

ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER, January 20, 2023



It sometimes feels like the school year just started, but this was our Midterm Exam week, and next Monday is the start of Second Semester. That makes this a great time to have a conversation with your children about their goals and hopes for the school year. Those conversations will be as unique as each of your kids, but here are a few ideas to start with: *What have they accomplished so far this year? What are they most proud of in Semester 1? What do they still want to improve in Semester 2? How will they focus on that, and what support do they need from you or from the school to get there?*

Please also remind your children to check their Semester 2 schedules in PowerSchool this weekend to make sure they are aware of any classes or study halls that will be changing and to ensure that they know where each of them is located. A prepared start to the semester is a successful start!

The Lunar New Year is this Sunday, and for all of our community members who celebrate the holiday, 新年快乐!

Go Spartans!

Andre Hauser

Principal

Amity Happenings and Information

- **Amity 2D & 3D Student Art Show:** The ARHS Art Department will be displaying our talented Advanced Placement art students' work at the Painted Path Art Gallery on 10 Selden St. in Woodbridge from 5:00 – 8:00 pm every Thursday – Saturday from Jan. 27 through Feb. 16. The

show opening and reception will be from 6:00 – 8:00 pm on Friday, Jan. 27, and we hope to see you there!

- **Class of 2025 Bottle & Can Collection:** Please help support the Amity High School Class of 2025 by dropping off your bottles and cans on Saturday January 21, between the hours of 10:00AM and 1:00PM. Students will be in the bus loop in front of the high school to greet you with a smile and a pleasant "thank you for your support."
- **Virtual Keynote Speaker: Parent Primer on Fentanyl, Edibles, and Vaping:** The substance-use issues that our kids are navigating are much more complex than they used to be. To help parents stay informed and aware of current trends, Region 5 is partnering with BOWDAAC and the Orange and Woodbridge Youth Service departments to host a parent webinar addressing these important topics at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 25. This presentation will be useful for parents of all ages, and you can register for it at this link: [Register Here](#). More information about the program is available in the attached flyer.
- **Diversity In Action Club community potluck dinner:** Celebrate the new year and meet new people at the BOW Community Potluck on Wednesday, February 1st! This potluck is meant to showcase all the great service and diversity work done at the high school. The event is open to all BOW residents. To participate in the event, please fill out this [RSVP form](#) and check out [the flier](#) for the event.
- **Lunar New Year Celebration:** The National Chinese Honor Society and the Chinese Club of Amity Regional High School will host a Lunar New Year celebration at the high school cafe on Friday, February 10, from 6 pm to 10 pm. Besides the delicious Chinese food, there will be many fun activities for kids and adults at the event everyone will enjoy. Activities include crafts, riddles, Ping-Pong tournaments, performances from Wudang Academy and from Amity High School students, and much more. Many thanks to local Chinese restaurants and small businesses that sponsored this event. [Here](#) is the event flyer.

College and Career of the Week

The [Ohio State University](#) is a public university system with multiple [locations](#) all over the state. [Founded in 1870](#), the main campus is in Columbus, Ohio and [enrolls approximately](#) 60,000 students; 46,000 are undergraduates. Over 200 [majors](#) are offered within 18 colleges and schools. Since the [campus is just outside the city](#), students can take advantage of all the cultural and natural resources in the area. Students are encouraged to participate in [clubs, organizations](#) and [recreational sports](#). There are also 37 NCAA-D1 [athletic teams](#) that compete in the [Big Ten Conference](#). Annual [tuition, room, and board](#) for out of state students is approximately \$51,000 (2022-2023). For more information, check out OSU's [admissions office](#) website, read their [quick facts](#) or take a [virtual tour here](#). Lastly, check out the OSU Buckeye [Marching Band](#) (one of the top in the USA).

"[Heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics](#) (HVAC) and installers work on heating, ventilation, cooling, and refrigeration systems" (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021). [HVAC mechanics](#) work in homes and businesses, sometimes after regular hours to accommodate their customers' needs. HVAC mechanics may attend trade schools and/or become apprentices in order to become [certified HVAC Technicians](#) (must also be licensed in CT). The national average annual salary is \$48,630 with *average job growth expected (5%)* through 2031 (BLS, 2021). However, the average annual salary in CT is [higher at \\$65,540](#) and more job openings are expected to become available due to retirements and general attrition. To learn more, please visit the following websites: [North American Technician Excellence](#), the [Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute](#), and the [Air Conditioning Contractors of America](#).

Some trade schools/programs that offer HVAC training include:

[CT Apprenticeship program
Bristol Technical Education Center](#)

[Industrial Management & Training Institute
Porter & Chester Institute](#)

or visit the HVAC Tech's table during TRADES WEEK to learn more.

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. Additional merit based and need based scholarships may be available by checking our school website [here](#). If you need help navigating scholarships and/or need help with the process of applying, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.
- For those who missed the **UELPSIP Parent Info Session** on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, [click here for a copy](#) of the slideshow presentation. Parents/guardians are also encouraged to check your email for more details about these programs.
- Seniors! Please read the email sent to you on January 20th. You will find instructions on how to register for a mandatory UELPSIP workshop.

Counseling Department Happenings

- **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - The Counseling Department will be offering a webinar presented by Ferne Bork of Landmark College titled, **Navigating the College Search for Students Who Learn Differently**. The date is THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023, at 6:30pm and the webinar link will be made available soon.
- **U.S. NAVY VISIT**- A representative from the United States Navy will be visiting Amity High School during all lunch waves on Monday, January 23, from 10:30am to 12:30pm. This visit will be set up outside of the cafeteria to chat with interested students.

Career Center Information

- Applications are now open for the [Connecticut Youth Leadership Project, Inc. \(CT-YLP\)](#) - 2023 CT Youth Leadership Forum (YLF), scheduled for July 31 – August 3, 2023 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. This program is only for special education students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan). The application is available on the [CT-YLP Student Applications webpage](#). The deadline for the application is February 20, 2023. Questions can be directed to Stephanie Barksdale, Executive Director, by phone at 860-689-6868 or by email at execdir@ctylp.org. All information in your application is strictly confidential and will only be shared with members of the YLF Selection Committee.
- **Coming Soon! TRADES WEEK EVENT-Feb.13-17th!** Trades week will be an engaging week-long event designed to foster, promote, and learn about careers in the skilled trade fields. All grades' levels will have the opportunity to meet with over 20 different skilled trades, who will share their pathways and experiences in their industry. A list of trades attending and more information to follow!

Amity HS Athletics Booster Club

- Still not a member? Membership signups are going on now! Help us to support ALL athletes by becoming a member today! Join here:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxdB1gAEQ-ukKACc3cB76EgXfC3rAxeuQYtZZ7gZfawF8AFg/viewform>
- LOOKING FOR TEAM LIASIONS! Would you like to help spread the word about the ATHLETICS BOOSTER CLUB? If you are interested, please contact Carrie at goamityspartans@gmail.com. We would love to share our vision with the Amity High School Community. Help us to spread the Amity Spirit! 🟡❤️
- Currently, we are still collecting gently used and new SNEAKERS and nonmetal cleats only. All Adult and children's sneakers are accepted. The drop off collection box is in the front hallway at the high school. Or you can email goamityspartans@gmail.com to arrange another pick up location. The collected sneakers will either be recycled for materials or reused. Thank you for supporting our athletic teams! For more fundraising drive information, visit <https://gotsneakers.com/>
- Available now! Amity "A" decal stickers. Get them while you can. The "A" decal measures 2.5" by 4" for \$5.00 each. Email goamityspartans@gmail.com to order. Cash or PayPal payments accepted. We will drop off to you or arrange a pickup at the high school. Catch the Spartans Spirit! 🟡❤️
- SENIORS! The Booster Club recognizes graduating seniors who will pursue a career in any sports related field. We award several scholarships based on character, focus, determination, and ability. Preference is given to Booster Club members.

Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) Information

- **Our Work:** Thanks to your contributions, the PTSO is able to meet its goal of supporting the school and helping build a community for our students and families. Here are some ways we fulfilled our goal in December:
 - **Community Support:** The PTSO adopted 3 families within the Amity community for the holidays. With the help of the counseling department, we purchased items for each family member as well as gift cards to several stores.
 - **Club Support:** The PTSO was happy to support the Latin and Spanish National Honor Societies and the Junior State of America Club.
 - The Latin and Spanish National Honor Societies needed help to purchase items for the annual winter wonderland at the Fair Haven School in New Haven. For the past 18 years, the Honor Societies have supported this school's food bank on Thanksgiving, participated in their annual winter wonderland, tutored students, and brought fun activities for the entire 2nd grade.
 - The Junior State of America Club asked for help to defray their costs to attend the winter convention in Washington, D.C. The club has done a great job to fundraise but needed additional financial assistance.
- **Support Us!** Help the PTSO and your student by joining us today! To access our membership form, please open amityptso.org in a new browser, click on Membership, and then Click Here to join! PTSO membership must be renewed every year.
- **Donate through Amazon Smile:** Donate to the PTSO 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.

- **Monthly Meetings:** Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, February 16 at 7pm in the media center. For a list of our remaining meeting dates, visit our website amityptso.org and click on Meeting Info.
- **Join our Facebook Group:** Be a part of our virtual community by visiting [this page](#) and answering the security questions required to gain access.

Community Happenings

- **New Plans for the Old Woodbridge Firehouse** will be presented on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7:00 pm at an informational forum at which plans for conversion of the old firehouse to a new community and cultural center. It will be held in the Friends Meeting Room in the Woodbridge Library. Woodbridge residents, including students, are encouraged to attend to learn more about the proposed plan, ask questions, and provide feedback. Anyone seeking more information should contact Gerry Shaw at gshaw@woodbridgect.org or 203-389-3401.
- **Woodbridge Youth Services News:** Call 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org for information or to sign up for programs.
 - *Sign up for Youth Services Notifications:* <https://www.woodbridgect.org/list.aspx>
 - *See Youth Services' Website:* <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>
 - *Follow us on Facebook:* <https://facebook.com/WoodbridgeYouthServices.CT>
- **Woodbridge Job Bank Seeks Teens Willing to Work:** Woodbridge teens who are interested in joining the Job Bank to learn some new skills and make some cash, please contact 203-389-3429 or email npfund@woodbridgect.org to apply and set up your interview. Parent permission is required. Forms available at <https://www.woodbridgect.org/160/Youth-Services>
- **Mental Health First Aid Trainings Available:** BRIDGES of Milford is providing Mental Health Adult and Youth First Aid Trainings. Everyone can benefit from this experience. To view dates and register see website: <https://bit.ly/trainings-MHFA>
- **Free Covid Vaccination Clinic** - New Updated Booster! TUESDAY, JANUARY 31ST – 1pm-6pm – Center Gymnasium, 4 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge. No Appointment Needed. Ages 6 months & Older. Please bring a health insurance card and photo ID if you have them, but it is not necessary to have health insurance or ID to receive the vaccine. No one will be turned away for lack of insurance or ID.
- **Hello from BOWDAAC!** BOWDAAC is the Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee. We are a dedicated committee of volunteers, community leaders and concerned citizens from Bethany, Orange, & Woodbridge whose mission is to reduce underage drinking and substance misuse by promoting awareness through educational programs and outreach, working in collaboration with our schools, other community organizations, businesses, and local government agencies. We are also always promoting positive mental health for our youth. All are welcome to join our monthly meetings – 1st Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm via Zoom. Connect with us!!!! Email: info.bowdaac@gmail.com Website: www.bowdaac.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/bowdaac Instagram: @bow.daac

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