

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



**"There are opportunities even in the most difficult moments."**

~Nobel Peace Prize Winner Wangari Maathal

As I mentioned in last week's newsletter, this has been a change-filled year that has brought opportunities for reflection and growth. We continue to work together as a school community to recognize our own individual implicit biases, to be open to this reflection and to take action through our behaviors and educational programming to create a strong sense of inclusive culture and community. Our eyes remain fixed on the prize of confronting racism, bias and prejudice and celebrating all members of our community through curriculum, activities and endeavors. There have been difficult moments, but through these circumstances we are able to learn and grow personally and as a school. Parents are an important part of our school community. I appreciate hearing from parents and invite you to reach out to me at any time to discuss your thoughts or feedback. Compassion is one of our stated core values and it is integral to this work. It is with a collaborative, compassionate spirit that I look forward to the future and continuing to work to make our school an example of a just society where all members feel affirmed and welcome. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

**College and Career of the Week:** It's MARCH MADNESS time in the Amity HS Career Center! During the month of March, we will be featuring TWO colleges per week.

JUNIORS - on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month, VIRTUAL VISITS will be offered to you from each featured college. [See the list of participating colleges and scheduled visits here!](#) ZOOM links to the visits will be posted in the Counseling Grade 11 Google Classroom on the day of each visit.

**[Western Connecticut State University](#) -TUESDAY, MARCH 9th at 2pm**

- Located in Danbury, CT
- Approximately 3,800 undergraduates enrolled - [see fast facts here](#)
- [SPORTS - 18 NCAA DIVISION 3 teams](#)
- [IN-STATE ANNUAL TUITION](#) - \$11,781 (2020-2021)
- MOST POPULAR [MAJORS](#) INCLUDE - business management, nursing, criminal justice, education, psychology and journalism. Unique programs in music and paralegal studies
- Visit the [ADMISSIONS WEBSITE HERE](#).

### **[Sacred Heart University](#) -THURSDAY, MARCH 11th at 2pm**

- Located in Fairfield, CT
- Approximately 5,300 undergraduates enrolled - [see fast facts here](#)
- [SPORTS - 32 NCAA DIVISION 1 teams](#)
- [ANNUAL TUITION](#) - \$44,080 (2020-2021)
- MOST POPULAR [MAJORS](#) INCLUDE - nursing, exercise science, psychology, marketing and management. Unique programs in athletic training, computer gaming design and pre-medical studies
- Visit the [ADMISSIONS WEBSITE HERE](#)

”[Court reporters](#) create word-for-word transcriptions at trials, depositions, and other legal proceedings. [Simultaneous captioners](#) provide similar transcriptions for television or for presentations in other settings, such as press conferences and business meetings, for people who are deaf or hard of hearing” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2019). Training for this career requires specialized programs usually offered at community colleges or trade schools. Most available court reporter jobs will be in government agencies. The average annual salary for court reporters is \$60,130 with **much faster than average growth expected (9%) through 2029** (BLS, 2019). To learn more, please visit the following websites: the [National Court Reporters Association](#) and the [National Verbatim Reporters Association](#).

*Some schools that offer programs in court reporting include:*

[SUNY/Alfred State](#)  
[Community Coll of Allegheny County](#) (PA)

[Plaza College](#) (NY)  
[Atlantic Tech College](#) (FL)

## **Happenings and Information**

**Next week's schedule:** We will continue with the hybrid model next week and will start with an “A” day on Monday. The A-K cohort will be in-person on Wednesday, which will also be a Spartan Seminar schedule day.

**College and Career Planning for Juniors:** on Tuesdays and Thursdays this month, VIRTUAL VISITS will be offered to you from each featured college. [See the list of](#)

[participating colleges and scheduled visits here!](#) ZOOM links to the visits will be posted in the Counseling Grade 11 Google Classroom on the day of each visit.

**Yearbook Grad Ads:** There are still a few grad ad spaces left in the 2021 yearbook! Take advantage of this last chance to honor and encourage your graduating senior in a book that he or she will keep for years to come! Size options are limited. Please contact the yearbook advisors, Ken Clark and Vicki Hulse, at [embers@amityschools.org](mailto:embers@amityschools.org) if you are interested. Hurry—first come, first served!

## **Senior Happenings**

**Seniors and family members:** Soon your college acceptances and financial aid packages will begin to arrive. Here are "[5 Things Every Family Should Know About Paying for College](#)", re-printed from NPR.com.

**Local Scholarship Opportunities:** Please see this [link](#) for a list of community scholarship opportunities for current seniors.

## **Notes from Counseling Department**

### **Parent/Student Virtual Workshops:**

- MARCH 9th “Strategies for Parents & Families to Support Academic Success During Remote Learning” from 5:30-6:30 pm Sponsored by the CT Parent Advocacy Center
- [REGISTER HERE](#)
- MARCH 9th “How Diverse Learners and their Families Can Prepare for the Transition to College” beginning at 7pm Sponsored by the CT Parent Advocacy Center [REGISTER HERE](#)

**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.

**Upcoming College Fair Events:** The [NACAC](#) (National Association for College Admissions Counseling) and [NEACAC](#) (New England Association for College Admission Counseling) 2021 Spring College Fair will be virtual! Drop in on Zoom

sessions offered by hundreds of colleges. Hear about student life, majors and programs, financial aid, scholarships, and more. For dates and times, please visit individual websites.

**Interested in the CUNY (The City University of New York) Schools?** Attend their **CUNY Virtual College Fair** on **Thursday, March 18, 2021 from 3-6pm**. CUNY today has [25 colleges](#) spread across New York City's five boroughs, serving 275,000 degree-seeking students of all ages and awarding 55,000 degrees each year. Meet with admission representatives from each college and explore the right fit for you! Please register [here](#).

**2021 Summer Programs-Virtual and/or Various Locations:** Looking to take a pre-college course or partake in a fun hands-on program? Please find a list of summer program opportunities as a courtesy to students and families. The Amity High School has not conducted any review or background checks of these programs. If a student and their parents decide to pursue any of these programs, they should conduct their own review. Please click [here](#) for a list of available summer programs in and outside of Connecticut.

**UConn Pre-College Summer Program** is now accepting applications for the 2021 Summer! Please visit [here](#) for a selection of courses available this year. Costs, fees, & discounts can be found [here](#) too.

## **Important Reminders**

**ARHS School Website Addition:** Please click on [this link](#) to see a new section of the website called "Principals' Corner."

**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!

## **Athletics**

**Spectator Policy Update:** Please read our spectator policy for athletics. Each student-athlete is allowed 2 family member to attend their game. YOU MUST SIGN UP AND BE ON THE GUEST LIST TO ATTEND! Please see [this link](#) to policy.

**Amity FANS IN THE STANDS:** The athletic department is happy to announce up to 42 students/faculty/staff will be admitted as spectators at our home events for the remainder of the winter season. This policy is effective today, Friday March 5th. There are some guidelines regarding who can register and how students/faculty/staff will be selected to attend our games. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN REGISTERING FOR A GAME, PLEASE CLICK THIS LINK.** The link is also on the Amity Athletics website homepage. Each game has its own google form. You must register for each game the day of the game. Forms will only be open for registration the day of the event and space is not guaranteed.

**SCC Live Stream Information:** The SCC has compiled a list of how each school is broadcasting their events. To see how each team is live streaming, click this [link](#).

**Volunteer Opportunity:** Any student interested in assisting the athletic department with live streaming our games is asked to contact Mr. Goodwin at [egoodwin@amityregion5.org](mailto:egoodwin@amityregion5.org)

### **Spring sports:**

- **Spring sports information meeting (virtual)** - March 11th 6:30pm. This is an extremely important meeting for parents/ guardians and students who are interested in trying out for a spring sport. Mandatory information will be presented as well as breakout sessions with team coaches. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)
- **Registration** for spring sports will be through unified classroom forms and will open following the information meeting. Only students who are in-person learners, registered, and medically approved will be eligible to participate in tryouts.
- **Physicals** must be submitted to the nurse, dated after May17, 2020. Annual medication forms must be completed and submitted to the nurse if necessary.
- Spring sports **tryouts** Day 1: March 27th.

The plan is to have a full spring season including regular season, SCC championships, and CIAC state championships.

### **Community Happenings**

**“Woodbridge Together” Fundraiser:** Please consider joining the Woodbridge town-wide effort to relieve hardship brought on by the pandemic. ARHS Junior Tina Burland has started a campaign called “Woodbridge Together,” which aims to raise funds for the Woodbridge Rotary Club COVID Relief Fund. The program will culminate

on March 13<sup>th</sup> with a luminaria display. For more information, please checkout this [Facebook Page](#), [Instagram Page](#) or [website](#). To donate, please see this link. We're all in this together!

### **Woodbridge Youth Services Updates:**

- **Community Service Event to Thank Teachers/School Staff/Health Care Workers:** Youth Services invites students to form a team of a few friends to create a thoughtful basket while social distancing for our dedicated school personnel or health care workers. The team captain may collect all items, and bring to Youth Services by appointment. Baskets should weigh less than 20 lbs. and can include the following: \$5 gift cards, water, snacks, coffee packs, wipes, masks, and hand cream, 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 bring completed community service forms for each team member. Call 203-389-3449 or email [youthone@woodbridgect.org](mailto:youthone@woodbridgect.org) to schedule a drop-off by Friday, February 26, 2021. Sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.
- **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](mailto: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](mailto:youthone@woodbridgect.org). Prizes will be awarded based on creativity and skill. Check the Town of Woodbridge website at <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services> for updates and prizewinners. Due date for photos is February 26, 2021. Sponsored by Woodbridge Youth Services and the Town of Bethany.
- **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](mailto:npfund@woodbridgect.org) .

**Need Yard Work done? 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, weeding, moving boxes, and snow shoveling. Call 203-389-3464 for more information.