

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Reflecting on the calendar year 2020, it is amazing to think about all of the changes to our daily lives. Many of us had never even heard of Zoom in January of 2020, but video conferencing has become integral to what we do personally and professionally in January, 2021. What has remained consistent from last year to this is our commitment to establishing a school community founded on our core beliefs of **fairness, respect and passion** and working to realize our mission statement which includes the sentence: We bear a responsibility to ourselves and to the school community to develop in all students the skills and the desire necessary to become contributing members of a just society. As I have stated previously, our school community must be an example of the "just society" referred to in our mission statement so we can actively work to contributing to mend the fractures that are evident on a national level. I look forward to continuing to work with the Amity Community to, as Gandhi intimated, be the change we all wish to see in the world. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

*Anna N. Mahon*

Principal

**College (Search) of the Week:** *Message from Amity HS's College and Career Center* - Happy New Year to Amity students and families! Rather than just another "College of the Week" column, we're changing things up a bit. Instead, here is a listing of resources for juniors to begin the college search process. Students and family members should also take advantage of this season's upcoming virtual workshops ([see schedule here](#)).

Recommended resources for college search:

- **Naviance** is the program Amity HS uses for college search and career planning. Since seniors need to use Naviance when processing applications/transcripts, **students are strongly encouraged to use this program**. Naviance's "scattergrams" provide historical acceptance data based on our alumni results. Juniors can learn how to log on via the "Grade 11

Counseling” Google classroom page. Need help in getting started? Here is a [14-minute basic tutorial](#).

- [TEN BEST \(free\) COLLEGE SEARCH SITES](#) - sponsored by Student Loan Hero.
- [CollegeData.com](#) by 1st Financial Bank USA - is a free, college advisory service. Provides various data about colleges such as acceptance rates, graduation rates, costs, financial aid, etc.
- [College Scorecard](#) by the US Department of Education - was created to help students/families determine the *cost and value of colleges*. You may also want to read [“How to Navigate New College Scorecard Data”](#) by US News & World Report.
- **BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS:**
  1. “Who Gets In and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions” by Jeffrey Selingo
  2. “There IS Life After College”, by Jeffrey Selingo
  3. “Where You Go Is Not Who You’ll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania”, by Frank Bruni
  4. “Admission Matters: What Students and Parents Need to Know About Getting Into College, 4th edition”, by, Springer, Reider, Vining-Morgan

**Career of the Week:** [Dentists](#) diagnose and treat problems with patients’ teeth, gums, and related parts of the mouth” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). [Dentists](#) usually work in offices with a small support staff of dental assistants, dental hygienists and administrative assistants. [To become a dentist](#), one must complete a four-year degree program in premedical studies (or other science related field) and gain acceptance to a dental school. Before working as a dentist, dental school graduates must pass required [state licensing examinations](#) among other requirements. The average annual salary is \$159,200 with average job growth expected (3%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019). To learn more, please visit the following websites: the [American Dental Association](#), the [National Dental Association](#) and the [Connecticut Dental Association](#).

*Some colleges that offer programs in premedical studies include:*

Univ of Connecticut	Univ of Rhode Island	Quinnipiac University
Sacred Heart Univ	Southern CT State	Worcester Polytech
Merrimack College	Boston University	Mass College of Liberal Arts
Central CT State	Albertus Magnus Coll	Ithaca College
SUNY/Stony Brook	Providence College	Bryant University
Trinity College	Northeastern Univ	SUNY/Purchase

*or visit NAVIANCE to search for more choices!*

## **Happenings and Information**

**Early Dismissal on Friday, January 15th:** Amity Regional High School will follow an **early dismissal (12:12) schedule next Friday, January 15th** due to bus scheduling needs of our bus companies and partner elementary districts.

**Second Semester Schedules/Electives:** The end of the marking period/semester will be on Friday, January 22nd. We will begin second semester on Monday, January 25th with an "A" day. Please be reminded, we are unable to make class schedule changes, including electives, for second semester.

**Student Athletes:** On January 14, 2021 at 6:30 PM, Wayne Mazzoni, 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." A link to the event will be sent via SwiftK12 prior to the event and post through Admin Google Classroom.

**Important Presentations for Juniors:** Please be reminded, there are a series of presentations relevant to current 11th grade students that are happening over the next few months. 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. The links to these presentations have been/will be emailed to parents and students separately.

**Virtual Conference Leadership Opportunity for 9th grade students:** An email went out to all freshmen about an opportunity to attend a virtual HOBY leadership conference.

**Partnership Program for 11th and 12th Graders:** Yale University High School Partnership Program Orientation will be held on Tuesday, January 12th from 3-4 via Zoom. This program is available to Amity juniors and seniors who wish to take a course outside of Amity school hours. If you have not taken a course at Yale before, you must attend the virtual presentation by Yale.

Please see the information below

<https://yale.zoom.us/j/92890029484?pwd=MHFUUEVDUEl5dE9uYU16eWgvUGNGUTo9>

Password: 188155

Or Telephone : 203-432-9666 (2-ZOOM if on-campus) or 646 568 7788

Meeting ID: 928 9002 9484

International numbers available: <https://yale.zoom.us/j/92890029484>

## **Senior Happenings**

**Midyear Transcripts for seniors:** Just a reminder that we automatically send a mid-year transcript to all schools listed in Naviance. Please be sure to update Naviance with college outcomes and make sure the list is up to date. Mid-year reports will be going out the first full week in February.

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

## **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](#) by **February 12, 2021**.
- **The CT Bar Foundation** is running their **21<sup>ST</sup> 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](#). Deadline to apply is **February 22, 2021**.
- The **Amity Charitable Trust Fund**, established by the Amity Club of New Haven, is awarding scholarships to Orange and Woodbridge seniors attending college in the fall. Criteria includes, students who have scored a combined 1000 or more on SAT's or 20 or more on ACT. Applications must be submitted by **March 31, 2021**. All applications are available in the Career Center.

## **Notes from Counseling Department**

**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](http://www.airforce.com) [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) [www.uscg.mil](http://www.uscg.mil) [www.usmc.mil](http://www.usmc.mil) [www.navy.mil](http://www.navy.mil)

**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](mailto: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.

**ASVAB test** will be given at Amity High School on **Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 8:00am**. Any student in grades 10, 11 or 12 is welcome to take the test. The ASVAB or "Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery" is an online, multiple-choice test that helps students identify career strengths. **Students may register to take the test by**

**signing up [here](#).** While the US military branches all use the ASVAB as an admissions exam, *students do NOT have to be interested in military careers to take the test.* **Taking the ASVAB does not obligate students to enlist!** Please [visit this link](#) for more information.

**ACT Registration is now open for the February 6, 2021 test.**

The **deadlineto [register](#) is January 15, 2021.** The following local schools will be hosting the ACT on February 6<sup>th</sup>: Branford HS, East Haven HS, Fairfield Warde HS, Hopkins School (New Haven), New Milford HS, Southern CT State University and Trumbull HS. For a list of future ACT Test Dates, please click [here](#).

## **Athletics**

**Winter Sports Information:** The winter athletic season is scheduled to begin on January 19th. Please refer to the email sent earlier this week. The links embedded in that email are below:

- Winter Sports Registration: If you have not already, please register NOW. We will be starting to review and approve registrations on Monday January 11th. ALL instructions can be found here: [WINTER SPORTS REGISTRATION INFORMATION](#).
- Winter Sports Information Night: We will be hosting a virtual sports information night on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13th at 6:30pm. It is very important that parents and student-athletes attend this webinar/zoom meeting. General athletic department information, medical information, and breakout sessions with each coach (tryout information) will be on the agenda. **Please register for the webinar/zoom by WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13th by 1pm [HERE](#).**

**Learning Model/Athletic Participation:** As a reminder, any student who wishes to participate in athletics must be participating in the District's planned learning model. If a student is currently opting for fully remote instruction, the student is not eligible to participate in Amity athletics.

## **Community Happenings**

**Prevention Presentation:** Please see this [flyer](#) for information about an anti-vaping presentation by Tricia Dahl, senior research assistant at Yale School of Medicine. The February 4th presentation will be fully virtual. This event is sponsored by BOWDAAC.

**Reminder- 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](http://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!