

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Over the past 9 months we have all made adjustments to our lifestyles and behaviors. We have learned what it means to work toward a common goal of defeating this virus and understood sacrifices were necessary for the greater good. This has certainly been true within our school community, where every member has had to adjust to new teaching/learning platforms, meeting styles and interpersonal interactions both in and out of the building. Now we are in full-swing of the holiday season with Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and New Year's celebrations. It is imperative that we continue to be vigilant in our practices but also with our emotional well-being. The holidays can be tough for many people and, with this year's difficulties, the emotional strain may be compounded. As we head in to next week, please be sure to take care of yourself and your family's physical, social and emotional well-being. Please remember to reach out to the school—even when we are in a remote learning snow day model—for help with a struggling child. Our counseling department, interventionists and even school clubs such as National Honors Society and Peer Tutoring are ready to help with social/emotional and academic needs. Even though we continue to have to physically distance, no one has to go this alone. The entire Amity Community is stronger together. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College/Career of the Week: [Manhattanville College](#) is located in Purchase, NY, approximately 52 miles from the BOW area and 30 miles east of New York City. Originally established [in 1841 as a boarding school for girls](#), Manhattanville has been fully co-educational since 1971. Undergraduate enrollment is almost 1,600 students and over [90 areas of study are offered](#). The College offers strong support services and [career development is encouraged](#), with over 50% of students participate in internships. [Annual tuition, room & board fees](#) are approximately \$56,000. To learn more visit Manhattanville's [admissions office](#), take a [virtual tour here](#) or check out their [fast facts](#). "Archivists and curators oversee institutions' collections, such as of historical items or of artwork. Museum technicians and conservators prepare and restore items in those collections" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). While [curators](#) are more involved with the overall management of art (or other) collections, archivists

spend more time with the appraisal and preservation of collections. A bachelor's degree is required for entry level positions and master's degrees are usually needed to be promoted to higher positions. The average annual salary is \$49,850 with much faster than average job growth expected (11%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019). For more information, check out the following websites: [The Association of Art Museum Curators](#), the [American Alliance of Museums](#) and the [American Institute for Conservation](#).

Some colleges that offer programs in art history include:

Manhattanville College	University of Connecticut	Southern CT State Univ
UMASS/Dartmouth	Fairfield University	UMASS/Amherst
Trinity College	Ithaca College	Univ of Rhode Island
Boston University	Brandeis University	MASS Coll of Art & Design
Salve Regina University	Fordham University	Hofstra University
Marist College	Albertus Magnus College	Fashion Institute of Tech

or visit NAVIANCE to search for more choices!

Happenings and Information

Reminder-January 4th-8th Fully Remote Week: Please be reminded that the entire Amity Regional School District will be operating in a fully-remote instructional model for the week after the December holiday break from January 4th-8th. ARHS will follow the hybrid learning model for next week, Monday, December 21st through Wednesday, December 23rd before the break, with a **12:12 dismissal on Wednesday**.

ARHS Trident December Edition: The Amity Regional High School Newspaper, *The Trident*, will only be published online this month. Click [here](#) to view the December edition. The next edition will be released in February.

Last call-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!

Senior Happenings

Need to know more about COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DEFERRALS? Please read this [article HERE](#).

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!**

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

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

Important Reminders

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).

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!

Community Happenings

ARHS Student Government PPE Drive: Please see [this notice](#) for information about the Amity Student Government PPE drive. Thank you for your support!

Amity Creative Theater Fall/Winter Play: The ACT rendition of *It's A Wonderful Life* is now available (through Sunday) via streaming. Please see this [link](#) for more information about the play and to purchase a subscription.

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.

Woodbridge Youth Services Updates: Please see below from information from our local Woodbridge Youth Services department. Youth Services wishes everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2021.

- **Team Gratitude Basket/Community Service Event For our Teachers and Health Care Workers-** Youth Services invites students to form a team of 2-6 friends to put together a thoughtful basket for our hard-working and dedicated teachers or health care providers. Make a team captain to collect all

items, while socially distancing, and drop off to Youth Services. Each basket must weigh 20 lbs. or less and can include the following: \$5 gift cards, water, coffee packs, protein bars, trail mix, wipes, masks, hand creams, hand sanitizers, etc... Be creative and have some fun! Community service hours will be determined and given to each team participant at the time of drop-off. Please make sure to bring completed community service forms for each team member. Please call us at 203-389-3449 or email us at youthone@woodbridgect.org to schedule a drop-off time. This collection will end on Friday January 22, 2021.

- **Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Who Want Work**-The Job Bank in Woodbridge offers occasional jobs to teen residents (ages 13 – 18) who would like to work to earn some extra cash. The application process provides an opportunity to learn about the interview process, safety on the job, and how to negotiate pay. Due to COVID-19, most jobs are currently outdoors with masks and social distancing as required. Teens can do yard work, dog walking, shoveling, etc. Responsible teens who wish to join the Job Bank should call for an interview at 203-389-3464 or e-mail npfund@woodbridgect.org .

Need Yard Cleanup and Snow Shoveling? Woodbridge Job Bank Can Help- Woodbridge Job Bank teens will work for Woodbridge residents who wish to hire someone to assist for odd jobs like yard cleanup, moving boxes, and snow shoveling. Call 203-389-3464 for more information.