

ARHS Community Happenings Newsletter, March 8, 2024

Highlights from the week at Amity:

- Several of our winter sports teams ended their seasons with competition in state tournaments in the last two weeks, and our Boys Hockey team is still in their state tournament with a game this evening. Good luck to our Spartan hockey scholar-athletes!
- The annual Bethany 7-12 Art Exhibition was installed last Friday, and their opening reception was this Tuesday. This exhibition highlights works from our 7-12 graders in all different media, and exhibition will be on display until April 4th. Please make the time to stop by and see the tremendous artwork by our students.
- Earlier today the ARHS Library-Media Center hosted yet another guest speaker, accomplished journalist, and scholar Rhonda Roumani. Ms. Roumani is a Syrian American journalist who has written about Islam, the Arab world, and Muslim-American issues for more than two decades. She is a Contributing Fellow at the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at USC and an affiliate of Yale's MacMillan Center, Council on Middle East Studies. In 2021, she was selected as a Highlights Foundation Muslim Storyteller Fellow. She is the author of an upper middle grade book *Tagging Freedom*, which was chosen as both an Indies Introduce and a kids' Indie Next selection by the American Booksellers Association. Her first picture book, *Insha'Allah, No, Maybe So*, will be released in May of 2024 and has been named a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. She also has an upcoming non-fiction picture book, *Umm Kulthum: Star of the East*, which will be released in 2025.
- The Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins at sundown on Sunday, March 10. For all those in our community who observe the month, we wish you "Ramadan Mubarak!"

Go Spartans!

Andre Hauser

Principal

Amity Happenings and Information

- Scholarship Information for Seniors: Earlier today the ARHS Counseling Department sent an email to Seniors and their parents/guardians with information on how to apply for local scholarships. Every year, we are able to select recipients for

scholarships supported by members of the Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge communities, and approximately 100 scholarships are given to members of the senior class who demonstrate the attributes and characteristics described in each scholarship. The deadline for all applications here is March 24th at 8:00 PM, so if you are the parent/guardian of a Senior, please make sure they submit their scholarship application on time!

- **Ray Heenie Box of Socks Fundraiser:** March 5, 2024, marks the three-year anniversary of the death of beloved AMSO student Ray Heenie. Ray was very interested in helping others. He was known for literally giving the shirt off his back to those in need. We chose to honor him with an annual fundraiser called "Ray's Box of Sox." Within the three Amity schools and Racebrook School in Orange, we collected new socks and donated them to local homeless shelters. This is something that Ray would certainly support. Last year, we were able to collect over 1000 pairs of socks that were distributed to four local shelters who were extremely grateful. This month, we will continue the work we started in Ray's honor. "Box of Sox" collection boxes will be in our school until Friday March 29th. Please consider honoring Ray's memory by doing good for someone else. This small gesture can have a big impact. Thank you in advance for your support and please spread the word!

College and Career of the Week

[Founded in 1855](#), the [Pennsylvania State University system](#) is made up of [24 campuses](#) located across the state. The most popular "Penn State" (PSU/UP) campus is known as "[University Park](#)" and is the flagship branch. University Park is located in [State College, Pennsylvania](#), which is approximately 315 miles from the BOWA area. Over 47,000 undergraduate students are currently enrolled at PSU/UP alone, and choose from [275 majors/programs](#) within its [12 colleges and schools](#). Because all first year students are required to live on campus, there are a multitude of offerings to keep everyone happy. Check out the [clubs & organizations](#), social events, [recreational sports](#), and D1 sports contests to attend. There are [29 NCAA-D1 athletic teams](#) sponsored by the "[Nittany Lions](#)" who compete in the [Big Ten Conference](#). Estimated [annual tuition, room and board for out-of-state students](#) is \$52,610.00 (2023-2024). For more information, check out PSU/UP's [admissions website](#), learn more about their [excellent student services](#) or take a [virtual tour here](#).

"[Environmental scientists](#) and specialists use their knowledge of the natural sciences to protect the environment and human health", (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022). [Environmental scientists](#) and specialists work to identify hazards in our environment and create solutions for them. A bachelor's degree is usually required for entry level positions in the field. The average annual salary is \$76,480 with faster than average job growth expected (6%) through 2032 (BLS, 2022). To learn more, please visit the following websites: the [National Association of Environmental Professionals](#), [National Environmental Health Association](#) and the [North American Association for Environmental Education](#).

Some colleges that offer programs in environmental science include:

Penn State/Main Campus	University of Connecticut	Westfield State Univ (MA)
Worcester Polytech Inst	University of Vermont	Endicott College
University of New Haven	Rochester Inst of Tech	College of the Atlantic
Bryant University	UMAINE/Farmington	UMASS/Lowell
Trinity College	St John's University	Springfield College
Quinnipiac University	Univ of Rhode Island	Univ @ Albany/SUNY

or visit [NAVIANCE](#) to search for more choices!

Notes from the Counseling Department

- **Attention Sophomores:** Our annual **Career Day** event is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th. Career Day provides all 10th graders the opportunity to visit with guest speakers during an extended period 2. At our next Spartan Seminar on March 13th, sophomores will choose three of the 24 careers represented that they would like to learn about. On Career Day, sophomores will visit three 20-minute sessions where their chosen Career Day speakers will share information about their careers, discuss pathways to their profession and take questions from students. [Click here](#) to view this year's guest speakers.
- **Attention Juniors:** The Amity High School **Spring College Fair** will be held on Monday, April 29 from 6:30 - 8:00pm in our main gymnasium. Approximately 120 college representatives will be in attendance. This is a great way for students to meet many of the college admission decision-makers in an intimate and convenient way. The college fair is **FREE** for students and parents and this event is open to the public. A list of college/universities will be posted in the coming months.
- **Attention Seniors-Important UELP Info:** There are 2 weeks left to find a site for your internship. Contracts are due on March 22, 2024, by the end of the school day. For questions, please see Mrs. Cocco or Mrs. Vallie.
- **Understanding Your Financial Aid Package-** To learn more about understanding your financial aid offers, please find some valuable information [here](#).
- **The ASVAB Test** will be given at Amity High School on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 7:30am in the Career Center. 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](#).
- **Summer Employment-State of CT-**State of Connecticut Department of Developmental Services is currently hiring for the summer season. [This link](#) will take you to a complete list of all the seasonal positions.

- **Yale Dramatic Association's High School Acting Workshop** is offering an immersive program that will give you a look into the world of acting, no matter your level of experience. From improvisation to character building, you'll learn the fundamentals of acting. This is open to grades 9-12 grades. This program will run 5:30-6:30pm March 7th through April 25th (with exception of March 14th & March 21st). For dates and registration please click [here](#).
- **CT Aerotech in Hartford and the Stratford School for Aviation Maintenance Technicians in Stratford**, an extension campus of the Bristol Technical Educational Center, is offering an Open House on Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 9:00am to 12:00pm. This open house will take place at Brainard Airport in Hartford. For more information, please visit [here](#).
- **Naval Academy**-Summer Seminar offering an opportunity for **rising high school seniors** to experience the USNA for one week. Participants learn about life at the Academy, where academics, athletics, and professional training play equally important roles in developing our nation's future leaders. The Summer STEM Program is a great catalyst to initiate the pursuit of a future in science and engineering, open to **rising 9th graders, rising 10th graders, and rising 11th graders**. Summer STEM is an opportunity for participants to create, build, and explore world-class lab facilities, working alongside USNA's distinguished faculty and Midshipmen. Please see attached flyers for more details. **Applications for both the Naval Academy's Summer Seminar and Summer STEM program close on April 15th**. If you or your students have any questions regarding the Naval Academy Summer Program, please contact the Academy directly at (410) 293-1858 or go to their website at the USNA <https://www.usna.edu/Admissions/Programs/index.php>.

Parent-Teacher-Student Organization

- **Please Support Us!** Joining the PTSO does not require you to volunteer, it enables us to continue to support and fund events and special celebrations for our students, teachers, and school. To join the PTSO, please visit our website amityptso.org and under membership click on Click here to join!
- **Join our Facebook Group by** Be a part of our virtual community by visiting [this page](#) and answering the security questions required to gain access

Amity HS Athletics Booster Club

- **JOIN THE BOOSTER CLUB!** Join us in supporting and celebrating our athletes by becoming a member of the Athletics Booster Club. We are dedicated to promoting positive team spirit and recognizing all athletes in their endeavors. Visit our website and join here: <https://sites.google.com/amityschools.org/amityathleticsboosterclub/home>
- Join now through March 31 and receive a small Amity A decal sticker FREE!

- Visit our NEW Athletics Booster Club Sports Gear store! Click the link below to purchase your customized items today: blanchettesportinggoods.chipply.com
- Send us pictures of your athletes in action! In our efforts to promote and recognize our student athletes, we would like to share your photos on our FB page. Please email your photos to goamityspartans@gmail.com with a brief description. With your permission, we will post your images to our FB page. Let's recognize our student athletes for their outstanding dedication and drive!
- Amity A decal stickers are back! Email goamityspartans@gmail.com to order yours. 2 sizes available: large for \$5 each (4 inches wide by 2.5 inches high) and small (3 inches wide by 2 inches high) for \$3 each.

Community News

- **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://www.facebook.com/WoodbridgeYouthServices.CT>
- **First Selectman's Youth Award: Nominations Sought- First Selectman's Youth Award Nominations Requested-** If you know a Woodbridge youth (up to 18 years old) who has volunteered their time working to improve the Town of Woodbridge or its residents, consider nominating that deserving resident. Principals, teachers, fellow students, neighbors, group, and religious leaders, etc. are encouraged to make nominations. Parents or family members may not nominate a relative. Nominations are due to Youth Services by April 8. The winner will receive their award at a Volunteer Celebration this spring. The nomination form can be found on the Town Website at www.woodbridgect.org/472/Programs or call the office at 203-389-3429.
- **Red Cross Babysitter Training during Spring Recess-** 2 morning sessions-Call Youth Services for details.
- **Community Service Opportunities:**
 - Woodbridge Conservation Trust Second Sundays: Need assistance clearing trails for few hours on Sundays. Spend time outside with friends doing a service to your community.
 - Party Helpers- Friday, March 22, 2024, at Amity Middle School-Bethany-2:30 – 5:00 pm. Call Youth Services to help with food, games, tickets, etc. for 7th and 8th grade party.
- **Job Bank Seeks Woodbridge and Bethany Teens Who Want Paid Work:** The Job Bank guides teens ages 13-18 as they apply, interview, and earn money doing odd jobs for Woodbridge residents. Teens are needed now. Contact the Job Bank to schedule your interview. Jobs include snow shoveling, yard work, babysitting,

housework, animal care, tutoring and tech assistance. Residents may call 203-389-3429 to hire a student.

- **Suicide Prevention Virtual Trainings- QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer)**
 - Sponsored by Alliance for Prevention and Wellness-March 13, April 10, and May 8, 2024- 11 am to 12:30 pm-Learn to detect warning signs and offer hope to help save a life. Registration link: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)
- **Suicide Prevention & Support Resources**-presented by South Central Network of Care on Friday, March 15th, 10:00 am to noon via Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81377183085?pwd=MnEwYjZiVjg5eIRNTXJMTEhwQW9QQT09>

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