

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



This is the final day of the first half of our 2020-2021 school year. This week is also the anniversary of the first documented case of Covid-19 on U.S. soil. It is hard to imagine how far we have come and the arduous work it has taken to get here. Our students continue to persevere in their academics while working diligently to remain engaged civically and socially with the school community. Our teachers, counseling faculty, para educators, administrative assistants, custodial staff, coaches and administrators have worked tirelessly to support our students in every way possible during this difficult time. Our town citizens have continued to support our school community throughout all of this work. However, our focus at Amity Regional High School remains steadfast. Our goal, as a learning community, is to have a lasting impact on our students that is evidenced even long after they graduate from our school and district. This [video](#), featuring a 2018 Amity alumna Carly Marchitto and her connection with Kendall through the Team Impact Program, is an amazing example of the manifestation of our core values of **fairness, respect and passion** as well as our school's mission statement of having the skills necessary to become a contributing citizen of a just society. It is our vision that all Amity students are able to share an inclusive, equitable educational experience throughout their years at Amity Regional High School and then use those skills and their innate talents to make our towns, state, nation and world better places for all citizens. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College & Career of the Week: While considering colleges for your shopping list, look west to the [State University of New York](#), aka SUNY. **SUNY is the largest comprehensive university system in the United States**, with **64 individual institutions** that serve approximately [350,000 undergraduate students](#) ([www.suny.edu](#)). With [4,352 majors offered](#), there is a program for everyone. See a complete [map of SUNY campuses here](#). **Annual average tuition for out-of-state students is \$16,980** (2019-2020). Check out those campuses closest to CT - [SUNY/Purchase](#), [SUNY/Stony Brook](#) (Long Island), [SUNY/Albany](#), [SUNY/Farmingdale](#) (Long Island) and [SUNY/New Paltz](#). [“Graphic designers](#) create visual concepts, using computer software or by hand,

to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, and captivate consumers”, (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). [Graphic designers](#) are usually employed by various service-related businesses, while others choose to be self-employed and find freelance work. A bachelor’s degree is required for most entry level positions and graphic designers will want to share their portfolios when job hunting. The average annual salary is \$52,110 with declining job opportunities expected (-4%) through 2029 (BLS, 2019). To learn more, please visit the following websites: the [American Institute of Graphic Arts](#), the [Graphic Arts Guild](#) and the [International Council of Design](#).

Some colleges that offer programs in graphic design include:

SUNY/Purchase	SUNY/New Paltz	Western CT State Univ
Roger Williams University	Rhode Island Schl of Design	University of New Haven
Endicott College	Fashion Inst of Technology	Salem State University
Albertus Magnus College	Boston University	Stonehill College
Champlain College	Monmouth University	NY Institute of Technology
Rochester Inst of Tech	University of Hartford	Mass Coll of Art & Design

Or visit NAVIANCE to search for more choices!

Happenings and Information

Second Semester Schedules/Electives: The end of the marking period/semester is today 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.

Ninth Grade Study Halls-Second Semester: Please note, second semester study halls have been updated to reflect 2nd semester schedules and room changes. Please remind your 9th grade student to review PowerSchool prior to beginning the 2nd semester on Monday.

Second Quarter Parent-Teacher Conferences: Please be reminded that Parent-Teacher Conferences will be virtual this year. Registration will be completed through PowerSchool Forms. Teachers will be sending links for the virtual meetings via email. Directions for registering for conferences can be found [here](#).

Speak-Up Reminder: Parents and students can help the administration address behaviors of concern, including intolerant and inappropriate behavior, by using our anonymous “Speak Up” system to report any bullying, drug possession, crime, mental health or other school or community safety concerns by calling or texting 203-936-6784. There is also a [link](#) on the District 5 website.

Amity's Annual Shakespeare Speaking Competition: This year's English Speaking Union's school-wide Shakespeare Speaking Competition will be held virtual on

February 9th at 3pm. Students can sign up and learn more about the program by clicking on this [link](#) or reviewing this [flyer](#).

Senior Happenings

SENIORS - MARK YOUR CALENDARS for **SSLP/SIP INFO NIGHT!** Mrs. Cocco, our College & Career Counselor will review the details of the SSLP/SIP Programs on **Wednesday, January 27th at 6:30pm**. A ZOOM link will be sent to all seniors and parents/guardians via the Swift K12 system early next week.

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 **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](#). 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.
- **Yale New Haven Hospital Auxiliary** is offering ten \$2,000 scholarships to area students planning to pursue a career in a healthcare-related profession. The application deadline is **Monday, March 19, 2021**. Please stop in the Career Center for an application.
- **Justin Wisniewski Firefighters Scholarship Fund:** To honor Justin's memory, his family, along with the Southington Fire Department, is offering a

- scholarship to those who are a child, grandchild or sibling of a Connecticut Firefighter. Please go to www.ride4justin.com to get more information or to download an application. Applications are due **Monday, March 15, 2021**.
- **Connecticut General Assembly's African American and Latino and Puerto Rican Sub-Commissions of the CWCSEO** will be offering 6 scholarships totaling \$6,000 to African American and Latino high school seniors. Interested students are asked to fill out the application and return it via email to cwcseo@cga.ct.gov by 5:00pm on **Friday, January 29, 2021**. Applications are available in the Career Center.
 - **Live Out Loud Young Trailblazers Scholarship** is awarding scholarships of \$5,000 to LGBTQ+ identifying youth in financial need. Applications are available [here](#). Applications are due **Monday, March 15, 2021**.
 - **New Haven Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.** is awarding scholarships to an African American senior who has excelled academically. Applications must be submitted electronically by **Friday, January 29, 2021**. Details can be found [here](#).
 - **Bethany Lions Club Scholarship** has established four scholarships for \$2,000 each and one scholarship for \$3,000. Applications are available at the Clark Memorial Library, the Bethany Town Hall and the Career Center. Applications must be returned to the Amity Guidance Office or Bethany Town Hall on or before **May 1, 2021**.
 - **Glenn Moon Scholarship** is offering financial help to qualified Seniors who are planning a career in education. Apply online at www.artct.org. Deadline to apply is March 31, 2021.
 - **Carl Moller Scholarship Program**-The CT Police Foundation will award a \$1,000 scholarships to five deserving seniors, one student from each region, who will pursue a career in law enforcement. Applications can be downloaded at www.cpcanet.org. Application deadline is **April 1, 2021**.
 - **Orange Scholarship Fund Association** is offering their annual scholarships to all Orange students entering college in the fall of 2021. Criteria includes financial need, community service and leadership roles you have displayed within an activity or organization. Please note that parents must submit a copy of their Federal Tax For (pages 1 & 2 of Form 1040) as required to substantiate income data. The deadline to apply is **May 1, 2021**. Applications are available in the Career Center or email at info@orangescholarshipfund.com.
 - **Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven Scholarships** are available to Jewish high school seniors. An academic average of "B" or better plus verified financial need qualifies a student to be considered. Applications are available in the or online at jewishnewhaven.org/scholarships or within the Career Center. Application deadline is **May 14, 2021**.

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 www.army.mil www.uscg.mil www.usmc.mil www.navy.mil

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.

Interested in an upcoming NACAC Virtual College Fair on Sunday, January 31, 2021 from 1-7pm? Drop in on Zoom sessions offered by hundreds of colleges. Hear about student life, majors and programs, financial aid, scholarships, and more. To start exploring, sign up now at virtualcollegefairs.org. Families are invited too!

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.

Athletics

Covid-19 Screening: Please be sure to complete your student-athlete's daily screening **prior** to 1pm through the Google form. Please see this [page](#) for directions.

The ARHS Booster Club is back! The Amity Athletics Booster Club is looking for members to attend our first meeting of the year! The meeting will be Thursday, February 4th at 6:30pm via zoom. Please register prior to the meeting. A link will be sent to all registrants. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Please consider getting involved in our booster club! **LINK TO REGISTER FOR February 4th 6:30pm meeting via [zoom](#).**

Community Happenings

Amity Adult Education-SAT Prep Course: Please see [this flyer](#) for information regarding a preparation course for students planning on taking a spring SAT.

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 and registration can be completed [here](#).

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. 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!

Woodbridge Youth Services Updates:

- **Team Gratitude Baskets Community Service Event:** 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 social distancing, and drop off to Youth Services. Each basket must weigh 20 lbs., or less and can include the following: \$5 gift cards, water, protein bars, trail mix, coffee packs, wipes, masks, hand cream, hand sanitizers, etc. Be creative and have some fun! Community service hours will be given to each team participant at the time of drop off. Please bring completed community service forms for each team member. Please call us at 203-389-3449 or email youthone@woodbridgect.org to schedule a drop-off. Collection will end on Friday, February 26, 2021. This event is sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany. Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2021.
- **Snow Art Competition:** Bethany and Woodbridge families who find themselves in a heap of snow can express their talents this winter. Each family is encouraged to get out on a snowy day and build the best snowperson or animal they can. Get creative and start sculpting. Then email a photo of your family with your creation to youthone@woodbridgect.org. Prizes will be awarded based on creativity and skill. Check the Town of Woodbridge [website](#) for updates and prizewinners. Due date for photos is February 26, 2021. Sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.