

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



This past calendar year has brought unprecedented challenges and previously unthinkable difficulties. However, the year has also brought opportunities for true perseverance and space for gratitude. One of the greatest lessons I have learned is the immeasurable importance of maintaining grace and patience; not an easy lesson to learn, but one that has long-lasting importance. As we look forward to the New Year and what are sure to be challenges and celebrations throughout 2021, I am excited for us to continue to work to grow together as a community, treat each other with patience and kindness and be grateful for all that we have. We have shown ourselves that we can accomplish amazing things by working together and trusting each other. Thank you for the trust you have put in me and the Amity School District. I look forward to a positively amazing 2021! Have a wonderful break and a very Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

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. Monday, January 4th, will be a "B" day and will begin at 7:34 and conclude at 12:47.

Meals Service During Winter Break: There is a list of sponsors that operate Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) or Seamless Summer Option (SSO) sites on the school's website that will serve meals to children during the school year 2020-21 winter break. You can find this information under the heading Parents, Link/Resources, Meal Service During Winter Break. Any child age 18 years or younger can receive meals during the winter break at no cost to families from any meal service and distribution

sites in these towns/cities. Children do not have to be a resident or attend school in these towns/cities.

Student Athletes- SAVE THE DATE: On January 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM, Wayne Mazzone, Sacred Heart University Pitching Coach and Author of *Get Recruited: The Definitive Guide to Playing College Sports* will give a virtual presentation called, "Get Recruited- The College Athletic Recruiting Seminar." He will discuss:

- How to determine the right athletic level
- How to get colleges to recruit you
- Understanding the NCAA clearinghouse
- Understanding recruiting rules
- Determining Scholarship Potential
- Learn how Covid-19 is impacting athletic recruiting

A link to the event will be provided prior to the event.

Important Presentations for Juniors: The Counseling Departments at Amity High School, Fairfield Ludlowe High School, Trumbull High School and Pomperaug High School have partnered to offer multiple virtual presentations in January and February that will explore a variety of topics to address all students' post-secondary goals. A separate email with details will be sent to all juniors and their guardians. Our first presentation will be held on 1/7 at 6:30 for a virtual presentation with Ann Fleming Brown, Director of Admissions at Union College, who will discuss the college application process.

Senior Happenings

Need to know more about COLLEGE ADMISSIONS DEFERRALS? Please read this [article 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

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).

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.

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!

Community Happenings

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.