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First week reflections

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ARHS Happenings Newsletter



This week we kicked off the school year with our Link Crew Freshman Orientation and Spartan Stories Day. We began the day for 10th-12th graders with a brief homeroom where we viewed the [following](#) welcome-back-to-school slideshow to inspire students to “make it happen.” Students then heard from three Amity Regional High School graduates who represent so many of our core beliefs and have demonstrated grit and focus in achieving their dreams. The students also watched a documentary (which freshmen will be viewing later on in

the fall) called *Living on a Dollar a Day*. This film continued the theme of demonstrating our core values and the theme of making it happen. Throughout the rest of the school week we acclimated to classes, school schedules, the layout of the building, bus runs and extra-curricular activities. In Spartan Seminar on Tuesday, the students each received a picture of a symbol from the One Book/One Amity title *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* so as to inspire each student to reflect on the book in preparation for the English assessments and the Spartan Seminar activities that lie ahead. William Kamkwamba's conclusion to the book nicely summarizes the inspirational message we would like to convey for all of our students for the 2016-2017 school year: "Think of your dreams and ideas as tiny miracle machines inside you that no one can touch. The more faith you put into them, the bigger they get, until one they'll rise up and take you with them." We welcome another school year filled with challenge, opportunity and big dreams.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon
Principal

High School Happenings and Information

Core Beliefs, Mission Statement and Academic Learning Expectations: Over the past few years, faculty, students and representatives from the community have drafted, discussed, and voted on a Core Values, Mission Statement and Academic Learning Expectations document that will help guide our practice and be a formative aspect in the continuing development of our community and culture. The newly-adopted document can be found in each student's agenda pad and can also be found [here](#).

Senior Late Arrival/Early Dismissal: If your child is a senior with a first or last session study hall (on any letter day) he/she is eligible to sign up for the senior privilege of "late arrival" or "early dismissal." Seniors need to print out a copy of their schedules, circle the appropriate study hall periods, sign the form, have a parent or guardian sign the form and turn it in to their assigned administrator. Please note: this privilege can only be accommodated if a study hall falls at the beginning or end of a student's scheduled day.

Calling All Freshmen: Freshmen! Want to get involved in our school community? [Apply](#) for student government! Application deadline is September 23 at 2:18pm.

Star Testing Dates: The universal screening STAR test will be administered to all freshmen, sophomores and juniors this year. The first of the three regularly scheduled tests will occur during the 2nd full week of September.

Attentions All Military Families: The ARHS administration is requesting that families send in photos of recent Amity graduates serving in our Armed Forces. We display photos of recent graduates who are serving in a display case in the main hall. This display honors the service of our graduates and serves as a reminder to our current students of the sacrifices given for their freedom. Please send military photos to Jason Tracy, Associate Principal. (jason.tracy@reg5.k12.ct.us)

Amity Booster Club: The Amity Booster Club is an organization dedicated to supporting the athletic teams at Amity Regional High School. Your support to the Amity Athletics Booster Club directly affects ALL Amity Athletic Sports Teams throughout the year. Please find the 2016-2017 Amity Booster Club Membership form [here](#).

National Honor Society Service Project-Collections for Louisiana: The National Honor Society will be collecting toiletries to support those affected by Louisiana flooding. Please bring unopened soaps and cleaning supplies to the NHS table at back-to-school night or outside the cafeteria during lunch waves. All donations

will be sent to Louisiana charities to aid their recovery efforts.

Visitor Kiosks: Beginning in mid-September, the Amity Regional School District will be initializing the use of self-serve style school visitor management kiosks at each school. The system performs the same function as the systems currently employed in our Member Town elementary schools. For more information, please visit the District No. 5 Facebook page.

Important Reminders

Amity High School PTSO: Join the PTSO to support your students and school. Mail in your form today and guarantee yourself an Amity High School Student Directory, which will be mailed in the fall. Some of the many things the PTSO contributes to are senior scholarships, the Amity Hall of Honor, Teacher of the Year Award, Link Crew, Student Government, senior t-shirts and breakfast, the Holiday Family Outreach, and various luncheons and refreshments. Membership is \$15 for families and \$10 for faculty. A PTSO Membership Form can be found [here](#). Join today and support Amity High School PTSO! There is also an option to join the PTSO [online](#).

Support the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation: The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation is a tremendous supporter of arts educational experiences at Amity Regional School District. To support the arts at Amity, the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation runs a number of fundraisers throughout the year. Come out on Saturday, September 10th at the Quick Center on the campus of Fairfield University. Please come for a fun night and to support the arts at Amity. More information can be found [here](#).

National Art Honor Society Calendar Fundraiser: District Calendars have arrived and are being sold through the National Art Honor Society. Calendars are filled with important contact information for the district, a plethora of important dates, and fabulous student artwork. The District Calendar has been recognized by the Connecticut State Board of Education for excellence in school publications. The District Calendar will be available for purchase for \$10.00 at the Back to School Nights. All proceeds benefit the Amity National Art Honor Society. For more information or to arrange purchase of a District Calendar, please contact the National Art Honor Society Advisory, Jessica Zamachaj at jessica.zamachaj@reg5.k12.ct.us.

One Book/One Amity: As a reminder, this year's school-wide summer reading is *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*. We will be discussing the book throughout the first semester as a part of our school-wide theme of "Make It Happen." Students will be assessed throughout the week next week in English classes.

Back-to-School Nights: Mark your calendars, Back-to-School Night for parents of 9th and 12th grade students will be held on Thursday, September 8th. Back-to-School Night for parents of 10th and 11th grade students is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th. Back-to-School Nights begin at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center. A full schedule for the night can be found [here](#). The cafeteria will also be open for food samples throughout the evening.

Notes from the Counseling Department

Community Service: Amity High School offers a community service graduation incentive for all students. Students who complete and document 25 hours of community service per year will receive recognition on their diploma and transcript upon graduation. Students may use volunteer sites that they are already involved with, or may seek new ideas through Amity's Career Center. For more information about the community service graduation incentive, please refer to the student handbook. If you are involved with a program that would benefit from volunteer hours/work, please contact the Career Center at (203) 397-4836 or

careerservices@reg5.k12.ct.us. We are looking for community service opportunities to post on the Volunteer Board.

Senior Parent Night: Save the date. The Amity Regional High School Counseling Department will host a Senior Parent Night on Wednesday, September 21st at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center.

Financial Aid Night: Save the date. The Amity Regional High School Counseling Department will host a Financial Aid Night on Thursday, September 29th at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center. Morgan A. Kelly, Director of Student Financial Assistance at Sacred Heart University will present.

New Course Deadline: The deadline to add into a new course from study hall will be Friday, September 9th. Students should see their counselor for more information.

Important ARHS Dates/Social Media: In an effort to communicate early and often, the counseling department has created a brief list of important dates for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition, we will be updating our website and sending information through our newsletter and, in certain cases, AlertSolutions (i.e. weather related impacts and emergency announcements). Please see [this list](#) of important dates and social media contacts.

College Visits: Each week, throughout the fall season, Amity High School hosts representatives from many colleges throughout the country. These representatives are available to share information about their institutions and discuss the admissions process with our juniors and seniors. A list of schools visiting Amity can be found on Naviance. If a student is interested in attending any of these info sessions, please register on Naviance and obtain a pass from the Career Center. Students are provided excused absences from class to meet with representatives. The following college/universities will be here the week of Sept. 6th – Sept. 9th:

9/6 Muhlenberg College @ 1:30pm
9/7 Michigan State @ 12:00pm
9/9 Merrimack College @ 1:00pm

What's Happening in Athletics?

Athletic Department Website: For all information regarding practice and athletic schedules for winter sports, please refer to the athletic department's website [here](#).

For a copy of next week's competition schedule, please click [here](#).

Amity District Office: 25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, CT 06525 | Phone 203-397-4811

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