

ARHS HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



We have concluded our month of compassion with our first AmityTalks series of this school year. Three students and one teacher gave talks that touched on the various core beliefs we have focused on throughout the first 4 months of school. Some of the poignant take-aways include: “Go the distance by looking at how other countries function so we can learn how to be a compassionate, engaged society.” “Nurture the creative parts of yourself and say yes to things that matter, even when they are hard.” “Be comfortable discussing things that make you uncomfortable so we can all learn and grow from each other.” “It is up to all of us to show up to the 2018 elections and exercise our right to vote.” Thanks to the students and faculty who gave talks, who showed up to the talks and who organized the event. As we move forward in to our January month of “persistence,” we will all have a chance to practice our tenacity with preparing for and taking midterm exams and the start of second semester at the end of January. Until then, have a wonderful holiday break and a very happy and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

Happenings and Information

ARHS main office hours during the holiday break: Amity Regional School District No. 5 offices will be closed on Monday, December 25th, Tuesday December 26th and Monday, January 1st. The main office at the high school will be open from 7:00am-2:00pm Wednesday-Friday, December 27th through the 29th.

Community Notice: On the morning of December 27, 2017 we will be making a change to the fiber network connection between the district and the CT Education Network. During this time all network connectivity for the district will be down. The entire

process should take no more than 30 minutes, however due to the complexity of the operation there is the chance of a prolonged outage while we work to resolve the issue.

Reminder-morning student drop off: As a reminder, any student who is being dropped off at school instead of taking the bus must be dropped off on the side entrance to the school after accessing the campus via North Pease Road (the school driveway becomes one way from N. Pease down to the tennis courts between 7:10-7:40). Students are able to be dropped off at the sidewalk as all side doors of the building are unlocked between 7:10-7:34. Please be reminded that the driveway becomes a two-way access from the tennis courts out to the Newton Road exit; drivers must remain in their lane after dropping students off.

Senior Service Learning Program Parent Informational Evening: On Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Amity Senior High School Cafeteria, Karen Waterman, the College and Career Counselor will be presenting the expectations and guidelines of 2018 Senior Service Learning Program (generally referred to as the Senior Internship or SSLP) and the new pilot-Senior Interest Project. Parents are asked to attend if your senior is likely to participate in the May-June 2017 unpaid experiential learning program.

Internet Safety presentation: We have invited former law enforcement officer Scott Driscoll to speak with all students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades about online safety and social media. The student presentations for seventh and eighth grade students will take place during school hours on January 9, 2018. Parents are invited to an evening workshop with Scott on the same day, Tuesday, January 9, 2018 from 6:30pm-8:00pm at Amity Middle School Orange. This event is open to parents of students at all grade levels, including elementary. Please join us for this informative workshop! Please see this [link](#) for more information.

Midterm Exam schedule and information: Midterm exams will begin on January 16th and run through January 19th. The midterm exam schedule can be found [here](#). Please be reminded that each exam will be 2 hours in length. If, for any reason, a student needs to reschedule an exam (due to sudden illness, emergency, etc), the student must receive written permission from his/her associate principal before rescheduling with the teacher or for one of the makeup sessions during the week of January 22nd. Please call the main office, 203-397-4830, if you have any questions.

Senior Happenings

Midyear Transcripts: Just a reminder that we automatically send a mid-year transcript to all schools listed in Naviance. Please be sure to update Naviance with college outcomes and make sure the list is up to date. Mid-year reports will be going out the first full week in February.

Senior Service Learning Program (SSLP) & Senior Interest Project (SIP) Information: The SSLP (also referred to as Senior Internship) and the new pilot- Senior Interest Project process will begin January 2, 2018. Karen Waterman, The College and Career Counselor will be speaking to the entire Class of 2018 to detail deadlines and give a general overview of the expectations of the program. More details to follow.

Notes from Counseling Department

For juniors: In Spartan Seminar this week, students learned how to link their College Board account with Khan Academy. Khan Academy offers FREE resources and study plans for students to prepare for the in school test date in March. Please click [here](#) to view the video on how to read PSAT score reports. Please visit this [link](#) to learn more about the free, personalized resources available.

For sophomores: All sophomores who took the October Pre-ACT in school received their score reports in Spartan Seminar this week. All scores have been uploaded to Naviance (Under ACT scores for October 2017). To view a video that explains how to read the score report, please see this [link](#).

Post-Secondary Planning Night for juniors: A planning night for current juniors will be held on January 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Brady Center. Parents and students are strongly encouraged to attend. Ann Fleming-Brown, Director of Admissions at Union College will be presenting on the college and university search and application process.

Gap Year Fair: Amity Regional High School will host a Gap Year Fair on January 10, 2018 from 6-8:30 pm. USA Gap Year Fairs is organizing the event which provides students with a broad exposure to Gap Year Programs and the opportunity for face-to-face conversations with professionals in the field. Many of these

programs also offer summer opportunities for students. For more information and to register, please visit this [site](#).

Important Reminders

Calling all possible STEM Fair Judges: Are you willing to spend Saturday morning February 3rd, 2018, discussing STEM projects with some of the best and brightest high school students in Connecticut? Then the Connecticut STEM Fair wants you to be a judge! The event will take place at Amity Regional High School on Saturday, February 3rd, 2018. Please see this [link](#) for more information.

Updated AmityEnterprises/FBLA information: On behalf of the FBLA Club and Amity Enterprises, please see the new [website](#) that highlights products and ordering information. These products are all student-created and produced.

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 a copy of this past week's results, please click [here](#).

Community Happenings

2018 Summer Opportunity-The Connecticut State Parks Division is gearing up for the 2018 summer season! They anticipate increasing lifeguarding services at numerous parks and need your help to get the word out. The Shelton Parks & Recreation will be offering a lifeguard course from Dec. 26th-Dec. 30th. Please see this [link](#) for registration details.

Community Service Texts: If your child is interested in learning about upcoming community service opportunities, please have them sign up for Remind notifications from the Career Center.

Please have your child **text the message “@amityserve” to 81010**. When the Career Center hears about a community service opportunity, we will share it with our service-minded students.

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