

## ARHS COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER, February 24, 2023



This was a short week, and we hope you all enjoyed the winter break that preceded it. We are looking forward to a full week of school again next week, and until then, we hope you all have a great weekend.

***Go Spartans!***

**Andre Hauser**

**Principal**

### Amity Happenings and Information

- **Free Lunch Returns March 1:** Amity Regional School District No. 5 has opted into the School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) funds program provided by the State of Connecticut. This program provides meals (lunch at all schools and breakfast at the high school only) at no cost for all students beginning March 1, 2023, and will continue to the end of the school year. The SMART Funds for free meals at no cost program applies to one lunch and one breakfast (breakfast at the high school only) for each student. Students who have a negative balance in their school lunch account will not be able to purchase second meals or a la carte items until that balance has been paid in full and they have funds available in their account. If you have other questions, contact Kathy Kovalik at [kathleen.kovalik@amityregion5.org](mailto:kathleen.kovalik@amityregion5.org), or at Amity Regional School District No. 5, District Office, 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 or call 203-397-4801.
- **Virtual Keynote: Making Your Digital Footprint Work For You:** Please join this informative webinar by Dr. Tracy Bennett on Wednesday, March 15, 2023, at 6:30 pm. You must register in advance to receive information about joining the webinar. Please [Register Here](#). Dr. Bennett is a licensed clinical psychologist and screen safety expert who teaches families how to strengthen relationships AND achieve screen sanity. She is founder and CEO of GetKidsInternetSafe ([GKIS](#))

and author of *Screen Time in the Mean Time: A Parenting Guide to Get Kids and Teens Internet Safe*. She has been in private practice for over 25 years and is an Adjunct Faculty at California State University Channel Islands.

- **Whale Watching on Cape Cod Overnight Field Trip:** It's time to get out and explore! Join the Whale Watch Expedition on Cape Cod and experience Boston in April with the Marine Biology Club. This Overnight field trip will explore the Cape Cod National Seashore, complete a Whale Watch with Dolphin fleet in Provincetown, MA and visit both the New England Aquarium and the Boston Science Center. Come visit the science hallway to see photos of the program, pick up a flier or scan the QR code for more information. Stop by Room 271 after school Feb. 14, Feb. 16 or Feb. 23 for a short presentation. For more information, see Mrs. Cournoyer in room 271, Mrs. Best in room 272 or Mrs. Nevolis in room 274.
- **Zumba Night Fundraiser:** Hello Amity community! Come to the annual National Spanish Honor Society's Zumba Night Fundraiser for an evening full of dancing and fun! You'll be in the company of a professional Zumba instructor, and snacks will also be provided at no additional charge. The event will be held in the Amity High School cafeteria on Friday, March 3rd, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, and there will be an entry fee of \$8.
- **Bethany Library Art Exhibit:** The 7-12 art teachers are proud to present a collection of work being exhibited at the Clark Memorial Library in Bethany. The show will stay up through mid-March. There will be an opening reception from 4:00-5:30 on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- **A Message from the Music Department:** Course selection is starting, and we hope that you will consider continuing your musical journey with us at the High School. Please take a moment to look at what we offer and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us! [Click this link](#) to see highlights and information about our performing arts offerings.

### College and Career of the Week

[Xavier University of Louisiana](#) (XULA) is the only [HBCU](#) (historically black college or university) and Catholic university in the United States. [Founded in 1915](#), XULA currently ranks #5 out of all HBCUs ([US News & World Report](#)). Approximately 3,400 students attend XULA, choosing from over [50 majors](#) and programs. Campus life is active with many [clubs and organizations](#) to choose from. There are [14 varsity athletic teams](#) ([Red River Athletic Conference-NAIA](#)) on campus, as well as [recreational and club](#) sports available. Annual [tuition, room and board](#) is approximately \$40,000 (2021-2022). For more information, visit XULA's [admissions website](#), read their [facts and figures](#) or take a [virtual tour here](#).

“[Chefs and head cooks](#) oversee the daily food preparation at restaurants and other places where food is served” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021). [Chefs and head cooks](#) work in many different environments and during all shifts and days of the week. While many attend culinary programs, most chefs train on the job over years of experience. The national average annual salary is \$50,160 with *much faster than average job growth expected (15%)* through 2031 (BLS, 2021). To learn more, please visit the following websites: the [American Culinary Federation](#), the [American Institute of Wine and Food](#), and the [National Restaurant Association](#).

*Some trade schools/programs that offer culinary training include:*

[CT Apprenticeship program](#)  
[Gateway Community College](#)

[Naugatuck Valley Comm Coll](#)  
[Bristol Technical Educ Ctr](#)

[Lincoln Technical School](#)  
[Culinary Inst of America](#)

## Counseling Department Happenings

- **HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS - APPLICATION PORTAL OPENS FEBRUARY 1st - The West Point Summer Leader Experience (SLE)** provides rising high school seniors with a week-long immersion into the academic, military, and social life of a cadet. At SLE, you will explore West Point from all angles, including our high-tech educational facilities, team building athletic activities, and realistic military training. You will get a taste of Cadet Life through the entire program, which is led by current West Point cadets. Learn more: [Attend our FB Live SLE Information Brief](#), [Check out some highlights from SLE 2022](#), and [Take a look at our SLE Website](#). Sign up for SLE: First Step Candidate Questionnaire [here](#).
- **The ASVAB Test** will be given at Amity High School **on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 7:30 am** in the Presentation Room (next to the cafeteria). 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 for the test by clicking 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](#).
- **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 emailed to all families by Tuesday, February 28, 2023.**

## Senior Happenings

- **Attention Seniors! Scholarship Season has begun!** Please check our school website [here](#) for some local scholarships. Other resources include Naviance and a free and safe scholarship database called [Fastweb](#). If you need help navigating, please see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center.



## Summer Opportunities

- **FBI New Haven Future Law Enforcement Summer Youth Academy** is now open to **16- to 18-year-old high school students. The academy will be held at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut from July 16, 2023, to July 22, 2023.** Professional behavior and appropriate dress will be required of all students attending this program. The program is not exclusive to students interested in criminal justice. Due to the vast diversity in our workforce, any student with an interest in the FBI, what we do and how a relationship with the FBI can help their school is encouraged to apply. All students will be evaluated based on their application (GPA, school activities and community involvement) and essay to determine which students will be offered a seat in the class. None of the above elements will be the sole basis of evaluation of an application and the application process should be taken seriously by all applicants. This application and supporting essay must be received by email **no later than Friday, March 31, 2023**, for panel review. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted because of security policies. Incomplete and late applications will not be accepted. To submit an application, please email [FLEYAprogram@fbi.gov](mailto:FLEYAprogram@fbi.gov) or find an application and instructions [here](#).
- **The American Legion Department of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Police** are pleased to announce the 2023 applications are now available for the **State Police Youth Week** this

summer from **July 9-14, 2023**. **This program is for students completing their junior year in high school.** Youth week is modeled after State Police recruit training and provides students with a unique opportunity to gain insight into the training, duties, and expectations of Connecticut State Troopers. Form information please [click here](#) or contact the American Legion Department HQ or your local American Legion Post. **Applications are due by June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.** For questions, please contact their office at 860-436-9986 or [admin@ctlegion.org](mailto:admin@ctlegion.org).

- **Interested in traveling the globe while earning a salary? Work on US Navy bases around the world!** [Operation HomePort](#) (OHP) provides opportunities to gain invaluable hands-on experience working with children and youth participating in Navy Children & Youth Programs (CYP) Child Development Centers (CDC), School Age Care (SAC), and Teen programs. OHP interns engage in planning and leading developmentally appropriate activities, facilitate and participate in planned activities, supervise, and account for the whereabouts of children and youth, and support and facilitate positive, respectful relationships between children, youth, parents, and CYP professionals.

### **Amity HS Athletics Booster Club**

- Still not a member? You can still join! Help us to support ALL athletes by becoming a member today! Join here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxdB1gAEQ-ukKACc3cB76EgXfC3rAxeuQYtZZ7gZfawF8AFg/viewform>
- 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](mailto: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**

- **Support Us!** Help the PTSO and your student by joining us today! To access our membership form, please open [amityptso.org](http://amityptso.org) in a new browser, click on Membership, and then Click Here to join! PTSO membership must be renewed every year.
- **Join our Facebook Group:** Be a part of our virtual community by visiting [this page](#) and answering the security questions required to gain access.
- **Monthly Meetings:** Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, March 16 at 7pm in the media center. For a full list of our meeting dates, visit our website [amityptso.org](http://amityptso.org) and click on Meeting Info.

### **Community Happenings**

- **BOWDAAC – Bethany, Orange, Woodbridge Drug/Alcohol Action Committee:** Do you have unused, unwanted, expired medications you want to dispose of safely? Mark your calendars! The DEA's National Drug Take Back Day will be held on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00am-2:00pm at High Plains Community Center, 525 Orange Center Road in Orange. All

unused/unwanted/expired medications will be taken (including liquids, sharps, and pet medications). Volunteers from the National Pharmacy Association will be on site to answer any questions, along with the Orange Police Department and CERT.

