

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



Physical, social, and emotional safety are foundational to the wellbeing and success of any highly functioning community. Throughout this fall, adults and students at the high school have worked hard to reacclimate to the social contract of daily in-person school. We do this through in-class discussions, whole-school email communications, pep rallies, athletic events, Spartan Seminar lessons, club events, school spirit days, and our hugely successful homecoming dance. ARHS is a much more connected and engaged learning environment this year than we have been since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. However, even with all the work, we have accomplished and progress we have made, these efforts need to continue to build trust within and among our community members. Yesterday, December 16th, we had an extremely successful full lockdown drill at the high school—the first drill of this type in over 2 years. In the days when we are all on edge due to local and national threats, we must continue to be vigilant and responsive. It is through these types of collaborative efforts with outside agencies (in this case, local law enforcement), that we continue to work toward building a safe school community. With less than one week of school to go during the 2021 calendar year, it is important to recognize how far we have come throughout this year and take note of all that we can be grateful for through this amazing school community. Have a good weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College/Career of the Week: The [University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth](#) is a public university located in Dartmouth, Massachusetts (near Bourne/Cape Cod), approximately 140 miles from the BOWA area. [Founded in 1895](#), UMASSD offers its 5,800 undergraduate students 100 [academic programs](#). While many highly [ranked STEM related programs](#) are offered, vibrant arts majors are also available such as jewelry making, animation and textile design. Campus life is active with many [clubs](#) and 17 [NCAA-3 athletic teams \(Little East Conference\)](#) to choose from. UMASSD's [annual costs](#) for out-of-state students are approximately \$45,978 per academic year (tuition, fees, room and board). For more information, visit UMASSD's [admissions website](#), view [fast facts](#) or take a [virtual tour](#). “[Software developers](#) design computer applications or programs”, (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020). [Software developers](#) need a bachelor's

degree in computer science or related field to gain an entry-level position, and some jobs will require a master's degree. Most work in offices and on teams with other developers. The median salary is \$110,140 and ***much faster than average job growth is expected (22%) through 2030*** (BLS, 2020). For more information, please visit the following websites; [Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers \(IEEE\) Computer Society](#), the [Association of Software Professionals](#), and the [Association for Women in Computing](#).

Some schools that have computer science/software development programs include:

UMASS/Dartmouth	Quinnipiac University	Fairfield University
University of Connecticut	Boston University	University of New Haven
Roger Williams University	Bentley University	Sacred Heart University
Central CT State Univ	Pace University	Springfield College
Trinity College	Rensselaer Polytech Inst.	Worcester State University
Univ of Rhode Island	Merrimack College	SUNY/Albany

Or search in Naviance for more choices!

Happenings and Information

From the Nurses' Office: Thank you all for your continued cooperation as we try to navigate symptoms, testing, and Covid protocols in these trying times. As a reminder, if you are not feeling well, please stay home and get a Covid test. Test results can be emailed to us in the Health Office. Our email addresses are:

kate.giancolaenders@amityregion5.org and maegan.wing@amityregion5.org

If your student comes into the Health Office with any symptoms related to Covid, we must send them home to be tested in accordance with the guidance provided by our district's medical advisor. We understand that it is frustrating for both parents and students to have to get tested often, even when they feel it may only be a cold or allergies. Unfortunately, Covid presents with very little symptoms in most cases and we need to prevent the spread of the virus to the best of our ability. Upon return to school, please provide your negative Covid test to the Health Office (a physical copy or email will be accepted). This will help us to keep track of student who are marked as MRP (medically remote present). Please continue to be vigilant about mask wearing, social distancing and hand washing throughout the day. We appreciate your support!

Reminder-Early Dismissal Thursday, December 23rd: In preparation for the winter holiday break, school will be run on an early dismissal schedule next Thursday, December 23rd.

Parent Feedback Needed!: Since October 2020, the BOWA School Districts have been collaborating to develop the BOWA Portrait of the Graduate (POG). The POG

outlines the skills, knowledge, and dispositions that students across all grade levels should have in order to be ready for the world beyond. After months of seeking input and development, we are looking for final input from our stakeholders. Parent Focus Groups to provide feedback on the BOWA POG will be conducted on the following dates and locations:

- January 19, 2022 - Amity Middle School Bethany
- January 20, 2022 - Amity Middle School Orange Media Center
- January 25, 2022 - Amity Regional High School

All feedback sessions begin at 6:30 pm and will last about 1 hour. ***ALL BOWA parents are welcome to attend*** - elementary, middle, and high school parent feedback is sought. To help plan space for feedback participants, please [complete this very short form if you plan to attend](#).

ARHS Academic Interventionists Are Here to Help! As a reminder, the high school staff includes three academic interventionists in the areas of science, math, and writing, as well as an interventionist who oversees our testing center. Please encourage your child to seek help by reaching out via email to set up an appropriate time to meet.

Margaret Ardwin-science Margaret.ardwin@amityregion5.org

Mary Cassidy-math mary.cassidey@amityregion5.org

Mary DiBenedetto-writing/reading mary.dibenedetto@amityregion5.org

Elizabeth Heiss-testing ctr Elizabeth.heiss@amityregion5.org

New Videos Posted: Check out the [newly posted videos](#) on the district website for highlights of recent activities at the high school and throughout the district.

Senior Happenings

Attention Seniors! Scholarship Season has begun! Naviance is only one of the many resources for researching scholarships. The College and Career Center posts local and national scholarships on Naviance throughout the school year. Students can navigate through these scholarships in Naviance under the college tab. Scholarships can also be found on our school website [here](#). Additional merit based and need based scholarships may be available by checking with the individual college/university or additional websites like <https://www.fastweb.com/> If you need help navigating scholarships or with the process of applying, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.

Notes from Counseling Department

All STUDENTS - need help with academics? Work with a peer tutor for extra help. Either stop into the Career Center after school on Tuesdays or Thursdays OR fill out the [form HERE](#) for one-to-one tutoring assistance at other times. See Mrs. Staak or Mrs. Cocco in the Counseling Office if you have any questions.

Start Your Path To Become An EMT! Members of the Bethany Volunteer Ambulance Corps. will be offering the **Karen R. White Memorial Training Program**, which will host an **EMT-Basic Training Initial Certification Course**. If you would like more information on the upcoming Winter Course Program being held at the Bethany Fire Dept., please click [here](#). To learn more about the recruitment info session and open house click [here](#).

Career Opportunities: Are you interested in Architecture, Engineering or Construction careers? If so, check out a FREE mentoring program called "ACE" where students can explore these career areas, work with professionals in the field and possibly win scholarships. Go to [this link](#) to learn more.

Athletics

Winter Sports: Winter sports are here! For information or if you have any questions, please contact the athletic department or view the website [here](#).

Community Happenings

Amity Regional High School Winter Concert 2021: The Amity High School Music Department is excited to announce that we will be having our 2021 Winter Concert indoors, our first indoor concert in 2 years! Come join us for "**A Very Winter Concert**" on December 21st at 6:30pm in the Brady Center. Masks are required and please social distance between family groups. **Visit the [Amity Website](#) for more information.** We hope to see you there!

SAT Prep Course: Please see [this flyer](#) for information about an SAT Prep Course.

News From Woodbridge Youth Services: Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs.

LAST CALL...“We Care” Kits to Aid Homeless Due by Monday, Dec. 20: Please help the homeless this holiday season by making kits of essentials to donate to our local shelters. Your kit should be a minimum of a gallon size, zip lock or drawstring bag. Kits may include toiletries (travel size), feminine hygiene products, hats, gloves,

socks, underwear, tissues, wipes, hand sanitizers, masks, Band-Aids, water, mints, \$5 gift cards, granola or protein bars, fruit cups (spoon), flashlights, peanut butter crackers, lip balm, etc. Larger items of new blankets, towels, sheets, pillowcases, and cleaning supplies are also needed if parents wish to assist. **Last delivery day is Monday, December 20 by 4:15 pm.** Please call before dropping off to Youth Services in the Center Building at 4 Meetinghouse Lane, Room 12. We approve community service hours for completed kits.

Woodbridge Food Pantry/Community Service Opportunity” Students who wish to assist in the Woodbridge Food Pantry should contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 to schedule. Community Service hours will be approved.

Job Bank: Woodbridge resident teens who want paid, outdoor work should contact Youth Services to schedule an interview. The Job Bank is a referral service for residents who offer odd jobs to members. Snow shovelers will be needed soon.

Resources Available to Families: DCF (Department of Children and Families) has compiled some resources to assist families of children with mental and behavioral stresses due to Covid-19 and the increased isolation and anxiety children have experienced. Please click the following link to view www.connectingtocarect.org/support-services

The BOW (Bethany/Orange/Woodbridge) area is in DCF Region 2. Please also read about the BOW Collaborative to find more resources or get involved. Parents are welcome to attend meetings to find out more about available services or discuss concerns regarding children. Call Youth Services for additional information.

Toys 4 Kids: Many thanks to those who donated toys or financially supported this program, which supports Woodbridge and Bethany families through TEAM, Inc. Your generosity brings the holiday spirit to many children in our community.

Do You Have a Teen Who Vapes?: Yale’s Vaping Cessation program can help high school students to quit the habit. They offer a virtual program, which provides financial rewards for progress in the effort to end the use of harmful substances in the vape oils. Teens also receive a note pad to use for checking in with Yale. To join the program and receive the support needed please call Youth Services for more information. Students are encouraged to call for assistance.

Happy Holidays!

Woodbridge wishes to thank students and families for their generosity during this season and throughout the year. You have our wishes for a holiday season full of joy and a new year full of love and peace.