

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



The calendar year 2022 has come roaring in, but has also allowed us to readjust to being back in school as a community this week. We began the week with a strong reminder that everyone is expected to follow the mitigation protocols, including masking, social distancing, handwashing and staying home when sick. If students are home due to Covid (infection, symptoms, etc.), and are feeling well enough to participate in asynchronous school, the expectation is for them to log on to Google Classroom to keep up with daily posts and work provided. As we approach the midterm exam period, students may also find review materials posted on their Google Classrooms. The rest of the week reminded us how much mother nature is in charge. As we have adjusted to disruptions due to weather, we will also adjust the conclusion of our 2nd marking period and exam schedule (please see the announcement below). As always, if you or your child ever has any questions, please reach out to the school administration directly or to your child's school counselor. Have a safe, healthy weekend!

Sincerely,

*Anna N. Mahon*

Principal

**College and Career of the Week:** [Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute](#) is a private university located in Troy, New York (near Albany), approximately 130 miles from the BOWA area. [Founded in 1824](#), RPI currently enrolls over 6,200 undergraduates who are pursuing technology-based careers. More than [110 programs](#) (bachelors, masters, doctorate) are offered in majors such as computer science, architecture, engineering (mechanical, chemical, biomedical, civil and aerospace) and business, as well as many [accelerated programs](#). Students can enjoy many [clubs and activities on campus](#) as well as 21 [NCAA-Division 3 athletic](#) teams ([Liberty League](#) Conference). [Annual tuition, room and board](#) is \$77,763 (2021-2022). For more information, check out RPI's [admissions website](#), visit [quick facts](#) or take a [virtual tour](#). "[Special effects artists and animators](#) create images that appear to move and visual effects for various forms of media and entertainment", (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020). To obtain an entry level position in this field, [special effects artists and animators](#) usually have a bachelor's degree in either art or computer graphics. While some are self-employed, many work for film and entertainment companies. The median salary is \$77,700 and ***much faster than average job growth is expected (16%) through 2030***(BLS, 2020). For

more information, please visit the following websites; [Access VFX](#), The [Society for Motion Picture and Television Engineers](#), The [Animation Guild](#), The [Society for Animation Studies](#) and the [American Institute of Graphic Arts](#).

*Some schools that have animation, gaming or graphic design programs include:*

<a href="#">Rensselaer Polytech Inst</a>	Quinnipiac University	Western CT State Univ
University of New Haven	Temple University	SUNY/Alfred
New England Inst of Tech	Fashion Institute of Tech	Emerson College
Mass Coll of Art & Design	Champlain College	UMASS/Lowell
Rochester Inst of Tech	Rutgers University	Lesley University
Northeastern University	Marist College	LIU/Brooklyn

*or search in Naviance for more choices!*

## **Happenings and Information**

**Adjustment to End of 2<sup>nd</sup> MP/Midterm Exams:** Due to the disruptions this past week, the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period has been moved to Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> (the 18<sup>th</sup> will be a **B day** and the 19<sup>th</sup> will be a **D-day**). Midterm exams will start on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> and run through Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> (please see the schedule [here](#)). Second semester will start on Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and will follow the previously posted letter day calendar (the 26<sup>th</sup> will be a **C day** and Spartan Seminar day). As an FYI, we do not anticipate making further adjustments to the semester (i.e. class days) due to inclement weather disruptions. We would only push further in to 2<sup>nd</sup> semester if we missed an exam day due to a weather cancellation (as per exam period schedule attached). However, there may be unforeseen circumstances, which would necessitate further adjustment.

**Link Crew Cocoa and Cram:** Is your ninth grade child preparing for his/her first mid-terms exams? Amity Link Leaders are ready to help! On Tuesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, from 6 - 7:30 in the cafeteria, Link Crew is sponsoring our annual [Cocoa and Cram](#) study session for all ninth graders. Link Leaders will answer questions about what to expect for ninth graders taking exams, and provide specific advice and tutoring for all areas of study, while serving free hot chocolate and sweet treats to make the evening both academic and social. This event is always very popular— and feedback from past attendees is extremely positive. Do not miss out! Parents of all ninth graders are asked to encourage their ninth graders to attend this important event. We will follow Covid mitigation protocols, including masking, limited table seating, and eating at designated times/spaces within the cafeteria.

**National Honors Society Study Sessions for 10th Graders:** Next week, on **Tuesday 1/11 and Wednesday 1/12 from 2:30-3:30pm** in the cafeteria, the National Honors Society will be running a sophomore-only snack and study session in preparation for midterm exams. Due to COVID and the transitions between learning

models, exams were not held last year. Thus, NHS hopes to provide an opportunity for you all to seek assistance and guidance in preparing for your first high school midterms. A flier containing more information can be found [here](#).

**Reminder for Students and After School:** As a reminder, students are only allowed to remain in the school building after 2:18 for an official school program (club meeting, extra help, athletics, etc.). Late buses and most activities (with the exception of athletics/musical rehearsal) only take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students are not allowed to loiter on campus after the school day has ended. Once the activity has concluded, students are expected to report to the front of the building near the security vestibule to wait for the late bus/to be picked. If you have questions, please contact the main office.

## **Senior Happenings**

**The Senior Service-Learning Program (aka The Internship Program) Informational Session** will be held on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022** (rescheduled from January 6<sup>th</sup> in the Brady Center). ***This event will be held virtually starting at 6:30pm.*** Lynn Cocco, the College and Career Counselor, will be presenting the expectations and guidelines of the 2022 Senior Service-Learning Program (SSLP) and the Senior Interest Project (SIP). Parents and seniors are encouraged to attend if your senior is likely to participate in either of these programs. Please register for this event [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

**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.

**Cap and Gown Reminder:** The Cap and Gown/Diploma Order Form is available in PS under Student Activity fees. All seniors must complete the Graduation Requirement form to participate in the schools Commencement Ceremony. After the form is submitted, a fee will appear in MyPayments Plus. Deadline to complete this form is January 12, 2022. In order to make sure that our order is placed in a timely manner, there will be no extensions, diploma name and size information will be determined by the class advisors if not completed.

**Local Scholarship Opportunity:** The **Yale New Haven Hospital** is currently offering a renewable scholarship to assist minority students who are planning to continue their education in specific health related majors. Students must be planning to pursue a full-time education at an accredited institution of their choice. Please click on this [link](#) to find more information about the program requirements and how to

apply. **Please apply by March 3, 2022.** For further questions, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.

**NIAAA Scholarship Opportunity:** The National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's (NIAAA) purpose is to promote, facilitate, and increase the knowledge and understanding of the vital role of interscholastic athletics in the educational system. In accordance with the NIAAA purpose, this scholarship program will foster and acknowledge the partnership between the NIAAA and secondary education. The scholarships will recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership, and citizenship attributes of high school student athletes, and the importance of high school athletics in each student's life. Please see this [link](#) for application.

**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 [this](#). If you need help navigating scholarships or with the process of applying, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.

**Local Gap Year Fair:** The **USA Gap Fair at Fairfield Ludlow High School at 785 Unquowa Road in Fairfield, CT** will be offering both an in-person and virtual gap year fair for all to join on Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 6:00-8:00pm. This is an opportunity to learn about a number of life-changing gap year programs from all around the world. Many of these programs also offer summer opportunities for students. For more information and/or to register for this event, please click [here](#).

**Are you interested in the Military?** A representative from the **United States Navy** will be visiting Amity High School during all lunch waves on **Monday, January 10, 2022 from 10:30am-12:30pm**. A Navy Representative will be set up outside the cafeteria to chat with interested students.

**Interested in exploring the trades?** The **Bristol Technical Education Center** offers students six different Career and Technical Education Programs. Each program has a specific program of study that outlines all academic and technical coursework required of each student. Click [here](#) to learn more about the courses offered to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school and adult students. For those interested in the Bristol Technical Educational Center, the CT Aero Tech School for Aviation Maintenance Technicians and the Stratford School for Aviation Maintenance please visit their "Virtual Open House" which is offered [here](#). Take the first step to pursue a unique technical education!

**Attention 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](mailto:paula.vallie@amityregion5.org). Jobs must conform to the State of Connecticut regulations regarding the employment of minors.

## **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 and 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.

**STUDENTS! Are you interested in MEDICAL CAREERS? Yale New Haven Hospital's Volunteer Services Department will present two upcoming webinars called "Careers in Healthcare".** These webinars will feature panelists in both clinical and non-clinical career roles at YNH. Panelists will talk about their positions and responsibilities and will describe the challenges they faced in pursuing their professional objectives academically and professionally. **The webinars will take place on Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, both from 4-5 pm.** To participate, [click HERE](#) and scroll down to the "OPEN THE WEBINAR" link.

**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.

**For High School Juniors (Rising Seniors):** The Mercy College Business Honors Program is hosting a Summer Leadership Academy in July 2022 for high achieving Juniors/Rising Seniors (graduating 2023). There are THREE separate weeklong experiences – CHOOSE ONE! If you are interested in a live-in, week-long college experience, please fill out a quick form-[CLICK HERE - Summer Leadership Academy 2022](#) – Bottom Link will direct you to our website and more information! [LA Application 2022 \(jotform.com\)](#)

## **Important Reminders**

**ARHS Academic Interventionists Are Here to Help!** As a reminder, the high school staff includes 3 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	<a href="mailto:Margaret.ardwin@amityregion5.org">Margaret.ardwin@amityregion5.org</a>
Mary Cassidy-math	<a href="mailto:mary.cassidy@amityregion5.org">mary.cassidy@amityregion5.org</a>
Mary DiBenedetto-writing/reading	<a href="mailto:mary.dibenedetto@amityregion5.org">mary.dibenedetto@amityregion5.org</a>
Elizabeth Heiss-testing ctr	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.heiss@amityregion5.org">Elizabeth.heiss@amityregion5.org</a>

## **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**

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

**Community Involvement Opportunity:** BOWDAAC hosts student billboard contests throughout the year. There are a total of 3 billboards for the months of March, May and June that can display artwork created by students related to reducing substance use/promoting positive mental health. Please see [this announcement](#) for more information and how to get involved/submit.