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Learning through experiences

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ARHS Happenings Newsletter



We all make meaning out of experiences. There is a strong belief in education that students learn readily when their formal education includes “experiential learning opportunities” or learning by doing. This idea of experiential learning is clearly demonstrated in *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, when William Kamkwamba researches concepts in physics and engineering and then creates his windmill through trial and error. One of the goals for the high school this year is to increase student-centered classroom experiences and instructional

techniques. It is also a perennial goal for our students to join clubs and participate in extra-curricular activities that will enhance their overall educational experiences. Every year, we hold our fall “Club Day” where students are afforded an extended lunch period where they can peruse tables and sign up for clubs that appear interesting to them. Unfortunately, due to weather concerns, we have had to postpone our 2016 Club Day to next Wednesday. We will hold Club Day next Wednesday during lunch. In the meantime, the published list of clubs can be found [here](#) for parents and students to preview. Albert Einstein once stated, “The only source of knowledge is experience.” I encourage all students to preview the options for clubs and get ready to get involved with our community. For those who are celebrating, Happy New Year! Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon
Principal

High School Happenings and Information

CMT and SBA (formerly SBAC) Parent Letter/Student Results Sent: A parent letter was sent home this week outlining Smarter Balanced Assessment scores. All parents of current 9th grade students have received both the letter and a score report from last spring's administration.

Mid-Marking Period: Friday, September 30th is the mid-marking period of the first quarter. As a reminder, Amity High School no longer prints paper progress reports. Real-time information about student progress is available to students and parents in PowerSchool. Parents who have concerns about student progress are encouraged to communicate directly with Amity teachers. The end of the 1st quarter will be on Friday, November 4th.

Observance of Religious Holidays: There will be no school on Monday, October 3rd in observance of Rosh Hashanah. Teachers have been reminded to adjust class assignments so as to avoid unnecessary conflicts with individual and family activities associated with major religious holidays.

October 19th PSATs and Special Activities' Morning Program:

All 10th and 11th grade students will take the PSAT during the school day on Wednesday, October 19th. The PSAT is the National Merit Qualifying Test for juniors and is used to help students prepare for the SAT test. A modified schedule will be followed. Students are asked to arrive promptly to school as no late admittance is accepted once the test begins. Students should bring a calculator and No. 2 pencils. This testing date is set by the College Board and no make up testing is permitted. For more information on the test, visit College Board's [website](#). All 9th grade students will be participating in a Link Crew Activity while PSAT testing is taking place for sophomores and juniors. All 12th grade students will take the Senior picture at 7:45 am and then participate in a series of workshops designed to help them with a plan for life after high school.

October 19th is a full day of school for all students.

Amity High School PTSO: There is still time to join and receive a school directory! Membership is \$15 for families. The membership fee supports a variety of student and school activities. 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](#).

State of CT Husky Health: The State of CT has released open enrollment dates for access health CT/Husky Health CONNECTICUT. Parents/guardians of students without health insurance should click [here](#) for instructions in English and [here](#) for instructions in Spanish regarding further information on obtaining healthcare benefits.

Important Reminders

Digital acceptance through PowerSchool: Sign off of Student Handbook, Acceptable Use Policy and Turnitin forms are all digital this year. If appropriate parental signatures have not been obtained **by Tuesday, October 4th**, students and parents will be shut down from accessing school accounts (such as PowerSchool and student access via WiFi at school), until the proper documentation has been reviewed and signed.

Last Chance for Senior Portraits: "Last chance" senior portraits will be taken on Thursday, October 13th. This will be the last opportunity for anyone who missed a summer appointment to have a portrait taken in time to be included in the yearbook. If your child still needs a portrait taken and did not receive a pink pass during homeroom this week, please contact the yearbook advisors, Ken Clark and Tim Gaipa, at embers@amityschools.org. We want all our seniors to be in the yearbook, so please note that **THERE IS NO CHARGE** for this single sitting.

Second Annual Senior Yearbook Ad Design Night: Calling all senior parents! Are you looking to honor and encourage your graduating senior with a senior dedication ad in the yearbook? Join us for our second annual *Embers* Senior Ad Design Night on Monday, November 7th from 4-7 p.m. in AHS computer lab 501 (across from the cafe). Take care of everything at once—complete all the paperwork, pay (cash or check), scan your photos, sit down with a yearbook staff member to craft the perfect dedication for your graduating senior, and approve it right on the spot. Appointments are not necessary.

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](#).

Notes from the Counseling Department

Financial Aid Night was held on September 29th. To view a copy of the PowerPoint and other financial resources, visit [this link](#).

Career and College of the Week: This year the Career Center will highlight a complementary career and college of the week. This week, the career is [Entrepreneur](#) and the college is [Babson College](#). Students will receive an e-mail through Naviance that details aspects of the varying careers and colleges. Students can also view the bulletin boards in the Career Center and/or speak with the Career Center staff for details.

Attention seniors!: Any senior student who is applying to UConn and would like to be considered for the Day of Pride or Nutmeg Scholarships through UConn need to submit their application to UConn prior to November 1st. Please encourage your child to see his/her counselor ASAP as nominations for these scholarships are done through the counseling office. For more information, please visit [this site](#).

Freshmen Counseling Lesson: All 9th grade students will be meeting with the Counseling Department this coming week to discover some **Keys for High School Success**. Freshmen will be reintroduced to the Naviance Family Connection and complete a Strength Explorer Inventory. Counselors will also discuss study skills, testing strategies, and various Amity High School resources.

Career Fair: Amity High School will be hosting our 3rd annual Career Fair on Monday, November 14th at 8:30 a.m.. Are you interested in volunteering to give insight to our students about your career or job? We are

looking forward to providing a variety of career clusters to our students. Please contact Paula Vallie or Karen Waterman in the Career Center: 203-397-4836, paula.vallie@reg5.k12.ct.us or Karen.waterman@reg5.k12.ct.us

College Fair Opportunity: The New England Association for College Admission Counseling (NEACAC) is hosting a college fair at Sacred Heart University in the William H. Pitt Health & Recreation Center on October 11th from 7-9 pm. Over 150 schools will be in attendance. For a listing, please see this [link](#).

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. Please click [here](#) for a list of colleges visiting the week of Oct. 4th-Oct.7th.

Support Group: The Counseling Department will be starting a Grief Support Group for anyone who has experienced loss or serious illness of a loved one. Please contact Gary Lindgren or Jenna DeRosa in the Counseling Dept. at 203.397.4846 for more information.

Hamden Adult Education: Registration for Term 2 for Hamden Adult Education will be held on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 6:30 pm. Classes begin on Tuesday, October 25, 2016. For more information, contact your child's school counselor or the Hamden Adult Education Office at 203.407.2028 or visit their [website](#).

Course changes: The last day for a student to drop a course or move a level WITHOUT it appearing on his/her transcript is November 4th. If your child is considering this, please be sure to make contact with his/her teacher and counselor prior to the deadline.

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](#).
For last week's results, please click [here](#).

Community Happenings:

2016 Music in Motion: The Amity Music Department presents Music In Motion 2016: 2.0! Come enjoy a great evening of music presented in a way that you've never seen before! It's sure to be a great night of fun music for the entire family! Children 14 and under are FREE with the purchase of an adult tickets! Purchase tickets [here](#). Watch the trailer [here](#).

Amity Girls Basketball Clinics: This fall the Amity Girls basketball team is running six clinics for young ladies in 2nd grade to 8th grade. The Amity coaching staff and team will provide drills, shooting sessions, and much much more. Come and support the Amity Girls basketball team and get ready for the upcoming season! Check out [the flyer](#) for more information.

Community Service opportunity for students! Students who wish to assist with prep and set-up for the the 23rd annual Woodbridge Senior Center Holiday fair activities and clean-up should contact Woodbridge Youth

Services Coordinator Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 or Woodbridge Senior Center Director Jeanette Glicksman at 203-389-3430.

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

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