

## ARHS HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER



We finished up midterm exams and began 2<sup>nd</sup> semester this week. We also had our 1<sup>st</sup> Spartan Seminar Advisory Session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester on Wednesday where we explored the idea and importance of grit, based on the work of Angela Duckworth. Part of our advisory session was spent completing a rating scale on grit, similar to [this one](#). As Duckworth puts it, “Grit is passion and perseverance for long-term goals.” Summative assessments, such as midterm exams, can be stressful for students (and parents), but it is also a time to intentionally focus on developing grit. Early next week, parents and students will be sent the pilot of the new blended report card, which will serve to offer feedback on content-area classes as well as the ARHS learning expectations: academic, social and civic. [This brief PowerPoint](#) presentation will help to explain the new reporting system through Unified Classroom and additional information that this report card will give. If you have questions when you receive your child’s report card, please contact an administrator or your child’s school counselor. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

*Anna N. Mahon*

Principal

**College and Career of the Week:** This week’s college is **Smith College**, and the career of the week is an **Economist**. Founded in 1875, [Smith College](#) is a liberal arts college for women. Besides the one writing-intensive course for all freshmen, there are no other required courses outside of a student’s field of concentration. Smith is also part of the esteemed “[Five College Consortium](#)” which includes the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Mount Holyoke College, Amherst College and Hampshire College. **Economists** conduct research, collect and analyze data, monitor economic trends, and develop forecasts. They work in government, academia, business and consulting. For more information, please

go to the American Economic Association's website [here](#). For more information, students can view the bulletin boards in the main hallway and in the Career Center and/or speak with the Career Center staff.

## **Happenings and Information**

**Second Marking Period/Midterm Report Cards:** The new "blended" report card, which is a pilot this year, will be issued early next week and will reflect 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period and midterm grades along with feedback on the academic, social and civic learning expectations. These expectations are reported on using binary rubrics and are reflected by either an "M"-met the expectation or "P"-progressing toward the expectation.

**Parent-Teachers Conferences:** The final high school parent-teacher conferences for the 2018-2019 school year will take place on **Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**, from 5-7:30pm. If you would like to schedule a conference, please do so by registering through PowerSchool E-collect forms.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>:** Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, will be an early dismissal for students to allow for faculty professional learning time. Monday and Tuesday the following week (2/18-2/19) will serve as the winter recess. School will resume on Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Attention Amity Community:** We have a large percentage of students from the Class of 2019 hoping to venture out from May 20<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, to complete their Senior Service Learning Program. This internship program requires our seniors to complete approximately 75 unpaid hours at a local business or organization. If you are interested in taking an intern, or if you would like additional information about the Senior Service Learning Program, please contact the Amity High School Career Center at 203-397-4836 or email [lynn.cocco@amityregion5.org](mailto:lynn.cocco@amityregion5.org) or [paula.vallie@reg5.k12.ct.us](mailto:paula.vallie@reg5.k12.ct.us). Please find the 2019 Site Expectations [here](#).

**"Being the Change" Mentoring:** During the midterm exam period, eleven Amity High School students volunteered to speak to students at AMSB about their leadership activities at and how they are making an impact in our school community and beyond. These students were invited by Marika Wissink, Team Leader, with the goal of inspiring the students who have been

challenged to do an interdisciplinary "capstone" project to "Change the World".

## **Senior Happenings**

**Community Service Information for 2019 Seniors:** Seniors who have completed at least 100 hours of volunteer service during their high school career at Amity will be recognized at graduation for their service to the community. Each Senior will receive a certificate along with a special honor cord to be worn at graduation. All completed community service forms must be handed into the Career Center **no later than April 1, 2019**. If you have any questions regarding community service, please stop by the Career Center or email Mrs. Vallie at [paula.vallie@amityregion5.org](mailto:paula.vallie@amityregion5.org).

**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.

## **Local Scholarship Opportunities :**

- **The Yale-New Haven Hospital Auxiliary** is offering \$2,000 scholarships to area students planning to pursue a career in a health-related profession. Scholarships are based on academic excellence, financial need, personal statement, community service, including school and community activities and/or employment. An official transcript and 2 letters of recommendations are required. Completed applications must be **postmarked by Friday, March 15, 2019**. Applications are available in the Career Center.
- **Connex Credit Union** is offering three scholarships to Connex Credit Union members. Applicants should apply online at [connexcu.org](http://connexcu.org). For further details, please feel free to stop by the Career Center. **Deadline to apply is Friday, March 1, 2019.**
- **The Association of Retired Teachers of Connecticut (ARTC)** is offering the **Glenn Moon scholarship** to qualified Connecticut high school seniors who are interested in a career in education. Scholarships to be awarded are one four-year scholarship of \$2,000 for 4 years and two one-year scholarships of \$1,500. Application form is [online](#) only. **Submission deadline is Saturday, March 30, 2019.**

- The **Bethany Lions Club** would like to remind Bethany high school seniors to apply for their annual scholarship opportunity. This year, Bethany Lions Club is offering four scholarships at \$2,000 each and one scholarship at \$3,000 to Bethany residents. Applications are available at the Clark Memorial Library, Bethany Town Hall and the Amity High School Career Center. Applications must be returned to the Amity Counseling Department on or before **May 1, 2019**.

**Attention Seniors:** Congratulations to our seniors who have already received college acceptances! The next step for you will be to understand your financial aid awards. Students and their families should have a thorough understanding of their actual costs for each college being considered. You can (and should) contact your college's financial aid office with your questions. Please check out this resource for [basic financial aid award information](#).

**Additional Scholarship Resource Information:** Naviance is only one of the many resources for researching scholarships. The College and Career Center posts local and national scholarships on Naviance throughout the school year. Students can navigate through these scholarships in Naviance under the scholarship tab. Additional merit based and need based scholarships may be available by checking with the individual college or university or additional [websites](#).

## **Notes from Counseling Department**

**Upcoming College Fair:** The annual **Amity High School College Fair** will be held in the AHS Gymnasium on **Monday, April 1, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm**. Over 140 colleges & institutions will be in attendance. This is a great way for students to meet many of the college admission decision-makers in an intimate and convenient way. The college fair is free and open to the public. A list of colleges attending will be posted soon!

### **Volunteers Needed:**

- **The Woodbridge Library**-Assisting senior citizens with technology help on Wednesdays, February 13<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, from 2:45-4:00pm. Must be tech-savvy. Mini-golf fundraising event on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2:45-5:00pm and Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00am-5:00pm. If interested, please email Jennifer Sullivan at: [jsullivan@woodbridgetownlibrary.org](mailto:jsullivan@woodbridgetownlibrary.org)

- **Turkey Hill Drama Club** is looking for students to help with their drama club after school on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 3:00-4:30pm. This would include helping students practice their lines and assisting with art projects for the set. Volunteers are asked to start as soon as possible and continue till April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Deborah Sansone at [deborahsansone@gmail.com](mailto:deborahsansone@gmail.com) or call 203-258-3316 or stop by the Career Center for details.

**Interested in hiring Amity students for your business?** If you are a business owner interested in hiring students to work part-time, please contact Paula Vallie in the Career Center to advertise. The Career Center posts job openings for students to view on our job board. Please contact Paula Vallie by phone at 203-397-4836 or email [paula.vallie@reg5.k12.ct.us](mailto:paula.vallie@reg5.k12.ct.us).

## **Important Reminders**

**Independent Study Proposals:** All second semester Independent Study proposals will be due to Mrs. Campbell by Thursday February 7. Please contact Mrs. Campbell with questions or to obtain a proposal.

**2019 AP Exam Registration:** Students taking AP exams at ARHS for courses taken during the 2018-19 school year must register through Total Registration. The link to the registration page can be accessed [here](#) and will be posted on the school website under Links/Resources. The regular registration period will be open until Sunday, February 17 at 11:59 pm. All information about exam fees is available on the registration site. Please contact Mrs. Ferguson at [Gerilyn.Ferguson@reg5.k12.ct.us](mailto:Gerilyn.Ferguson@reg5.k12.ct.us) if you have any questions regarding exams.

**Yearbook Grad Ads:** The deadline for grad ad purchases has been extended to Friday, March 1st or until all available ad space has been filled (whichever comes first). Don't miss out on your chance to honor and encourage your graduating senior in a book that he or she will keep for years to come! We have several size options for your special message and photograph(s)—see our website information and pricing. Need some inspiration? Visit our website at [amityembers.com](http://amityembers.com) to see examples of past grad ads. Questions? Contact the yearbook advisors, Ken Clark and Vicki Hulse, at [embers@amityschools.org](mailto:embers@amityschools.org).

## **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 schedule, please click [here](#).

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

## **Community Happenings**

**Student Government Clothing Drive:** The Amity student government will be running the annual clothing drive from January 2<sup>nd</sup> through February 14<sup>th</sup>. Over the years support has been second to none. Please take a moment over winter break to clean out those closets and drawers. All clothing in good shape is accepted.

**Celebrate Diversity with a "Between the World and Me" Discussion and Book Reading:** On **Tuesday, February 26, 2019** join members of the Bethany, Orange and Woodbridge Communities for a reading and discussion of Ta-Nahesi Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*, a #1 New York Times bestseller and National Book Award winner. This is one of three events exploring and celebrating diversity organized by the Town's ad hoc Community Council. Amity Regional High School Diversity in Action Club members and other community members will be reading from the book at the event in the Amity Regional High School Library at 7pm. Following the readings there will be a discussion about the book. The Woodbridge Town Library will have extra copies of the book available for check out.

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