by request. Students who are considering applying to Military Academies should schedule an appointment with their school counselor to discuss requirements. To learn more about a career in the military click [here](#) and to explore individual branches of service please visit these individual sites: www.airforce.com www.army.mil www.uscg.mil www.usmc.mil www.navy.mil

The **Bristol Technical Education Center** will be offering a series of, "Virtual Open House", events on the dates and times noted on their [website](#). Bristol Tech accepts students entering grade 11, 12, and post-graduates. Take the first step to pursue a unique technical education! For further questions, please contact, Domenica Holman, School Counselor, at Bristol Technical Education Center at 1-860-584-8433 ext. 335 or email Domenica.Holman@cttech.org.

Important Reminders

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.

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.

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.

Local Employers: If you are interested in hiring a high school student or would like to post a part-time position, please contact the College & Career Center (203-397-4836) or email Paula Vallie at paula.vallie@amityregion5.org. Jobs must conform to the State of Connecticut regulations regarding the employment of minors.

From Woodbridge Community Services: FYI! Fresh food this Friday...no questions asked (while supplies last)! See this [flyer](#) for more information; it is advised to please get there early.

[unsubscribe](#)



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