

## ARHS Community Happenings Newsletter, September 1, 2023

The first week of school has just ended, and it has been great to see all our Spartan students again after a summer away. Amity is off to a strong start to the 2023-2024 school year: the first two days of the week featured a mix of classes and activities including class meetings, an introduction to the Portrait of the Graduate, distribution of student laptops, and a pep rally to end the day on Tuesday. Since then, regular classes have resumed, and our new 9<sup>th</sup> graders are quickly acclimating and finding their way around the school. And on the opposite end of high school, our Seniors have been busy painting their parking spots, and we have more time set aside on Saturday from 9:00 – 12:00 for any Seniors who still have more painting to do.

Please join us for one or both of our Back To School Nights on Thursday, Sept. 7 (for Grades 9 & 12), and Wednesday, Sept. 13 (for Grades 10 & 11). After a brief greeting in the Brady Center auditorium, you will have an opportunity to follow a shortened version of your child's schedule and to learn about a variety of helpful topics in information sessions conducted by members of the Amity faculty. A schedule for the Back To School Nights is attached to this week's Happenings newsletter. These evenings are great opportunities to meet your child's teachers and to learn more about what is going on at Amity, and we hope to see you all there!

***Go Spartans!***

**Andre Hauser**

**Principal**

### **Amity Happenings and Information**

- **E-Hallpass Information for Parents:** This year Amity Region 5 replaced the Swipe electronic pass system we had been using with E-Hallpass, a more efficient and useful electronic pass system. As with any new system, our faculty and students are in the process of learning to use it efficiently, and when we are all used to it we expect it to greatly reduce interruptions to teaching and make it easier for students to manage their schedules. Please read the attached FAQ sheet for answers to the questions we have received about it and watch this brief video for an overview of the program: <https://vimeo.com/694093156>
- **Amity Region 5 Bus Protocols:** Please see the attached bus protocols for information regarding how to address any concerns or questions you may have regarding bus transportation to and from school.
- **Schoology Information for Parents:** Amity Region 5 has transitioned to Schoology as our learning management platform this year. Schoology is like Google Classroom, but with the ability to integrate with PowerSchool. This year all teachers will operate the 1:1 learning

environment through Schoology. Here are some links some links to videos that may be helpful in navigating this new tool. We will also have resources available at Back-to-School Nights.

- If you are not familiar with how to navigate Schoology, please watch this brief instructional video from Schoology for parents:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= RIZNKJFb-8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIZNKJFb-8)
- Schoology app (optional). If you are interested in the Schoology app, [click here for Android directions](#) or [click here for iOS directions](#). **In both directions, parents/guardians will need to use *Option 2 - Sign in with my Account* or *Sign in with Schoology*** (depending on your mobile app). Only students choose the first option, ***sign in through my school***.
- There are many notification options, [click here to learn more](#).
- [Click here for the full Schoology Parent Help Website](#).

### College and Career of the Week

- *Welcome back to the 2023-2024 school year! This year, the “College of the Week” column will focus on **one public college or university from each state**. We hope to encourage students to research colleges in other states as well as in Connecticut.*
- This week’s College of the Week is not one but all five of Connecticut’s public universities - UCONN, Central CT State, Eastern CT State, Southern CT State and Western CT State. While Connecticut is a small state, we are very fortunate to have five affordable universities to choose from. Check out [the comparison chart HERE](#) and follow the links to learn more about each school.
- [“Registered nurses \(RNs\)](#) provide and coordinate patient care and educate patients and the public about various health conditions” (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021). In order to become employed, [Registered nurses](#) must graduate from an accredited nursing program at a college, university or nursing school and pass a national certification exam called the [NCLEX](#). Nurses must also obtain state licensure in each [individual state](#). Many nurses choose to specialize in a specific area of practice such as pediatrics (with children) or oncology (cancer patients). The median salary for nurses is \$77,600 (national average) per year and the profession is expected to have **average growth at 6% through 2031** (BLS, 2021). For more information, please visit the [Registered Nurses Professional Association](#), the [American Society of Registered Nurses, nurse.org](#) OR the [Emergency Nurses Association](#).

*Some schools with programs in nursing include:*

Southern CT State	Univ of Connecticut	Western CT State
Central CT State	Fairfield University	Sacred Heart Univ
UMASS (all 4 campuses)	Fitchburg State Univ	Northeastern Univ
Quinnipiac University	Boston College	SUNY/Stony Brook
Gateway CC	Univ of Rochester	Naugatuck Valley CC

*or search in Naviance for more choices!*

### Notes from the Counseling Department

- **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](#).
- **50 TOP SCHOOLS** - Once again, the College and Career Center at Amity HS has published our list of "[50 Top Colleges](#)". These are the most applied to (most popular) schools with our past seniors. This list was compiled with data from seniors' applications from the classes of 2019 through 2023.
- **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](#). For questions, please email Paula Vallie at [paula.vallie@amityregion5.org](mailto:paula.vallie@amityregion5.org).
- **College Representatives coming to Amity starting Sept. 11th!** Seniors and Juniors can register for college visits by signing into NAVIANCE and clicking on the College tab. REGISTER for those colleges you are interested in meeting. See a list of [upcoming week's visit listing HERE](#). ***This year we will limit each student to no more than 8 visits.*** For questions, please email Paula Vallie at [paula.vallie@amityregion5.org](mailto:paula.vallie@amityregion5.org).
- **Seniors & Juniors Mark, Your Calendars:** The **Southern Connecticut College & Gap Year Fair** will be held on **Wednesday, Sept. 27th from 4:30-7:30pm** at the **Hartford Healthcare Amphitheatre, 500 Broad Street, Bridgeport**. This fair is free and is open to all high school students in New Haven and Fairfield County. Students and parents will have the ability to meet admissions counselors and representatives from colleges, universities, and businesses from Connecticut, across the country and internationally. For more information, please visit [here](#).
- **The ASVAB Test** will be given at Amity High School on **Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 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](#).
- **Lentz and Lentz are offering an SAT class at Amity** - see the attached flyer for details. \*Please note that Amity does not endorse any particular company for SAT prep, but in light of the district no longer offering Adult Education classes, we want to share this information with families who might be interested.
- **Senior Parent Night** will be held on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30 PM in the Brady Center. School counselors will be reviewing the steps for the college application process.
- **Financial Aid Night** will be held on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Brady Center. Colleen Mulrooney, Director, Student Financial Assistance at Sacred Heart University will be presenting. While the program is geared to parents of the Class of 2024, anyone is welcome to attend.

[Back to School Night 23-24.pdf](#)

[E-Hallpass FAQ.pdf](#)

[Amity Region 5 Bus Protocols.pdf](#)

[SAT Prep Fall 23.pdf](#)

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