

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

NOTE: The Community Happenings newsletter is being updated to correct a typo that affected the date of the Gr. 9 & 12 Back to School Night.

We just finished up the first week of school at Amity Regional High School, and it has been great to have our returning students back with us and to welcome our newest Spartans, the Class of 2026.

Every new school year brings the opportunity for new friends, new adventures, and new accomplishments, and staying up to date on school happenings is one of the best ways to support your child with all of these. We hope the Community Happenings newsletter helps you with that, and...

... Go Spartans!

Andre Hauser

ARHS Principal

College and Career of the Week

Securing the top spot again in ARHS's "[50 Top Colleges](#)" ranking is the [University of Connecticut](#) (aka "UCONN"). Originally founded as an agricultural school over 140 years ago, UCONN has grown to include 5 [campuses](#) and is nationally recognized as a top 25 public university. The main campus is in Storrs, followed by the 4 regional campuses in Stamford, Waterbury, Avery Point (Groton), and Hartford. Additionally, the university has three graduate centers - UCONN School of Law & Graduate Business Learning Center and the School of Social Work, both located in Hartford, and the UCONN Health Center in Farmington. Almost 19,000 undergraduate students are enrolled at the Storrs campus. There are [over 100 undergraduate majors](#) offered within the 14 schools of the university. Those students who begin college as undecided majors are encouraged to explore their options via the [ACES program](#). The [UCONN Huskies](#) sponsor 19 NCAA Division-1 athletic teams who compete in the [Big East Athletic Conference](#) (football in the [FBS Independent Conference](#)). [Annual tuition](#) for CT residents is \$19,434 (2022-2023) at the Storrs campus, and \$16,564 at the regional campuses. Average housing and meal plan costs (at Storrs) total \$13,622. To learn more about UCONN, please visit the [website](#), check out the [FACT SHEET here](#) or *plan to attend the upcoming UCONN Representative Visit on Tuesday, Oct. 18th at 9:30am (register in Naviance)*.

["Social workers](#) help people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021). Social workers are employed in many different types of healthcare settings such as schools, hospitals, mental health facilities, social service agencies and private practices (BLS, 2021). All social workers are required to obtain state licensure, and most will need to earn a masters' degree to practice. Social workers may also want to specialize in a specific area of practice such as [families & schools](#), [healthcare](#) and [substance abuse](#). The average annual salary is \$50,390 ([higher in CT](#)) with expected job growth to be 12% (faster than average) through 2030 (BLS, 2021). To learn more about

becoming a [social worker](#), please visit the following websites: [National Association of Social Workers](#), [School Social Work Association of America](#) or the [Council on Social Work Education](#).

Some colleges that offer programs in human services/social work include:

Univ of Connecticut	Southern CT State	Albertus Magnus College
Boston University	Adelphi University	Salve Regina University
Univ of Saint Joseph (CT)	Univ of Maine/Augusta	Lesley University
Endicott College	Eastern CT State	Providence College
SUNY/Stony Brook	Marist College	Sacred Heart University
Univ of New Hampshire	Iona College	Siena College

Amity Happenings and Information

- **Back To School Nights will take place on Thursday, September 8, for Grades 9 & 12 and on Thursday, September 15, for Grades 10 & 11.** Both evenings will begin at 6:30 pm with a brief welcome in the Brady Auditorium, after which parents will follow a shortened version of their child's class schedule. Please join us for what is sure to be an informative opportunity to meet your child's teachers.
- **Underclass Picture Days:** Underclass pictures will be taken during English classes on Tuesday, September 20, and Wednesday, September 21. English teachers will inform their classes of which day to prepare for. Those students who are absent or otherwise unable to be photographed can have their pictures taken on the makeup day, which will be Thursday, November 3. If you have any questions, please contact the yearbook advisors, Ken Clark, and Vicki Hulse, at embers@amityschools.org.
- **Order and Prepay for Underclass Pictures:** Ahead of our upcoming underclass picture days on September 20 and 21, parents can order and prepay for prints of their children's school pictures online beginning on Tuesday, September 6. Instructions are available [here](#). The payment portal will be active until Wednesday, September 28. After this date, Amity's bulk order will be processed, and digital proof cards will be e-mailed to parents who did not place orders. These proof cards will feature a watermarked proof image along with the codes to order prints online. At that point, prices will be slightly higher, and orders will be shipped directly to families' homes rather than to the school.

Attendance Procedures for 2022-2023 – clarification

At this week's Class Meetings, we provided information about changes to our attendance procedures, and we have received a few requests for clarification since then. To help make sure that everyone understands the updated attendance expectations, it helps to understand how changes in the state's attendance rules have affected our policies for this year, so here is a quick summary of them: Last year the state Department of Education changed its rules regarding attendance and chronic absenteeism, which forced us to update our local attendance policy. The updated attendance policy reduced the number of categories for types of absences. We are including a link to the whole Amity BOE attendance policy here for details. The first two pages address the new categories for attendance and the types of documentation that we can accept for them (much of this is copied verbatim from the state

regulations):

https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1636556409/amityregion5org/qjwsqgzavrctvhzhds8n/students_5000_5113_2_Attendance.pdf

The most important things to know about the updated policy are:

- The state rules, and now our local policies, separate all absences into two basic categories: absences parents were aware of and informed the school about and absences where students miss school without parent permission.
- The first nine absences from school in a year can be “excused” by a parent if they send in a note. They can include the reason for the absence, but it is not required.
- Absence 10 and beyond need to meet certain state criteria for a student to not be considered “chronically absent” by the state, and we may need more documentation than just a parent note for some types of absences. Being quarantined for Covid would certainly count as one of the criteria that would justify additional absences, and we will still be tracking Covid cases among our students, so we will know whether that is the driving reason for a student's high number of absences. Other circumstances such as a chronic health condition or an exceptional learning opportunity that the school is aware of and that caused time away from school would also count for this.
- Loss of credit for a course due to excessive absences occurs at 16 absences for full-year courses and 8 absences for half-year courses, so if a student is attending school regularly this is not likely to become an issue.

Senior Happenings

- **Senior Parent Night** will be held on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:30 PM. School counselors will be reviewing the steps for the college application process.
- **Senior Portrait Sessions:** Robert Taylor Photography has extended the window for senior portrait sessions and added additional dates to their calendar. They are open nights and weekends to accommodate students’ schedules. Those seniors who have not already been photographed should book an appointment via [SignUpGenius](#) before the end of September. For more details on the process, students should consult the [explanatory letter](#) they received in June.

Important Start-of-the-Year Reminders

- **Covid Reporting Procedures:** If your child tests positive for Covid, please contact the school’s Health Office and report this to the school nurses. They will help you determine the length of your child’s quarantine and their return-to-school date.
- **School Lunch Updates for 2022-2023:** During the transition back to normal school operations in school year 2022-23, **Amity Regional School District No. 5** has opted into the School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) funds providing meals (lunch at the middle schools and both breakfast and lunch at the high school) at no cost for all students from the beginning of the school year until the end of December 2022. The district will notify parents and guardians of the date when students who are not directly certified or have no approved application on file will be expected to pay for their meals. Online applications for free and reduced-price meal benefits and instructions can be found at www.amityregion5.org, under your child’s school website, Parent Tab, Link/Resources Tab, Free/Reduced Meal Information. Children may receive

free or reduced-price meals if your household's income falls at or below the limits of the Federal Income Eligibility Guidelines, which can be found following the above link and clicking FAQ. A paper copy of the application can also be found following the above link or in the school's main office. Use one Free and Reduced-price School Meals Application for all students in your household.

Notes from the Counseling Department

- **Community Service:** Amity High School offers a community service graduation incentive for all students. Students who complete and document 100 hours of community service hours over the course of their 4 years at Amity High School will receive a certificate of recognition and an honor cord on the day of their graduation. If you are interested in volunteering throughout the school year, please stop by the Career Center to see a variety of volunteer opportunities posted on our community service bulletin board or visit our school website [here](#). Copies of blank community service forms are available [here](#). If you have any questions regarding community service, please email Paula Vallie at paula.vallie@amityregion5.org.
- **College & Career Center is now open!** Your College & Career Center is ready to assist students with making their post-high school plans. Feel free to stop by or visit [our website here](#) OR check out our brief [intro video here](#).
- **College Representatives will begin visiting ARHS soon!** We are happy to announce many college representatives will be visiting ARHS in-person **starting Monday, September 12th**. Juniors and seniors may register for college visits by signing into NAVIANCE and following these instructions:
 - Click on COLLEGES - RESEARCH COLLEGES - COLLEGE VISITS
 - Scroll through the listing of colleges (sorted by date and time)
 - REGISTER for those visits you want to attend.
- **See a list of [upcoming week's visit listing HERE](#). This year we will limit each student to no more than 8 visits.** If you cannot attend a visit, updated notes will be posted on Naviance. For questions, please contact the [ARHS College & Career Center](#) at 203-397-4836 or email paula.vallie@amityregion5.org.
- **The ASVAB Test** will be given at Amity High School on Tuesday, October 19, 2022, at 7:30 am in the Lecture Hall (room 138). Any student in grades 10, 11 or 12 is welcome to take the test. All ASVAB Career Exploration Program tests will be offered through an online format. **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 (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) test does not obligate students to enlist! Please find more information about the ASVAB [here](#).
- **Attention Seniors!** This year's ARHS [50 top colleges](#) list has been updated. These are the most applied to colleges from 2018 through 2022. We have also included ARHS acceptance rates for each school on the list.

Athletics

- **The Amity HS Athletic Booster Club** is a parent run organization that prides itself with supporting the athletes and coaches. The support we give through volunteering and fundraising help contribute towards equipment needs and scholarships, to just name a few. We would love

for you to join us! You will hear about our upcoming events and can share any ideas you have with us. Membership sign-ups will begin next week. Be on the lookout for our online sign up. Please like and follow us on Facebook at Amity HS Athletics Booster Club for complete update to date info and upcoming events. Good luck to all of our Fall athletes. May you work hard and do your best. Show your Spartans Spirit!

Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) Information

- **Join the PTSO:** Support your student(s) and the school by joining the PTSO today! To join, please complete our membership form [here](#).
- **Attend our monthly meetings:** Our first meeting of the year will take place on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00pm in the school library media center. We hope to see you there! For a complete list of our meeting dates, click [here](#).
- **Donations through Amazon Smile:** Support us every time you shop, at no cost to you, by visiting [this site](#) and selecting Amity High School PTSO Inc as the charity of your choice.
- **Volunteers needed:** If you are interested in helping with activities and events throughout the school year, please send an email to arhsptso@gmail.com.

[unsubscribe](#)

