

ARHS HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



We have passed the mid-mark of the 1st quarter and Amity Regional High School is bustling with activity. We are continuing to support the various aspects of our school community—including academics, athletics and the arts—as well as work to embody our core values and beliefs in all that we do. Faculty members are working hard, among other things, on our self-study report for our decennial visit from the New England Association of Schools (NEASC) next fall. This year-long process helps us to reflect on our learning community through specific criteria and using specific standards. The result of the self-study will be a comprehensive report that will guide the work of the outside visiting team (comprised of public educators from around the state and New England) next September. This [link](#) explains more about NEASC, the self-study year and how it can help us as we continue to strive to meet the needs of all of our community members. Have a great weekend!

Sincerely,

Anna N. Mahon

Principal

College and Career of the Week: This week's featured college is **Western Connecticut State University** and the featured career is **paralegals/legal assistants**. WCSU is located in Danbury, CT. The University is made up of four schools including Business, Arts & Sciences, Professional Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts. WCSU has a student body of approximately 5,000 undergraduate students. Over 40 undergraduate majors are offered; click [here](#) for a complete listing. In-state resident students pay approximately \$24K per year to attend WCSU. [OPEN HOUSE](#) is Sunday, November 4th, 2018. Paralegals and legal assistants perform a variety of tasks to support lawyers and others in legal/government agencies, including maintaining and organizing files, conducting legal research, and drafting documents. Paralegals usually work under licensed attorneys but can also be found working in corporations and government offices. This is a popular position for people considering entering law school as it gives them a chance to try the career before incurring the high costs and time commitment associated with law school.

Happenings and Information

Columbus Day-No School: Please remember there is no school on Monday due to the Columbus Day Holiday. Enjoy the long weekend!

Hands-Only CPR Training for 9th Grade Students: Next Tuesday & Thursday, October 9th & 11th, we will be training all freshmen in "Hands Only CPR" through PE/Health classes.

October 10th PSATs and Special Activities' Morning Program:

- Tenth grade students will be taking the PreACT and all 11th grade students will be taking the PSAT during the school day on Wednesday, October 10th. The PSAT is the **National Merit Qualifying Test** for juniors and is used to help students

prepare for the SAT test. Students are asked to arrive promptly to school as no late admittance is accepted once the test begins. This testing date is set by the College Board and no make-up testing is permitted for either test.

- All freshmen will be participating in a Link Crew Activity starting in the Brady Center.
- Seniors will participate in a series of activities: senior class panoramic and aerial photo, senior class meeting, presentation on financial literacy for post-secondary planning, and a presentation on sexual harassment from the Milford Rape Crisis Center.

This is a regular full day of school for all student. Attendance will be taken as normal and a modified class schedule will be followed after the morning program.

PTSO October Meeting: Please join us at 7:00 in the library classroom on Thursday, October 11th, for our October PTSO meeting. Along with other regular agenda items, this month's PTSO Meeting will include a conversation with School Resource Officer Frank Sappione about the One Book/One Amity title *All American Boys*. Parents, teachers and students are encouraged to attend. See you there!

Be the Change: A Day of Dialogue about Race and Diversity in America: On Friday, October 19th, the high school will be sponsoring an in-school activity for all students. This workshop-focused activity will help us continue the discussion of many of the themes presented in this past summer's community title *All American Boys*. In preparation, students must review the [descriptions](#) of the workshops PRIOR to selecting the workshops on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week.

NMSQT Semifinalists and Commended Students: We are delighted to announce that 4 Amity Regional High School students have been recognized by the College Board as National Merit Scholar Semi-Finalists. In addition, 19 Amity Regional High School students have been recognized as National Merit Scholar Commended Students. These students will be recognized at the October Region 5 Board of Education meeting. Congratulations!

Senior Happenings

November 1st Deadline: For students who are applying to a school with a Nov. 1 deadline, all transcript requests must be in Naviance by Thursday, October 18th.

Local Fall Open House:

Albertus Magnus College: Saturday, October 13, 2018-10:00am-2:00pm

Southern CT State University: Sunday, October 7, 2018-11:00am-2:30pm

University of New Haven: Sunday, October 14, 2018-9:15am-2:30pm

UConn Waterbury Campus: Monday, November 12, 2018-10:00am-12:00pm

SCSU Instant Decision Day: [Southern Connecticut State University](#) will hold an Instant Decision Day at Amity Regional High School on **Friday, November 30, 2018**. Interested seniors may meet with an SCSU admission representative. SCSU admission representatives will review completed applications and provide on-the-spot admission notifications. Students must apply to Southern Connecticut via the [Common](#)

[Application](#) by November 5th. Interested seniors should speak with school counselors or see Mrs. Vallie in the Counseling Center to schedule a meeting.

UNH Instant Decision Day: [University of New Haven](#) will hold an Instant Decision Day at Amity Regional High School on **Monday, December 3, 2018**. Interested seniors may meet with a UNH admission's representative on-site. UNH admissions representatives will review completed applications and provide on-the-spot admission notifications. Students must apply through [The Common Application](#) by November 12, 2018. Interested seniors are asked to speak with school counselors or see Mrs. Vallie in the Career Center to schedule a meeting.

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. For a complete list of colleges visiting the week of **Oct. 9th – Oct. 12th** please click [here](#).

Notes from Counseling Department

Interested in Trade Careers? A representative from the CT Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship Training will be offering an information session on trade programs in various fields. Students will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions on the many trade programs available to them. This information session will take place on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 10:00am in the Lecture Hall. Interested students can obtain passes from CTE teachers or the Career Center.

Deadline for Dropping a Course: Please be aware that the deadline to drop a course or a level in course without a "W" appearing on the transcript is November 2nd. If your child is having difficulty in a course, please be sure to speak to the teacher and school counselor prior to the deadline.

Parent Support Group: ARHS will be hosting a Parent Support Group every other Friday morning from 7:45-8:45 throughout the school year. The next meeting will take place on Friday, October 13th and will be held in the District Office Presentation Room. This is a group for parents who have concerns for their children regarding alcohol or other drug involvement. Please contact Gary Lindgren, student assistance counselor, with any questions at gary.lindgren@reg5.k12.ct.us.

Local Community Service Opportunities:

- **Beecher Road School Elementary: Halloween Hoot-Saturday, October 20th, 2017 from 11:30am-3:30pm.** Students are asked to register [here](#).
- **Park & Rec Annual Trunk or Treat Funtober Event** at the Orange Community Center Fairgrounds on **Saturday, Oct. 27th from 10:00am-4:00pm.** Rain date is Sunday, October 28th. Please call 203-891-4795 or email Lynn Plaskowitz @ lplaskowitz@orange-ct.gov.
- **Race Brook Halloween Monster Bash: Saturday, Oct. 20th from 2-5:30pm.** Please register [here](#).
- **First Annual PUPkin Fest:** Pooch Parade and Canine Costume Contest on Sunday, October 28th from 1:00-3:00pm. This event will help raise money to build a new community dog park in Woodbridge. Event is hosted by the Woodbridge Dog Park Cooperative.

Important Reminders

Yearbooks Are Now On Sale: *Embers* 2019 is now available for pre-order at amityembers.com. Pre-orders must be placed by November 16th. The regular ordering window will then open on November 17th. Contact yearbook advisors Ken Clark and Vicki Hulse at embers@amityschools.org with any questions.

Fall Parent Climate Survey: Twice a year we ask parents, staff and students to complete a climate survey to give us feedback on the high school climate and help us reflect on programing. Please follow [this link](#) to the parent survey, which will be open through October.

ARHS Bermuda Course Information Night: Amity has been studying Bermuda Coral Reefs for 30 years. Join us for the Bermuda Coral Reef Course Information Night on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 from 7-8 pm in the lecture hall at the high school. This 0.5 credit elective course in science occurs in the spring semester culminating in a 7 day field study at the Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences ([BIOS](#)). Information including the coursework, field experiences, accommodations and the application process will be reviewed. Students in grades 8-12 are eligible to apply. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity! Contact Valerie Cournoyer for more information: valerie.cournoyer@reg5.k12.ct.us

Financial Aid Presentations: A copy of the presentation and helpful handouts will be posted on our [website](#) in the coming days.

Athletics

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 click [here](#).

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

Community Happenings

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.

QPR Suicide Prevention Training-October 17th – Noon – 1 pm: The Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge Parenting Initiative in collaboration with Bridges Healthcare is offering this free Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training at the Woodbridge Public Library, 10 Newton Road. A boxed lunch will be provided after training so please register by October 10, 2018 to Peter Samenfink at psamenfink@bridgesmilford.org

Volunteers Needed for Food Pantry/Community Service Opportunity:

Woodbridge Youth Services is looking for teens and adults to help sort food during the last few weeks of October in the food pantry at the Woodbridge Center Building. Contact Nancy Pfund at 203-389-3429 or email: npfund@woodbridgect.org for details.

2018 Hall of Fame/Honor Dinner: Please see [this document](#) for information about this year's joint Amity Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor dinner to be held at Grassy Hill Country Club in Orange on October 18th beginning at 5:30.

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