

ARHS HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

This has been a packed back-to-school week! Between our opening day celebrations, collecting over 185 donated school supplies and running through a full letter-day cycle, our community has jumped back in to the swing of things. As with past years, our first day started with a [slide-show compilation](#) of various activities from last year. The slide show also highlights our core values and beliefs, which will be focal points of each month of the school year. Each core value and belief is noted at the top of a picture in the slide show, where as an explanation of a given picture is noted at the bottom. We will also be focusing throughout the year on our school-wide theme of “Go the Distance,” which was nominated through our student climate survey at the end of last school year and decided upon by members of the student body. We’ve worked on finding our passions, making things happen and now we will be “going the distance” in everything we do this year. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

Happenings and Information

Unified Classroom Teacher Pages: We have begun the transition to one Learning Management System for Amity Regional School District #5. A lot of information has been sent home regarding signing up for parent and student accounts with Unified Classroom. Please note that teachers are also transitioning and are learning the system at this time. Teachers are expected to have a class page which includes updated contact information and any assignments that are to be graded. The classroom pages will be updated with these components by the end of September. If you have questions regarding your Unified Classroom account, please contact the district technology office at 203-397-6205. A [Parent University](#) on Tuesday night, September 5th at 6:30 will also be dedicated to more information about Unified Classroom.

PowerSchool “App”: As of right now, there is no official PowerSchool Unified Classroom App or Apple nor Android. The current apps on the market are third party apps, not created by PowerSchool, and should not be used. Please use the website to access PowerSchool Unified Classroom from your devices and computers: <https://classroom.powerschool.com> . We will announce once PowerSchool releases an app. We thank you for your patience.

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 7th. Back-to-School Night for parents of 10th and 11th grade students is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th. Back-to-School Nights begin at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center. Class visits begin at 6:50. The schedule for the evening can be found [here](#).

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.

Underclassmen Picture Days: Underclass pictures will be taken during English classes on Monday, September 25th and Tuesday, September 26th. English teachers will inform their classes of which day to prepare for. Documentation with photo package information is forthcoming. If you have any questions, please contact the yearbook advisors, Ken Clark and Tim Gaipa, at embers@amityschools.org.

Student accident insurance: Please find the annual student accident insurance forms [here](#). Copies of this packet are also in the main office.

Just for Seniors

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.

Last Chance for Senior Portraits: "Last chance" senior portraits will be taken on Tuesday, September 12th in the John J. Brady auditorium. If your child missed his/her original appointment at the end of last school year or over the summer, or if he/she would like a retake, this will be the last opportunity to have a portrait taken in time to be included in the yearbook. If you have any questions, 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. For multiple sittings, please contact Robert Taylor Photography at (203)377-0739 to schedule an appointment at the studio.

Senior Parent Night: Save the date. The Amity Regional High School Counseling Department will host a Senior Parent Night on Tuesday, September 19th at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center.

College Visits: Each week, throughout the fall season, Amity High School hosts representatives from many colleges throughout the country. These admission representatives are available to share information about their institutions and discuss the admissions process with our juniors and seniors; often times these reps are the people who review applications and make admission decisions. A list of schools visiting Amity can be found on Naviance. Next week’s list can be found below. 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.

College Name:	Date of Visit:	Time of Visit:
Binghamton University	Monday, Sept. 11th	8:00am
Connecticut College	Monday, Sept. 11th	10:00am
University of Scranton	Monday, Sept. 11th	11:30am
University of Mass. Boston	Monday, Sept. 11th	12:00pm
Drew University	Monday, Sept. 11th	1:00pm

Important Reminders

Student School IDs: All students will be receiving a student ID with picture and bar code on the first or second day of school. Student IDs will be used lunch purchases, copying/printing and signing in late to school this year. All students must carry their student IDs with them at all times (similar to student passports). Lunch accounts are automatically linked to student IDs. Information about the new student IDs can be found [here](#).

Late Bus Schedule: Late buses, which begin on September 5th, are provided on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from ARHS. Students are able to stay after school for a designated program or in a supervised area (such as with a teacher or in the library). Late buses pick up at the high school between 3:40-3:55, with one bus designated for each town.

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 A. Hulley Arts Foundation runs a number of fundraisers throughout the year. Come out on Saturday, September 9th for the annual “Evening of the Arts” celebration. This is an amazing night and the proceeds go to supporting the arts at Amity and other area programs. More information can be found [here](#).

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. Membership is \$15 for families and \$10 for faculty. A PTSO Membership Form can be found [here](#) or online at this [link](#). Join today and support Amity High School PTSO!

Notes from Counseling Department

Important ARHS Dates: In an effort to communicate early and often, the counseling department has created a brief list of important dates for the 2017-2018 school year. In addition, we will be sending information through the weekly newsletter and, in certain cases, PowerSchool e-blasts. Please see this [list](#) of important dates and social media contacts.

Financial Aid Night: Save the date. The Amity Regional High School Counseling Department will host a Financial Aid Night on Wednesday, September 27th at 6:30 pm in the Brady Center. Colleen Mulrooney Barker, *Assistant Director, Office of Financial Aid* at Fairfield University will be presenting.

New Course Deadline: The deadline for students who wish to add a course to their schedule in place of a study hall must do so by Thursday, September 7th.

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 (203-3974836) or email paula.vallie@reg5.k12.ct.us. We are looking for community service opportunities to post on the Volunteer Board. The Orange Country Fair and the Orange Police Department are currently looking for volunteers to help with the events at the country fair. All interested students can sign up in the Career Center.

Athletics

Come support our soccer teams: The Orange Country Fair will be held at the Orange Fair Grounds/Community Center on September 15, 16, and 17. Members of the Amity Boys' Soccer Team will be assisting with parking cars and members of the Amity Girls' Soccer Team will be scooping ice cream; both are fundraisers for the teams. Come out and support our teams!

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

For a copy of next week's competition schedule, please visit the athletics website.

Community Happenings

Milestone C Is coming to Amity: Milestone C is an after-school program that offers hands-on aerospace experience for grades 9 through 12. This unique and groundbreaking approach to STEM education was created by leaders from Fortune 500 corporations, lead engineers, veteran aviators, and research scientists. With a mission to shape future STEM leaders, Milestone C's engineering & aviation programs are the first of their kind to unleash the full potential of experiential learning and serve as internship experiences for middle and high school students.

- *No prerequisites*
- *No previous experience required*

To learn more about the program, please see this [flyer](#). To register through Amity Adult Education, please visit this [link](#).