

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXVII-No.5

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

February 9, 2024

Looking Ahead: High School Students Guide 8th Graders

by Andie Napolitano '24

Eighth grade students and parents from both middle schools were invited to the high school for the annual 8th Grade Transition Night on January 31st. While this year's event included the usual information session and tour, clubs and athletic teams were represented for the first time.

Students and parents first attended an informational session in the Brady Center, in which they were introduced to members of the Amity administration and learned about the various resources and opportunities that Amity offers.

After the informational session ended, students and parents were invited to take either a self-guided or student-led tour of the high school. Student-led tours were given by members of the National Honors Society and Student Government. Tour guides shared additional information about their high school experiences, including clubs and activities that they are a part of at Amity.

Some tour groups were even able to go to the black box and watch a live dance rehearsal for Amity's upcoming musical Mean Girls, as well as a live rehearsal from the pit orchestra.

Tour guide Leonardo Tregger '24 said, "The tours were incredibly beneficial for the 8th graders, as the event provided a first glance at where they would be spending the next four years. As a tour guide, I found students

to be very interested in different niche high school activities and classes, and it was nice to answer all of their questions."

Tours allowed the 8th grade students to get a first look at the school building before they enter high school in the fall.

For the first time ever, Amity's athletic teams, clubs, and musical groups were represented at the transition night. Members from the orchestra performed outside of the Brady Center, and members from each of Amity's sports teams lined the walls of the main hallway to give information about their team in hopes of recruiting new members.

Libby Grant '25 represented the cross country team and said, "It was a great experience not only for rising freshmen to get a taste of high school sports but also for encouraging team bonding and recruitment. It was a positive experience that hopefully left a good impression on the 8th graders!"

Many Amity clubs were showcased in the cafeteria, including the fashion club, the robotics club, Junior State of America, and student government. Club leaders set up poster boards and informational displays to show the 8th-grade students and parents all of the diverse clubs and activities that Amity offers. Now students will be aware of clubs they can join before Club Day in the fall.

Overall, the night was a great first step in preparing 8th grade students for the transition to high school.



Photo contributed by Class Act Council

Members of Amity Advocates and Class Act Council at 8th Grade Transition Night

Career Center Assists Class of 2024 in Preparing for UELP

by Emily Russo '24

Of the numerous opportunities and events associated with senior year, the senior internship is one of the most notable.

Over the past few months, the class of 2024 has attended several assemblies and meetings regarding the Unpaid Experiential Learning Program (UELP) and the Senior Interest Project

(SIP). With deadlines quickly approaching, and an incredible amount of information to keep track of, the program may seem overwhelming. However, Lynn Cocco, the career counselor and organizer of the senior internship program, outlines the steps and advice to ease the transition from school to an internship.

With seven weeks until the contract deadline, Cocco said that seniors should have completed the first of four steps found in the schoology page. Once that's done, students should move on to Step 2: creating a LinkedIn profile.

Cocco stresses the importance of this in particular, saying, "We want you to use a personal email to create a scaffolding, basic profile whether you use it or not. This is useful for the future because it's the most popular tool for networking and finding jobs."

Even if you already have an internship lined up, you are still obligated to create a profile on LinkedIn. For Step 3, students must complete an Edpuzzle on safety training, a prerequisite for participation in the senior internship program.

According to Cocco, the best



Photo contributed by Emily Russo '24
Mrs. Cocco helps a student prepare for UELP

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A Glimpse into the Success of Elected Officials Day

by Aryan Shrivastav '27

Amity Regional High School recently hosted Elected Officials Days on January 26th and February 2nd. This day provided a unique opportunity for local public figures in BOW to explore the school's vibrant environment, as well as gain insight to high school life during the 2020s post-pandemic era.

Superintendent Dr. Jennifer P. Byars organized the event, aiming to give elected officials a glimpse into the high school. Principal Andre Hauser said that the intent was to bring them in and show them around the school.

"We provided some information about what we do and hopefully, the more informed they are, the better they can make sound decisions about how to support the schools," Hauser said. The school invited public offi-

cials from all of the BOWA towns and most committees, including the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, elementary school superintendents, selectmen for each of the towns, and state legislators who represent a part of the BOWA community.

These officials include Jim Zeoli of Orange, Mica Cardozo of Woodbridge, and Paula Cofrancesco of Bethany. They came on either of the two days.

The officials arrived at the high school at 10:30 AM after visiting the middle schools. They were welcomed by faculty and three seniors, including the senior board of education representative Sam Bae '24, the senior class president Ben Aviad '24, and the student body president Annie Yun '24. They made a presentation about the many activities they are involved in at the school, what they do at Amity, and how attending this school has helped them build skills.

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The Class of 2024 Prepares for UELP

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thing for seniors to do right now is to be realistic. She elaborated further, saying, “This is basically an 11-day program which is horribly short. You can’t be a brain surgeon for two weeks. This program isn’t about getting the dream job now. It’s about doing something to build skills that will get you towards your dream job.” For students interested in SIP, Cocco advises they “choose a subject or topic that [they’re] passionate about. If [they’re] doing it just to check boxes, it won’t be fun.”

Furthermore, she emphasizes the importance of students setting expectations for their internships with employers. “I want students, not their parents, to sit down with the person they’re going to work with to set the terms for the internship,” she said. “Page 3 of the sample contract gives students the opportunity to learn how to talk with a supervisor and how to set the terms for a job.”

It’s crucial that students remain fully informed about the details of their job by gaining an understanding of what an employer deems appropriate in terms of cell phone usage, dress code, and so on.

Requirements, assignments, and deadlines for UELP and SIP are quickly accumulating. In order to remain organized and prepared for this program, seniors should closely monitor their Schoology page for updates, explore various job sites, and sit down with Cocco to answer any questions or concerns.

Principal’s Committee Column

by Aachal Gupta ‘25

Principal’s Committee, members discussed topics including academic performance, teacher-related concerns, and initiatives aimed at improving the overall student experience.

The committee discussed teachers’ instruction methods, specifically resolving the issue of instructors advising students to study at home in place of teaching in the classroom. Members of the committee looked into alternatives to at-home study and standard support. To mitigate the effects of a less-than-ideal teaching experience, they generated ideas for creating open communication channels, looking for extra academic resources, and exploring peer-assisted study groups.

Assessing learner outcomes in the post-COVID period was discussed. Members examined student achievement, contrasting pre-pandemic data with that from the current school year. The first findings indicate encouraging patterns, with the Class of 2027 showing a 50% decreased probability of getting a D or F in a class.

An innovative solution for cafeteria study halls, specifically regarding 9th graders, was the third topic discussed. Relocating 9th grade study halls to the cafeteria in the second semester was the committee’s suggested solution to maximize staffing and create a positive learning environ-

During a recent meeting of the

ment. The goal of this innovative approach is to boost student performance while also improving the overall study hall experience.

The committee briefly touched upon graduation chords and caps intended to honor academic excellence and community service, reviewing the several cords that seniors can obtain upon graduating. During this discussion, members emphasized how crucial it is to honor both scholastics accomplishments and community service.

Infrastructure problems were also addressed, particularly worries about bathroom stall locks. To protect the students’ privacy, the committee is actively addressing this issue.

Concerns regarding Portrait of the Graduate’s lack of clarity with the portfolios and confusion with the requirements for freshmen and others were discussed. To guarantee the program’s success, the committee promised to improve it.

Another one of the meeting’s goals was to reduce the academic gaps that exist between advanced and non-advanced students. The committee looked at methods designed to provide help and resources, highlighting how crucial it is to create a positive environment for all pupils.

Through the implementation of creative solutions, assessment of student performance, acknowledgment of academic success, and resolution of teacher-related issues, the committee is actively fostering a more dynamic and inclusive learning environment.

Cafeteria Costs Climb

by Ziyang Zhang ‘27

At the start of semester two, the cafeteria implemented a plan to adjust the prices of a la carte items, prompted by a district analysis of these offerings. The Connecticut State Department of Education’s Child Nutrition Department stipulates that “a la carte prices must cover the cost of producing the menu item such as food cost, labor, and indirect costs.”

Amity increased the prices of certain items to align with these guidelines. Terry Lumas, the director of finance and administration, said not all items will increase but remain at their current prices.

Furthermore, this adjustment won’t significantly impact the menu or meal options, as emphasized by Principal Andre Hauser. The Board of Education hopes this will ease the pricing switch for parents and students.

While the district regularly assesses lunch pricing, Hauser said, “There is no plan on any changes to what is offered other than our food service provider’s

regular practice of testing out new options and adding or removing items as student interests suggest.”

Considering that price increases are necessary to cover actual production costs, Hauser hopes the impact on students and parents will be minimal. The student representatives to the Board of Education were informed in December, aligning with the school system’s finance department’s collaborative review with the food service provider to establish the new prices.

Monica Chen ’27, who buys lunch everyday, said, “I think the food is pretty good, but I believe the prices for the a la carte items are a little overpriced, even originally. I don’t think the price increase was worth it, and it often discourages from buying a la carte items.”

Despite price increases, Hauser says, “It’s worth noting that students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches will still receive their meals at no cost or the reduced cost.”

Hauser also anticipates that prices will remain stagnant through the end of 2024.

Science Research Students Enjoy ‘Positive Experience’ at CT STEM

by Aryan Shrivastav ‘27

On February 3rd, Advanced Science Research Program students attended the CT STEM Fair, a qualifying fair for the CT Science and Engineering Fair (CSEF) sponsored by the CT STEM foundation.

Students could enter either a completed project or a research proposal depending on their progress. Projects were entered under one of four categories: behavioral, health and medical, environmental, and physical science. The top-placing projects in each category advance to CSEF, and the top three receive monetary prizes.

The fair has been held virtually since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning students presented and were judged over Zoom.

The CT STEM Fair, started in 2001, aims to promote critical thinking skills and motivates students to pursue careers in the science and engineering fields. Its mission is to encourage interest among students in science, technology, engineering, and math by providing them with experience to present their projects and be amongst people who think like them.

The recent fair is the first round of the event, only for completed projects, and the second round of the fair is for project proposals, which will be held on March 23rd, 2024.

Around 30 projects from Amity competed in the fair. Students had ten minutes to present their poster on their project to the judges. In the week leading up to the fair, science research students practiced presenting to classmates to prepare. The students were judged on the quality of their posters, their research, and their presentation skills.

Charlotte Stannard ‘26 participated in the fair and says, “I am very fortunate to have participated in CT STEM! It was an exciting opportunity. The judges were very knowledgeable and asked insightful questions. I had a positive experience and hope to participate again next year!”

Catherine Piscitelli, the Science Research Program Director, provides words of encouragement to her students.

“You know your projects best - sell your research! Be proud of what you have accomplished. The judges will see how hard you have worked,” she said.

Amity students have had an illustrious record at the CT STEM Fair in previous years and we wish them all the best for this year as well.

Happy Valentine's Day, Amity!

Check out the Lines of Love on pages 6 and 7.

Elected Officials Day a Success

Continued from page 1

After the presentation, the officials toured the school. The tour included recent improvements in the school, such as the Lecture Hall. They also visited other classes including Career and Technical Education, Visual Performing Arts, English, Mathematics, and Science.

When the tour finished, the high school culinary class students organized lunch for the elected officials. Hauser expressed satisfaction at the positive feedback he received from the elected officials. The officials said that it was a great visit. They were impressed by the student guides, by the quality of lunch that Amity’s culinary students had cooked, and also by how much this school is doing that is different from their perception of the high school. They had a better understanding of what high school is really like today than they had before they got here.

“Informed decision-making is always better than uninformed decision-making,” said Hauser, regarding how the school will be impacted by the visit of the elected officials.

Elected Officials Day allowed public officials to have a better understanding of what the school is doing and what the students need.

Reflecting on Accomplishments

What Black History Month Means to Me

by Amanda Koola '24

Black History Month is an opportunity to actively seek what's been left out of history books and learn about the extraordinary innovation, intellect, and diligence of African Americans in science, literature, politics, and more. It is a time of reflection on what we have accomplished as a community and what is left to do.

One person I deeply admire during this time is Constance Baker Motley, the first female African-American Federal Judge. She co-led the *Brown vs. Board of Education* case where she worked alongside Thurgood Marshall and advocated for voting rights, fair housing, and equal employment opportunities for African Americans.

As I learn more about Constance and other black leaders who have broken barriers, it serves as a reminder that I have no excuse to not make an impact in this world.

Aside from honoring historical figures, I believe that Black History Month is fundamentally about self-love. There is so much stigma around being black that is mainly rooted in historical and systemic racism. It's especially manifested in the media where black individuals are overrepresented as drug addicts, thugs, or criminals. These portrayals

reinforce harmful stereotypes that undermine the humanity of the black community. During Black History Month, I feel that I gain a deeper understanding of my worth and potential because it teaches me how to take pride in all aspects of black culture despite the surrounding stigma. Ultimately, I think this season teaches us to just love ourselves fiercely and unapologetically.



Constance Baker Motley, the first female African-American Federal Judge

Keep State Courts Away from the Presidential Ballot

by Alex Klee '25

On December 19, 2023, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that former president Donald J. Trump could not appear on the state's ballot as a candidate for United States President in November 2024.

This decision found him ineligible under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, which states that a candidate who has "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same [United States], or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof," may not hold office. Previously, a lower court in Colorado found that Trump committed insurrection, but it did not go as far to say that he could not appear on the Colorado ballot. This lower court decision was then overturned by the Colorado Supreme Court, which barred Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold from listing him on the ballot.

While the US Supreme Court is currently reviewing this decision, this situation begs the question of whether states should be able to remove a presidential candidate from the ballot at all.

Regardless of how you feel about whether Trump should be president again, using state courts to manipulate the ballot is not the best way to keep a candidate out of office. To start, opening up the door for individual states to subvert electoral college votes from candidates will further politicize our nation's courts and delegitimize our elections. If some state courts select the winner of their state, then that state's constituents will be deprived of their ability to vote in a fair election.

Every American deserves to see the same candidates in the presidential column of their ballot come November 5th this year.

Every American deserves to see the same candidates in the presidential column of their ballot come November 5th this year.

Those who support using state courts to prevent the re-election of Donald Trump need to take the potential impact of this decision on future elections into consideration. The current events taking place in the US House of Representatives foretell the potential impact of the Colorado decision, due to the parallels between the two powers that have been used to try to remove Donald Trump from the Presidency. Following the Democrats' two failed impeachment attempts on Donald Trump during his presidency, which received little support from Republicans, the impeachment process has now been weaponized against President Biden.

Currently, House Republicans are engaging in a lengthy impeachment inquiry of Biden, for which they have yet to present any evidence of misconduct. They are also nearing an impeachment vote for Biden's Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, due to Republicans' dislike of his southern border policy. If state courts start to go down the route of using their powers to interfere in the upcoming presidential election, it will open the door for the same to happen on a larger scale in 2028, and all following elections.

With our current state of hyperpartisanship, the safeguards of our democracy are not capable of being deployed in a rational, thoughtful, and balanced manner. Instead, impeachment and the third section of the 14th Amendment have become weapons in party warfare.

In our dysfunctional political climate, even when some states have determined that Donald Trump engaged in an insurrection, the consequences of acting on that determination will only continue to divide and hurt our country more.

The Amity Trident

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The Amity Trident, Amity Regional High School's monthly student newspaper, is printed by Valley Publishing, 7 Francis Street, Derby, Connecticut 06418.

WRITE FOR THE TRIDENT

Great opportunity to get involved!

See your name in print!

Check your email and listen to the announcements for information on a writers meeting for the March issue.

Get involved. Write for the Trident!



Platonic Bonds Can Nurture Growth and Enrichment

by **Chloe Chang ‘27** and **Karishma Balamurugan ‘27**

Heterosexual males and females can be in genuine platonic relationships by serving as a source of insight and advice for one another. These connections provide an understanding of the opposite sex in addition to allowing for personal growth and enabling people to better their romantic relationships with others.

If healthy boundaries are set up in the relationship, the friendship can greatly benefit both individuals. Mutually beneficial platonic relationships establish clear boundaries that foster mutual respect and admiration for each other’s achievements and personalities.

By interacting with one another individuals in such relationships can often find a deeper sense of companionship.

Clear boundaries in a relationship can mean many benefits on both sides, such as not having to worry about another’s romantic interests, advances, or intentions. Mutual re-

spect and understanding, if applicable on both sides, can lead to a healthy relationship that can be, overall beneficial in the long term. For example, it can lead to respect in future partners, relationships, and friends.

There is not always an attraction between people of the opposite sex or the motive to further advance it. These relationships can help each other advance in other romantic relationships that they may be involved in. For example, if there is a platonic friendship where the female interacts with the male then when it comes to outside relationships of the opposite sex both parties would be influenced from previous interactions.

In essence, if the individual engaging with a potential romantic partner receives positive advice and feedback from their friend, it is likely to contribute to a positive impact on the romantic relationship.

Friendship serves as the foundation for meaningful interactions between men and women providing a support platform to express each other’s interests, goals, and wishes.

Historically, societal perceptions have limited the roles of men and women to romantic partners, emphasizing only the aspects of marriage and having children while friendships defy such limitations.

Within friendships, there is equality in the exchange of personal thoughts and feelings challenging the notion that certain topics should be reserved among friends of the same gender. It’s in friendships of the same gender that individuals tend to find solace in confiding deep secrets, seeking advice, and sharing vulnerabilities.

With the open platonic relationships, there are fewer restrictions to a more authentic connection, where both of the parties can continue to support each other emotionally, intellectually, and mentally.

In summary, friendships between the opposite genders contribute to a more inclusive and enlightened understanding of human relationships, acknowledging the diversity and depth that exists beyond conventional expectations.

Beyond Affirmative Action: Transparency in College Admissions

by **Janet Fan ‘26**

Last summer, the WeChat and WhatsApp grapevine was buzzing as the news broke that the Supreme Court of the US had overturned affirmative action in a 6-3 ruling.

While personally, I disagree with arguments against affirmative action, I do think the SCOTUS ruling and ensuing debate around affirmative action reveals, to a greater extent, an underlying problem with transparency in college admissions process.

Underneath all the fears about whether one race is getting a leg up over the others is the fear of the unknown. Colleges use vague terms such as “holistic” without really telling students what that means, and the lack of laws regulating admissions doesn’t help. On this point, I have genuine empathy with those who see the SCOTUS ruling as a win. While at first I felt unqualified to write this article, having never gone through this process myself, I think it does put me in a unique position to comment on the years leading up to the inevitable time when it comes

to apply. The cacophony of contradictory advice from a variety of sources can leave students feeling disoriented and unsure who is most reliable. Is it the family friend who took 16 AP classes and got into Yale? Or maybe it’s the ad for an Ivy Prep tutor on For You page? College Board? School guidance counselor? Everyone else seems equally confused about what a “holistic” process even is.

This lack of transparency leads to unnecessary stress for students when they should be enjoying the valuable experiences high school has to offer. This much is evident as underclassmen approach the looming specter of admissions. “I wish colleges would just tell us exactly what they’re looking for,” my friend sighs as she debates taking another year of language instead of an art class she really wants to take. “Honestly, admissions are really just a crapshoot,” another friend worries.

Colleges need to do better. Students deserve better. In the meantime, like everyone else, I suppose I’ll just be humming that line “if it’s meant to happen it will happen anyway” and strap in for the joyride.



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Photo Restoration Project Is Dedicated to Saving Families' Heirlooms

by Luna Lu '27

Photographs are often taken for granted. They capture our darkest moments and halcyon ages alike, making them an emblem of authenticity that is often lost in current day society. For many, family photos serve as a unique memorabilia, a telling of history, a reminder of familial roots, and adversities ancestors have had to overcome. A pivotal make-up of a family's identity, photographs are often the centerpiece of a dinner table, bedroom or living room.

It is hard to imagine that anything can come close to harming the so well-kept photos. Certainly, no person will be allowed a chance to commit such a deed. For those in Fort Myers, Florida, it wasn't a person that wrecked their family photos, but a category 4 hurricane.

In the early afternoon of September 28, 2022, Hurricane Ian made landfall in Fort Myers, Florida, and proceeded to destroy almost all of the city's 3,200 buildings in a few hours, per the New York Times. And not just buildings. Ian's 15 ft storm surge also wreaked havoc for family photographs, which suffered severe water damage due to flooding.

At Amity Regional High School, 1,334 miles away from Fort Myers, photography teacher Lisa Toto was watching the news when she heard about Krista Kowalczyk, a Fort Myers photographer whose work is dedicated to repairing photos. Toto was drawn to Kowalczyk's account on how she was trying to save the thousands of family photos in critical condition as a result of Hurricane Ian. Toto was so moved by this that she wanted to find a way to assist. Coincidentally, Amity's photo classes had been learning about photo restoration, and for Toto, this was the perfect opportunity to not only challenge her students, but to help out a greater cause.

"I saw [Kowalczyk] on the nightly news and jumped out of my seat in excitement. I went, 'I teach that! My photo classes can do that!' So I got in touch with her immediately," said Toto.

Photo students were eager to help out the Floridians, reflecting on the importance of photographs in their own lives.

“Once these photos are gone, it’s going to hurt generations beyond the people that lived today. By the second

generation, their family history will be nonexistent, because once the older people in the family pass, nobody is going to remember what kind of stories they had,” said Toto.

In an effort to prevent those in Fort Myers from losing their family history, photo students diligently restored damaged photographs sent by Kowalczyk.

“She would photograph the damaged photographs and send them to me, then I would send them back down to her after the students finished the restoration process. We were able to restore and return about 250 images in total,” said Toto.

Through Amity's Photo Restoration Project, photography students were able to acquire authentic experience that placed the skills they have learned into perspective – giving them a chance to utilize their tools in a real world setting. The project also generated a passionate response from families who had their photos restored.

“The people were beyond grateful to get at least some of their photos restored. A lot of them lost hundreds of family images,” said Toto.

The Photo Restoration project also garnered extensive media coverage, being featured as the cover story for the New Haven Register, ABC World News Tonight with David Muir, Channel 8 News, as well as several local newspapers.

More than a year after Hurricane Ian devastated Florida, the Photo Restoration Project has no plans of shutting down. A plethora of other natural disasters have occurred since September of '22: a series of fires, earthquakes, and floods that have endangered many more photos. The Photo Restoration project is determined to keep doing its mission in helping families keep memories alive, especially in Amity's own community.

“All of [the students] in the advanced class, and myself, agreed that we should provide this photo restoration service for people in Amity. We help teachers, staff, and even students’ own families,” stated Toto.

Restoring photos in commercial settings can be expensive, and Toto encourages members of the BOWA area to take advantage of the service these students are doing free of charge. It is a win-win situation: students have a chance to perfect their skills and families can have the opportunity to reminisce again with their restored photographs.



Photo by Lisa Toto

Photography students that helped make an impact through Amity's Photo Restoration Project.



*This space sponsored by the
Law Office of Tracy Lane Russo.*

Remembering the Importance of Presidents' Day

by Luke Lamour '27

There is nothing that makes a month unique in the same vein as a holiday. Whether we see it as a period of celebration or a much-needed break from school, these important dates create a sense of achievement and unity in our history. But with many competing holidays, some holidays are inevitably prioritized more than others. This February, many may consider Presidents' Day as one of these holidays that is not perceived as particularly important. Today, we shall explore why this is so and how we can fix it.

To begin, we must analyze how Presidents' Day began to take shape over two centuries ago. Upon the death of George Washington on December 14, 1799, his birthday, February 22, became a basis for celebrating his life as the first United States president. By the 1870s, there was an interest in making the unofficial celebration a federal holiday, thus leading to President Rutherford B. Hayes signing the measure into law in 1879. By 1885, it became a national holiday and set the precedent as the first federal holiday celebrating an individual person. By the 20th century, the holiday expanded to include all American presidents as a celebration of presidential history.

If you are familiar with a certain project or some means of information, then of course you want to spend more time within it. This is why parts of the impact of Presidents' Day may be processed less due to our awareness of presidential history being inconsistent depending on the era. In comparison to the early history of the United States that we prioritize as one of the most salient periods of the nation, we tend to consider

other periods such as the late 1800s or the early 1900s as an afterthought.

A survey conducted with over 30 Amity student participants helped to confirm this opinion. In the survey, students were asked which presidents they were most familiar with. Results from the survey showed that presidents from the periods 1789 to 1837 and 1989 to present day received the highest scores. While, the least recognized presidents from the sample (Chester Arthur, Rutherford Hayes, and William McKinley) were all from the Gilded Age of the late 1800s.



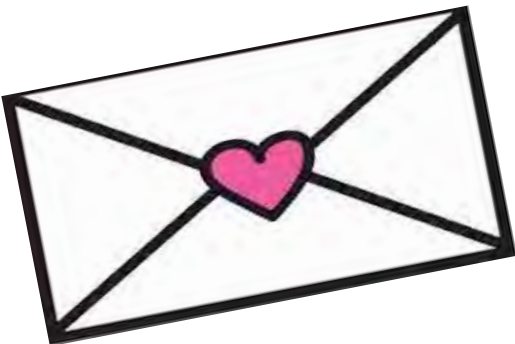
If we are going to solve this issue of Presidents' Day, it is a matter of making sure that all presidents receive the same spotlight to some extent. If we want to remain enlightened, improving our knowledge on seemingly forgotten time periods will give us interest to explore Presidents' Day.

Overall, if we are going to see holidays as a free break from school, why not make them worth the break by raising them up significantly? Each holiday has something to contribute no matter how big or small some may appear to be. Therefore, no matter how interesting you may find the holiday to be, it is more than worth it to make the best out of it as a celebration of who we are. Presidents' Day is no exception and striving to promote it will only enlighten us further.

LETTERS OF LOVE - HAPPY

To Period 1 Statistics: May your Valentine's Day be filled with strongly correlated variables and minimized residuals. - Mr. DeMeo

Mrs. Nork,
Thank you for all
you've done for
acdec!!
You're amazing!
- the academic
decathlon team



Mr. Dufner,
Are you m2?
Because your
force of gravity
is pulling us in...
love,
Ben and Dan

Amara Forstrom, "I'll be there if you're the toast of the town babe, or if you strike out and you're crawling home."
Love, Hannah

Aarushi, Thanks
for being the
peanut butter to
my jelly!
love,
Aachal



Ms. Carvalho,
You light up our
world like nobody
else.
- CJ and Sarah

**Danielle: You are our
idol, our heroine,
our brightest bulb
when the power goes**

Stop making me late
for school Will.
Love you!! - Andie

We love you
Mrs. Brechlin!!!! :)
LOVE, PERIOD FOUR
(the best period)

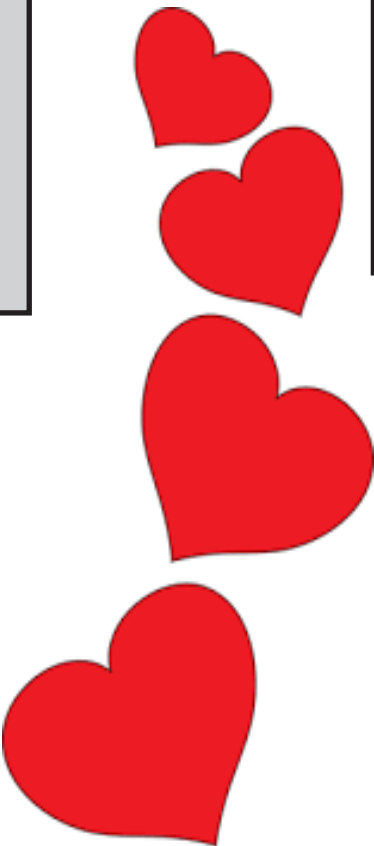
Leo Stein: Will you let
me drive my van into
your heart this
Valentine's Day?
- Steven

To Period 7 Statistics:
May 99% of samples of
size n pinpoint the true
mean number of choco-
lates you get today be-
tween 50 and 65! - Mr.

#clatoforever
- Amara

I love you Scarlett!
- Alice Xu

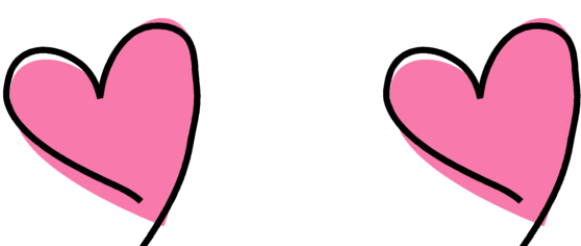
Andie,
Watt would
I do without
you?
- Bridget



Mrs. Clark,
We are so grate-
ful for everything
you do for the
newspaper!
You're the best!
Love, Your
Trident Staff

MY VALENTINE'S DAY!

To Period 3 Statistics: May
 $P(\text{A Happy Valentine's Day}) = 1$
- Mr. DeMeo



To Sarah: I'd shave my legs for you

Mrs. Wuerth:
To be or not to be?
- Hannalet

Mrs. P: Our appreciation for you
is statistically significant ($<.05$)
- SRP Seniors

I love Ava - From
Your Secret Admirer

Happy
Valentine's Day!
From,
Mr. Z



Maya Haiday,
Chevrolet,
Chevrolet

Thou art wise as
thou art beautiful
Azillia

To Period 4 Calc: May
your love of integrals
be equal to the limit as
 x approaches infinity
of e^x - Mr. DeMeo

Annie
Brinton,
Quit hors-
ing around;
you make my
heart gallop



To my dearest o
sweetest o gagas,
Kasey and Ellen,
mamabear is
always here <3
Lily Parady

CJ, Roses are
red, violets are
blue, my dog
is my favor-
ite, but you're
okay too
- Sarah Fortin

Bridget and CJ - You are the
editors-in-chief of my heart <3

Alex Klee: When you
play that bass, it makes
my heart race

To Period 5 Statistics:
I am 99% confident that
you are going to have a
great Valentine's Day!
- Mr. DeMeo

Libby,
Thanks for always being
my running buddy! :)

Dearest Reader,
Roses are red, violets are
blue, if I had a brick,
I'd throw it at you
- Anonymous

Looking for a Valentine’s Day Rom-Com Recommendation?

Try the Timeless Classic “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days”

by Hannah Guo ‘25

In the vast landscape of romantic comedies to watch during this love-filled month, “How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days” stands out as a timeless classic that continues to captivate audiences with its humor, charm, and delightful performances. As an avid romantic comedy genre fan, this movie might be one of my all time favorites. And believe me, I have seen my fair share of rom-coms. Released in 2003, the film, directed by Donald Petrie, stars Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey in a romantic rollercoaster that is as entertaining today as it was nearly two decades ago.

The movie revolves around Andie Anderson (Kate Hudson), a talented writer for a women’s magazine, who is given the task of writing an article titled “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days.” In parallel, Benjamin Barry (Matthew McConaughey), an advertising executive, bets that he can make any woman fall in love with him in the same time frame. The ambitious couple locks in on one another, each one of them becoming part of a gamble the other knows nothing about. *Voilà!*, the stage is set for a hilarious battle of wits and emotions.

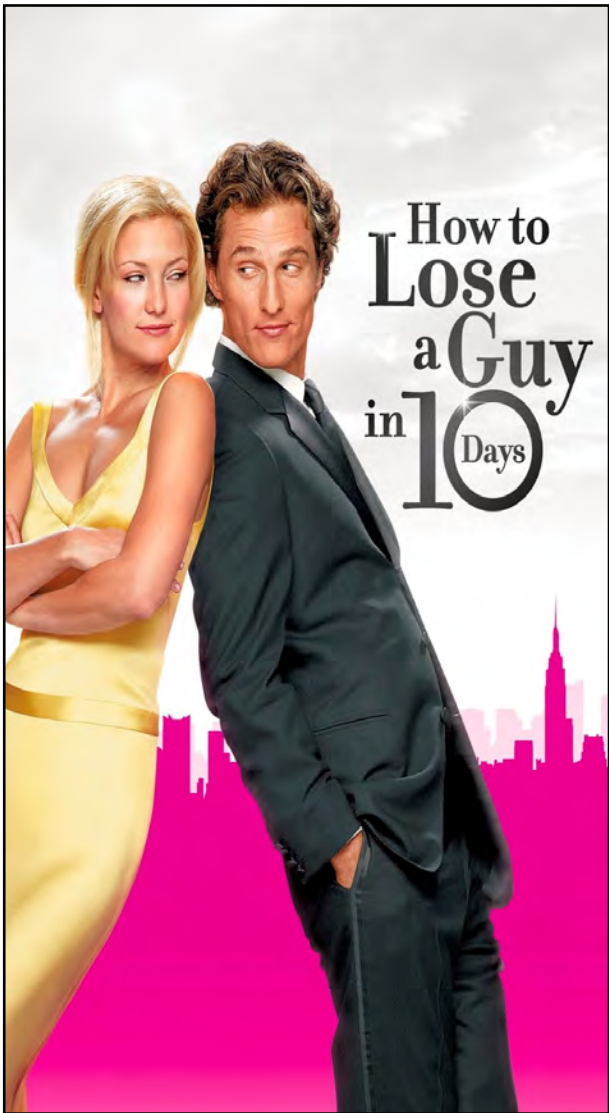
The movie’s strength lies in the impeccable chemistry between Hudson and McConaughey. Their on-screen dynamic is electric, and their comedic timing enhances the film’s appeal. Hudson’s portrayal of Andie, who is trying to drive Ben off, is both endearing and comically

exaggerated, while McConaughey brings his signature charm to the role of Benjamin, who tries to woo Andie while she is trying to do the exact opposite. Together, they create a couple that is irresistibly entertaining to watch.

The strikes a perfect balance between romance and comedy. The witty dialogue and clever scenarios keep the audience engaged throughout, making it a perfect choice for a lighthearted movie night. Through a life-changing plot twist, the film cleverly explores the dynamics of modern relationships and the challenges that come with navigating the fine line between genuine connection and strategic gamesmanship.

Beyond its entertaining plot, “How To Lose a Guy” boasts a memorable soundtrack that complements the story’s romantic elements. The film’s use of “You’re So Vain” by Carly Simon is a classic, twangy song that becomes an immediate hit for both Ben, Andie, and the viewer.

As the movie progresses, it becomes evident that “How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days” transcends the conventional romantic comedy genre. It offers a fresh perspective on love and relationships, blending humor with genuine moments of vulnerability and connection. “How To Lose a Guy in 10 Days” is a must-watch for anyone seeking a delightful and heartwarming cinematic experience. Whether you’re a fan of romantic comedies or simply in the mood for a feel-good movie, this gem from the early 2000s continues to prove its enduring appeal. With its engaging storyline, charismatic performances, and timeless humor, it has rightfully earned its place as a beloved classic in the world of romantic cinema.



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ECA Allows Students to Explore Music and the Arts

by Chloe Chang ‘27

Students from around the region with a passion for music and the arts have an option to enhance that passion beyond the walls of their hometown school at the Educational Center for the Arts in New Haven.

ECA is a magnet school where high schoolers go to focus on areas in which they are interested and skilled. There are five departments: dance, creative writing, theater, visual arts, and music. Students in ECA spend half of their day at Amity or another area high school, and the other half at ECA.

This school has been shown to positively influence many of the kids, including Vivian Smith ‘27. “ECA has taught me independence, creativity, thinking outside the box, and a lot about friendships and passion,” said Smith.

“There we have the freedom to make something worth making, get feedback, and get guidance. I’ve learned that life doesn’t just have to be something that happens to you, you can make it fun by doing something you love every day.”

ECA is described as encouraging creative liberties.

Smith added, “The craziest ideas can turn into the most incredible products, and I don’t think you could find that kind of freedom and possibility anywhere else.”

ECA provides a way for students to improve on the disciplines that they are interested in, and to pick up new interests along the way.

ECA also allows students of

the same interest to grow closer together and bond

Rachel Anderson ‘27 enjoys many aspects of the program. “ECA has made me a better performer, improved my guitar technique, and introduced me to many fellow musicians who are now my friends!” she said.

Although ECA may seem different from Amity, many of these differences only add to the students’ enjoyment of the school. Vivian describes when, in the middle of the school day, she saw students specializing in dance performing, or how we can grab snacks, hang out with friends from other departments, etc.

These freedoms created the opportunity for students to thrive and strengthen what they are interested in.

Anderson also described how she was able to improve her musical composition and performance factor, throughout going to school at ECA. There are also other general classes at ECA, such as improvisation, acting, playwriting, stage combat, and so on, but on some days, the students watch performances from sharing and other performances by different departments.

The effect of ECA is remarkable for students, providing a place that feels like heaven or home to those who wish to pursue a career in the arts or would like to continue improving.

ECA has played a significant role in shaping the future of many students, and it is a wonderful place in which they have room to develop and grow!

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Artist of the Month: Sarina Tian ‘27

by Karishma Balamurugan ‘27

of emotion that goes beyond the words on a page. From the melodic tones of one’s voice to the gentle strokes of a brush on canvas, artists skillfully blend multiple mediums to portray the world around them.

Freshman Sarina Tian distinguishes herself as a self-taught artist. With each stroke of her pencil, Sarina captures a unique perspective, inviting us to glimpse the world through the lens of her artistic expression. Holding her pencil, Tian finds solace in traditional art, drawing inspiration from her favorite artists and shows.

“There’s a certain mindfulness that arises when sketching by hand,” Tian said, “allowing me to immerse myself in the moment and engage with the physicality of materials.”

Absent technology, the pure sound of her pencil on paper enables her to unleash her imagination, giving life to her fantasy world within the pages of her sketchbook. Moreover, art becomes a therapeutic escape for the mind and heart, offering a new realm of creativity and self-discovery with no need for an eraser. Tian’s artistic journey is marked by experimentation with various styles, ranging from semi-realism to manga.

However, she has ultimately landed on her own interpretive style, a distinctive blend that draws from different artistic influences.

Furthermore, Tian has dipped her brush into diverse mediums, including watercolor, charcoal, colored pencils, oil pastels, and pottery. Despite these explorations, she consistently finds herself returning to the simplicity of pencil and paper, where her artistic expression truly

Art serves as a language, an expression



Photo contributed by Sarina Tian ‘27

“Aki’s Dance with the Fierce Fox”

Additionally, she extends the personal touch of her art by creating multiple cards with personalized sketches for those close to her, as well as the elderly, ensuring each piece has a unique “draw” to it. Taking great care to ensure that her work is something she is proud of, each drawing serves as a learning experience. In describing her artistic journey, Tian emphasizes the pivotal role her best friends play as her biggest cheerleaders.

“Their constructive feedback helps me refine my skills. Whether it is sharing ideas, providing inspiration, or simply expressing their unwavering support it is a constant source of motivation for me,” Tian said.

With the unwavering support of her friends and trusty pencil, Tian navigates the highs and lows of her artistic journey, describing the experience as fulfilling and enjoyable, with a vast canvas of possibilities lying ahead.

An Inside Look at “Mean Girls” Widely Appreciated Pit Orchestra

by Chloe Chang ‘27

part of Amity Performing Arts. This year, it will be accompany the cast and crew of the Spring Musical, *Mean Girls*.

Led by co-captains Grace Zhang ‘24 and Jack Morrison ‘24, this year’s Pit Orchestra is excited to take on the challenge of recreating the Broadway special. Amity’s Pit Orchestra is a prestigious group, consisting of top-notch mu-

Pit Orchestra is a widely appreciated

to master, as the workload and expectations for the performance can only be described as sky-high.

The added live accompaniment to the musical adds an inexplicable element to the feeling of the performance, as Morrison said, “You cannot have a musical without music!”

Many Pit Orchestra members also participate in either band or choir, and the additional music for Pit Orchestra becomes something new for people to work on. For underclassmen and newer musicians, Morrison strongly recommends them to join Pit Orchestra.

“Pit Orchestra allows us to learn at a faster pace and to master new understandings, allowing us to unlock a whole new skill level,” he said.

“Every practice, we are surrounded by musicians who are skilled and passionate about playing. We get to control what is playing to match when we are playing on stage and learn to match the cast members, conductors, and other musicians.”

Despite the serious front that the orchestra puts up, there are many moments of fun, relaxation, and enjoyment, such as the contentment that the orchestra experienced, particularly fter the successful run of *Beauty and the Beast* last spring.

Zhang described the mood after the *Beauty and the Beast*, saying, “The orchestra members were turning to each other and celebrating because the feeling of perfect performance felt amazing.”

The Pit Orchestra is a remarkable group of musicians who have made astounding contributions to the Amity Creative Arts.



Photo by Sydney Sheehan

Members of the Pit Orchestra for *Beauty and the Beast* (2023).

sicians with notable accomplishments, such as a Sondheim award nomination.

Additionally, the ensemble provides an opportunity for the musicians to build valuable relationships and learn from one another. As for this year, Pit Orchestra’s music is difficult

An Interview with Kasey Smith ‘24, ACT’s Regina George

by Luna Lu ‘27



Photo by CJ Brinton ‘24

On January 2 and 3, Amity Creative Theater held auditions for their upcoming Spring Musical *Mean Girls*, with rehearsals starting a few days later. We caught up with Kasey Smith ‘24, starring as Regina George, for a behind-the-scenes look at the musical.

Luna Lu: Is this your first musical at AHS? How do you feel? What shows have you done before?

Kasey Smith: I’ve been doing musicals at Amity since my freshman year. It’s always a pleasure working with the Kennedys and the shows are always amazing quality.

LL: Before joining the show, what was your exposure to *Mean Girls*? What was your first impression?

KS: I had seen the movie before, but it didn’t really stick with me until I saw the musical. Hearing Regina sing, I was in absolute awe. Her voice stuck with me and I ended up learning all of the songs shortly after seeing the musical. Regina George has been a dream role since then.

LL: What made you want to do the *Mean Girls* musical?

KS: It’s my senior year and I was so ecstatic when the show was announced. I love that we get to play characters our own age for a change.

LL: What can audiences expect from your rendition of Regina?

KS: I think audiences might be surprised to see me in this new light of being the meanest girl in school. It’s very different from my character in real life, and I’m hoping to break through and surprise everybody by doing something so out of the ordinary from what anyone’s seen from me.

LL: How has the preparation process been for you so far?

KS: So far I’ve been figuring out who Regina is and how I’m going to play her. My goal is to not copy the Broadway Reginas exactly. I want it to be different and more related to myself. I think that’s important for any character. I also have been loving all the choreography we’ve been learning. I’m a dancer, and Andrea Kennedy knows this, so we’ve been working together to find ways for me to incorporate more choreography into my character which I’ve been loving.

LL: Why should everyone come to watch *Mean Girls*?

KS: Everyone should come to watch *Mean Girls* because it’s going to be the slay of the century. Everyone can find characters to relate to, and everyone is connected to this story in some way.

We can’t wait to see what Smith brings to the stage! Tickets for *Mean Girls* are now on sale on Amity Creative Theater’s website.

Uniting on Ice: The Impact of Girls' Hockey Co-op

by Scarlett Zhai '25

In the chilly arenas of Connecticut, Blades, the Girls' Hockey Co-op, comprises players from Amity Regional High School, Cheshire High School, and North Haven High School, breaking the ice and redefining the meaning of teamwork. With a current record of 6-8, the co-op has not only faced challenges head-on but also created memorable moments on and off the ice.

The co-op's journey has been marked by impressive victories and hard-fought battles. Notable wins include triumphs over Fairfield Ludlowe/Warde, Masuk Co-op, Woodstock Academy Co-op, Hamden Co-op, West Haven/SHA, and Guilford Co-op.

While they faced losses against formidable opponents like Stamford/Westhill/Staples and New Canaan, the team's resilience and determination have shone through.

Maybelle Caron '26 talked about the season, saying, "One of the most important moments during our season so far was our overtime win over Hamden. Before the game, we were on a 7-game losing streak, and we broke it with a huge team effort over one of the best teams in the state. This win

led to 3 more wins in the past 4 games! Regarding the co-op,

"I think that playing with girls from other towns really enforces a sense of unity and community within our team. I love getting to know these girls!" she added.

Beyond the scores and stats, the co-op

a tight-knit community that extends beyond the ice.

Abby Fitol '24 reflected on these times, saying, "Some moments that we have enjoyed so far are our team bonding activities. For the remainder of the season, we do hope to have breakfast before our first SCC game, and depending on how far we make it will determine if we get to do more dinners or breakfasts."

The unique aspect of this team lies in its cooperative structure, bringing together players from different schools.

"I love this team," said Fitol. "I love that we get girls involved in non-academic activities to make things more interesting and fun. Although we are a sport and need to perform well, we do tend to have fun while also putting in the work."

The co-op serves as an excellent platform for girls to step out of their comfort zones, make new friendships, and embrace a sense of unity.

As the remainder of the season unfolds, the girls' hockey co-op is not just aiming for victories on the ice but also for more shared laughter, team bonding, and the creation of lasting memories. The co-op proves when different schools come together, the result is not just a team; it's

a community bound by a shared love for hockey and a camaraderie that makes every game an unforgettable experience.



Photo accessed from Orange Live

Members of the hockey team at practice.

has found joy in team bonding activities. From pasta dinners to movie nights, and even a post-game trip to McDonald's, the girls have created

The Weight Room Welcomes You!

by Ziyang Zhang '27

As the final school bell rings, a wave of students and team members flock to the weight room for an energizing workout. The weight room is open to everyone from 2:45 to 4:30 p.m.

It has barbells, plates of various weights, dumbbells, resistance bands, medicine balls, jump ropes, agility boxes, assisted weight machines, and cardio equipment. Recent upgrades, including two new fan bikes and shelves for medicine and physio balls, have taken the weight room up to the next level.

Physical Education and Health Teacher Nora Crann, who oversees the weight room highlights that "hitting" the weight room not only boosts students' confidence in a group setting but also propels them toward fitness goals whether students come regularly or as a part of sports teams.

In addition, Crann said, "The

ciplined. Plus, it fosters a sense of unity among teams, turning us into a tight-knit family."

Joey Fryer '26, an athlete on both the football and lacrosse teams, commented on the weight room saying, "I think that it is a great environment, and I love working out with my friends."

The weight room isn't just for regular students; it's also a go-to spot for our PE classes and specific sports teams.

According to Nick Dottori, a Physical Education teacher and the girls' basketball coach, "the main aim is to make us stronger, faster, and more flexible, reducing the risk of injuries."

Workouts involve dynamic stretches, targeted exercises for different muscle groups, and weightlifting with varying sets and reps. After they are done, teams can track progress on the record boards in the weight room.

For athletes, lifting their maximum weight creates a thrilling challenge. To help athletes achieve their goals, coaches like Dottori make their teams' workouts enjoyable, emphasizing that it's not just about getting fit.

"In the summer training program, we engage in team-building activities, fast-paced workouts, and groovy music," Dottori said.

The weight room is even attractive for the less athletic with a contest to complete the

program as a team to earn a training t-shirt. All of this combines to create an awesome experience!

Michigan Wolverines Win 2024 NCAA Football Title

by Eve Marin '27

The college football National Championship game this year took place on January 8th, 2024. The game was between the University of Washington and the University of Michigan. The University of Michigan Wolverines defeated University of Washington 34-13, making this their 12th football National Championship title.

Many Amity High School students, staff, and faculty members watched the game. Evie Leblanc '26 enjoyed watching Michigan win and expressed her opinions on the game stating, "For a lot of people Michigan was the underdog, however Michigan overcame the adversity."

She also added in her feelings about the game saying, "It was awesome to see that game."

The final game was actually a lot less close than the semifinal game that Michigan played against University of Alabama the week before, where Michigan won in overtime by one touchdown, resulting in a final score of 27-20.

This semi-final game played at the Rose Bowl was the first win the Wolverines had in

the Rose Bowl since January 1, 1998. The Rose Bowl is a stadium in which the Rose Bowl game is played every year on January 1st. Since 2015, the Rose Bowl has been a part of College Football Playoffs and it has been one of the major bowls in the national championship system.

Every three years, it hosts the semifinal game. The final this year was played at NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas.

The Michigan Wolverines were led by head coach Jim Harbaugh.

Harbaugh said as reported in the Detroit Free Press that "It couldn't have gone better...It went exactly how

we wanted it to go to win every game."

However, Harbaugh is not staying with the Wolverines. After nine seasons with Michigan, he has now been hired and is the head coach of the Los Angeles Chargers, an NFL team. At Michigan, Harbaugh earned a salary of about \$7.5 million a year.

Now with the Chargers he will make \$12.5 million a year. The new head coach of Michigan will be Sherrone Moore, who was previously an assistant coach. Michigan currently holds the most college football championship titles and they hope to win the title again next year.



Photo accessed from MgoBlue.com

Univ. of Michigan readies to play Univ. of Washington on January 8th.

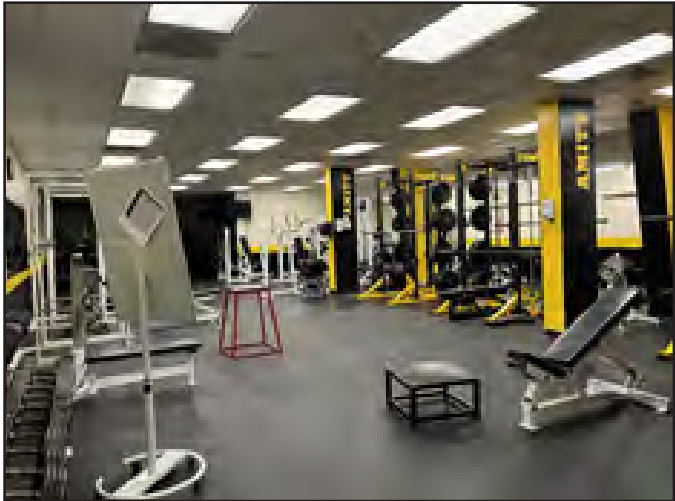


Photo by Zuyang Zhang '27

The Amity Weight Room

weight room is crucial for our sports teams during off-seasons, as it helps us refine our skills and stay dis-

San Francisco vs. Kansas City: Super Bowl LVIII Preview

by Nicholas Lu ‘26

After 21 weeks of the NFL regular season and postseason, the 2023 campaign will end with Super Bowl LVIII on February 11. This year’s big game will be hosted in Las Vegas and feature a clash between the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs as they vie for the title.

For the uninitiated, the Super Bowl is the final game of the NFL postseason which will determine the league’s champions for that year.

The two teams participating in this game are the champions of the National Football Conference (NFC) and the American Football Conference (AFC). The San Francisco 49ers, NFC champions and the favorites to win this year’s Super Bowl, have hoisted the trophy five times in their franchise history.

However, their last championship title was way back in 1995.

In contrast, the Kansas City Chiefs are defending champions with a total of three titles to their name in 1970, 2020, and 2023. Nevertheless, both teams have strong talent and are worthy champions in their own right. The 49ers finished the 2023 season with the No.2 ranked offense. They were No.3 rushing, No.4 passing, and No.3 in scoring with an average of almost 29 points per game.

With their efficient quar-

terback Brock Purdy and talented playmakers such as Brandon Aiyuk, Deebo Samuel, George Kittle, and Christian McCaffrey, the 49ers undoubtedly will be able to press the Chiefs on the attack and take advantage of any slips in their opponent’s defense.

However, the Chiefs’ defense will be difficult for the 49ers to crack. The Chiefs’ defense may be able to hold the line and let their offense, including their famed quarterback Patrick Mahomes and running back Isiah Pacheco, score enough points. If so, then they may just overcome San Francisco.

Among Amity students, the sentiment seems to be in favor of the 49ers. Markiyan Yukno ‘26 said, “As long as the Chiefs don’t win, I am happy.”

Meanwhile, Ashwin Menon ‘26 takes a different view, saying, “Out of all the possibilities for who could play this game, this is the worst outcome. They should have been the Lions and the Ravens.”

Regardless, both the 49ers and Chiefs are strong teams and their clash is a must-see event. The Super Bowl can be streamed on Paramount Plus or watched on CBS or Nickelodeon.

This year for the first time, the Super Bowl will be broadcast in two different formats: the traditional format on CBS and an exclusive kids and family-friendly broadcast on Nickelodeon.

Wrestling Team Takes a Fresh Group to the Mat

by Liliana Fleming ‘24

This year’s wrestling team is led by captains Amara Santulli ‘24, Branimir Lah ‘25, and Cooper Macnevin ‘25.

idea, saying, “For us, bonding looks like pushing each other to do better, encouraging the newer wrestlers, being a good friend on and off the mat,” she said.

“Checking in on teammates during school and being a person they can trust. Bonding



Photo accessed from Instagram @amitywrestling

The Wrestling Team’s seniors on Senior Night include Amara Santulli ‘24, Filiz Sila Bayram ‘24, Alexander Kallmeyer ‘24, and Nicholas Tice ‘24

The team started off the wrestling season this year with a lot of new wrestlers. At the beginning of the season they were starting to adjust to the sport and becoming a team.

Santulli commented on how the team has developed throughout the season. “I’ve seen so much improvement from not only the new wrestlers but also those who have been on the team for a while,” she said.

“In my time as a wrestler, I have never seen so many wins coming from the freshman/new year wrestlers.”

Leaders on the team stress the concept of family and working as a unit.

Santulli added to this

for us is supporting each other and always being there to help encourage and guide,” Santulli added.

This can also be seen when spectators are watching their matches. They are always making sure to be loud and cheering each other on.

The team recently held their senior night on Wednesday, January 31st. The seniors they celebrated were Santuilli, Bayram, Alexander Kallmeyer, and Nicholas Tice. The team came together and won 46 to 29 over Branford.

The team has put in a lot of hard work and effort and is looking forward to proving that during the postseason.



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Athlete Spotlight: Ava Wooldridge ‘24 on Four Years of Field Hockey

by Emma Fotjadhi ‘27

The Amity Girls Field Hockey team had an fantastic 2023 season, ending with a record of 10-6. Now that the season is over, this year’s seniors are considered Amity Field Hockey alumni. Ava Wooldridge ‘24 is one of those seniors, a player who had a great impact on the program during her tenure.

In her four years at Amity, Wooldrige has played both field hockey and softball, and was honored with captainship of the field hockey team for her senior year.

The team’s head coach, Coach Patti Salvati, spoke about Wooldridge. “Ava is an amazing leader both on and off the field,” she said. “Great student, athlete and teammate, I have been lucky to coach this young lady!”

Wooldridge was one of the team’s three captains this season, along with Jillian Barnes ‘24 and Riley Zielinski ‘24.

One of the team’s big wins this season was against Cheshire High School. This was the first time that Amity had beaten Cheshire in Wooldridge’s career. The team did this in an overtime on their home turf.

Wooldridge recalled the game, saying,

“We had a slow start, but soon we gained motivation and this helped us succeed and play an offensively dominant game!”

Field hockey is very different from every other sport at the high school. While it may sound like ice hockey it is nothing like it.

“Enjoying field hockey and balancing intensity and having fun is one of the main values,” Wooldridge said.

To Wooldridge, this was the most important part of it, aside from winning. She looked forward to school starting for field hockey and the amazing group of girls that played the sport with her.

One of her and her co-captains’ goals for the 2023 season was to create a closely bonded group of girls. They wanted to welcome the JV and freshman players and not have divided teams.

Wooldridge said, “In my four years, this has been the closest the team has been, which was super exciting to be a part of and an accomplishment I am also very proud of.”

Although Wooldridge is now an Amity Field Hockey alumni, she mentioned that she will look back on her time with the program fondly. While bittersweet, Wooldrige is still looking forward to closing out her Amity Athletics journey with the spring softball season.



Photo contributed by Ava Wooldridge ‘24

Field Hockey alumni Ava Wooldridge (left) competes against a player from Lyman Hall High School.

New Tardy Policy Prompts Mixed Reactions from Students and Staff after Implementation

by Kylee McLain '24

Every new school year means new implementations to improve on the mishaps of last year at Amity Regional High School. For the past couple of years since the pandemic, the issue of attendance and tardiness has been a common concern among students and staff.

Teacher complaints about students frequently coming into school late and the consequences of that tardiness prompted administration to implement a more consequential policy this year for students who arrive past the bell. The new policy states that if a student receives three unexcused tardies within 10 days, they will be faced with an hour-long detention after school. Administration found that a 10-day period was the most manageable to check consistently, and it was an opportunity to start again for students.

Principal Andre Hauser shared that the main reason behind the unexcused absence and tardiness that have been going on these past few years is because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Attendance is nowhere near what it was before the pandemic, and we recognized that two years ago, so last year, we set a goal of focusing on getting students back in school more regularly," Hauser said.

"There was a huge improvement. Our percentage of kids who are excessively absent was much lower last year than it had been the year before. But what we were noticing was that there was still this cohort of kids that were always coming in late to school or being chronically absent more than 10% of the year," he continued.

Hauser added that, from administration's perspective, the new policy has made improvements compared to previous years but feels that there is still a lot of work to be done.

Administrators also met with both the Orange and Bethany middle schools so that this policy could be implemented there as well to get students adjusted to this change, especially when they graduate from middle school.

Senior Cameron Delvecchio explained that while he has not personally been affected by this new tardy policy, he still knows a lot of other people who have. The senior shared how he has noticed that a lot of his friends who were once continuously late are now showing up on time a lot more consistently this

year. He feels that their change in behavior can be attributed to the new policy.

"I obviously don't have the statistics from this change, but I'm confident it's working, especially at the threat of getting a detention," Delvecchio said, "I believe that threat should be enough to get students to school in time."

While the administration and the Amity senior may have this outlook on their new policy, some Amity students and certain staff members have different opinions on this implementation.

When asked about his thoughts on the three tardies in a 10-day span policy, senior Tyson Askoy

similar opinion with Aksoy. Based on her experience, she described the policy as "unclear for both students and teachers."

"There was without a doubt an issue before with attendance and tardiness, and I have yet to see any difference with it this year as well," said White.

The administration had said that they were open to making this policy either stricter or more lenient for the following years, but that is all based on the data collected from the previous year. Which one they decide on can be a difficult decision, however, because the vast majority seem to have a different vision for their ideal policy.

Aksoy is on the side that believes they should make it more lenient next year. The senior recalled his most recent violation of the policy, where he was only a minute late to class, but because that was his third, he still received a detention over it.

"I know many students who have also experienced detentions because they were only a minute late to school, and I know that they all feel the same as I do on this matter," Aksoy commented.

White, however, has a different idea in mind. The Spanish teacher said her ideal tardy policy would be that each tardy would count as one-third of an absence. She believes that would be a way more motivating factor for students and would put an end to the policies constantly being "inconsistent and inconsistently enforced" like years prior.

Amity's neighboring school system, North Haven High School, also has disciplinary actions for multiple tardies. Similar to Amity, any student who arrives over 20 minutes late to class will be marked as being cut from that class.

Cutting class without a legitimate excuse is immediately disciplined with detention for the first instance, additional detentions and sanctions that may occur after school or on Saturday for up to 4 hours for any time after that, and then persistent cutting results in additional sanctions that can include in-school and out-of-school suspensions. Cuts also count as absences that can add up to the student losing credit.

Hauser mentioned, however, that they are planning to do a year-to-year comparison after the first semester and see what the actual data holds in terms of tardiness. This data will confirm how impactful the policy has actually been this year and if further adjustments are actually necessary.



Photo contributed by Avery Dillon '24
Students arrive at school on a recent Wednesday.

responded, "I personally think that it is very limiting and that the administration is using it more as a scare tactic than as a disciplinary action."

Aksoy has received multiple detentions because of this policy and shared that these detentions entail sitting in a room after school for an hour or two and completing a reflection packet that focuses on the student's actions.

"It is a pretty useless form of punishment that does not solve anything. Usually, my attendance is pretty good, but yet I have received three detentions so far because of this. The only time I am tardy is if I accidentally oversleep or if I experience car or parking lot issues," he admitted.

Meghan White, a longtime Spanish teacher who mainly teaches juniors and seniors, shares a

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