

# THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXVI-No. 5

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

February 17, 2023

## Photo Classes Restore Damaged Images from Hurricane

by Anchal Bahel '23 and Andie Napolitano '24

For the past few months, Amity's photography students have been working hard to restore photographs damaged in Hurricane Ian, which devastated Florida's west coast in September. Florida photographer Krista Kowalczyk started "Operation Photo Rescue" to recover damaged photographs.

Amity's photography teacher Lisa Toto heard about Kowalczyk's efforts and knew that her students would be able to help, as they had been learning about photo restoration.

"I got in touch with her after seeing that the World News [ABC World News Tonight] did a story on her and told her that my students would be able to help with her efforts," Toto said. "I think this experience made my students feel good because they were able to help people."

Over the duration of two and a half months, students in a variety of Toto's photography classes restored over 100 photographs. The students were featured in the New Haven Register and even made an appearance on News 8's "What's Right With Schools" segment, the school's second feature of the year.

Kowalczyk, the coordinator of the project, was so impressed by the students' work that she came to Woodbridge from Florida to interview and chat with them in January and view their



Photo contributed by Anchal Bahel '23

Students present the restored version of photos to a Florida resident through an online meeting in the Library in January.

work in person.

Toto's students had the opportunity to meet with two of the families that they helped through an online meeting and witness their reactions to seeing their newly restored photographs.

Giovanni Aldi '24 said, "It was really nice to

see the reactions of the people we helped and how emotional they became. It was hard to make a personal connection before talking with [them], but after meeting them it was very easy to put faces to the pictures we fixed."

Students reflected on their experience of restoring these damaged photographs. Photo III student Amanda Koola '24 said, "Working on the photos was genuinely therapeutic, and knowing I made an impact on saving the memories and milestones of someone's life makes the time spent on it so much more valuable."

Cassidy Smith '23 added, "The experience was fulfilling. It was something that I wouldn't have thought I would ever get to do."

For students, having the opportunity was a unique experience. They got the chance to do something beyond the scope of just receiving a grade and touch the lives of others. Photos are showcased in the case near the cafe. Stop by and soak in the work that your peers created - all as a part of helping others.

## Parents Briefed on UELP Program at Info Session

by Audrey Cummings '23

The Unpaid Experiential Learning Program, or UELP, information session for parents was held on January 10th. With many parents and students in attendance, the night was a success.

The goal of the information session was to provide parents with the purpose and logistics of the 12-day program that many of their children would be partaking in at the end of the school year, from May 15-31. The session began with a presentation by UELP organizers and career counselors Lynn Cocco and Paula Vallie, who explained the important information to keep in mind for parent-student planning of internships.

Key points to note were that the name of the program changed from SSLP to UELP and that parents must sign a form in PowerSchool which was available on January 20.

The senior internship program began in 2006 with 16 seniors who were motivated to spend their last weeks of high school on internships to attain real-world job experience in preparation for post-educational careers.

Now, all seniors are required to participate in the UELP program or work on an independent project, SIP, that can be on any topic of the student's choice.

Cocco said, "I am proud of these students who go out there and go through the job search process. This is a skill we all need to know how to do and this gets them started with that."

Last year, 87% of seniors participated in the internship program, with 304 students spending the last couple weeks at an off-campus job site. This was an increase from last year which only had a 60% participation rate due to the pandemic.

Continued on page 2

## Guiding Students towards the Future Post-Secondary Planning Night

by Alice Xu '24

As the second semester begins, Amity students have begun to look toward the future. With their final year of high school imminent, juniors and their parents were given the opportunity to attend the annual post-secondary planning night.

Taking place on the evening of January 5, this was aimed to provide insight into the long and complex process of college admissions.

Students and parents listened to a brief introduction from Director of Counseling Jill Laplante before welcoming back Ann Fleming Brown, the Director of Admissions at Union College.

Besides telling anecdotal stories of her own children's experiences applying for college, Brown also discussed the differ-

ent parts of a college admissions portfolio and the most important aspects, beginning with a student's transcript and ending with the interview.

The night provided attendees with resources on the path to college applications, such as Brown's suggestion to look into

"The College Essay Guy," a media creator who assists students in college admissions.

Brown provided a Naviance link through which students and parents can access content to help with life after high school.

Continued on page 2



Photo contributed by Annie Yun '24

Ann Fleming Brown presents her take on crucial sections of a college admissions portfolio with help from students.

IN THIS ISSUE



CAPSS Awards News, 2



Lines of Love Features, 6-7



NHS BOWA Boutique Arts, 9



Girls Track Sports, 11



# CAPSS Awarded to Six Seniors

by Aachal Gupta '25

The CAPSS Award is the Superintendent Student Award Recognition Program, one which six seniors at Amity recently won. Overall, Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Byars presented 10 students, six high school seniors and four middle school students, with the award.

On January 9th, during the Board of Education meeting, these 10 students were awarded. The high school recipients are seniors Anchal Bahel, Nina Carmeli, Francis Cavallaro, Allen Liu, Grace Mahon, and Katherine Sim.

They received awards in recognition of their leadership within the school community, community involvement, and service to others, as well as their strong academic performance.

When asked what receiving the award meant to him, Cavallaro said, "It felt great to be recognized for my hard work and service, and I am excited for future opportunities to better my community."

Service and leadership are essential for a smooth running community. Upon asking how some seniors showed their leadership, Bahel said, "I showed leadership through my roles within Student Government, and I am grateful to have been elected consistently by my class for such responsibilities. It's motivating to have such a

supportive and hardworking council to lead."

Mahon had advice for Amity students who want to become leaders, saying, "Aspiring leaders should become involved in activities where they can get to know people in their communities."

"Being involved in multiple teams, clubs and after-school activities has been very beneficial to me as I grew through Amity," she added.

This prestigious award is

given every year to hardworking and well serving seniors to acknowledge their commitment to the Amity community throughout the duration of their high school experience.

All six seniors showed community involvement, academic achievement, and leadership in the school community, and were recognized for their diligent work.

In addition to the seniors, several middle school students were also honored.



Photo contributed by Piyush Bahel '23  
Seniors pose for a picture after receiving their CAPSS Award along with several middle school students.

# Principal's Committee Column

by Hannah Chen '23

During the past few weeks' Principal Committee meetings, students have expressed their thoughts on midterms and the recent lockdown drill.

Regarding Midterms, some students expressed opinions on the purpose of midterms as well as whether or not all seniors should be exempt from the exams.

Principal Andre Hauser explained that the purpose of midterms is to get all students to experience and learn from a larger exam that will prepare them for the future. These two-hour-long exams are to measure students' progress in the first semester and also encourage them to reflect on their study habits and whether or not they are successful for them individually.

As for seniors, for many classes, they are exempt if they have a B or better. However, this rule does not apply to all seniors. For most of the Advanced Placement (AP) classes and Honors classes, students are required to take the midterm regardless of their grade. Students in Principal's Committee expressed that students may avoid taking more rigorous classes to avoid having to

take these exams. Students shared that eliminating AP/Honors midterms may actually incentivize students to enroll in more college-like classes to prepare them for the future if they choose that path.

On January 27th, Amity had a practice lockdown to ensure that all students and teachers are prepared in the case of an emergency. Students in the committee shared that some classes reacted accordingly while others took it less seriously knowing that this incident was a planned drill.

Regardless of whether or not it was a drill, Hauser encouraged students to spread the word that if the lockdown announcement were to occur again, planned or unplanned, to take proper protocol. Hauser emphasized the importance of waiting for the police to unlock the door before resuming class. Even if there is an announcement saying the threat is cleared, students are expected to remain in lockdown until directed by the police to leave.

Throughout the second semester, the Principal's Committee is hoping to provide feedback on Portrait of the Graduate and start brainstorming ideas for Teacher Appreciation Week.

## LETTERS OF LOVE

Luke, I love you bbg, you wanna be my valentine?

To Aadya, JCU in my dreams! Love, Sam

Sheehan, The only ticket you need is a speeding ticket to my heart. Instead of speeding to school how about you speed to my house ;) Leo Gao (Future Demon Amity Outside)

More Lines of Love appear throughout the issue!

Dear Hannah, "I was enchanted to meet you" — Taylor Swift



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# Parents Briefed on UELP

Continued from page 1

In addition to logistics, Cocco and Vallie also explained the eligibility requirements, saying that to participate in the UELP program, students must be in good academic standing and cannot not be on the "may not graduate" list.

Credit for fourth quarter classes depends on the successful completion of either UELP or SIP for all seniors.

A common question parents had was whether students would be able to continue participation in spring sports, and Cocco was sure to emphasize that they would.

Parents were happy with the presentation and had excited attitudes about the new and upcoming UELP program.

Amity parent Emily Melnick said that UELP is "a great opportunity to learn outside of the classroom."

# Guiding Students towards the Future through Planning

Continued from page 1

The well attended night overall gave attendees an introduction to the journey they will soon be embarking upon.

Following the post-secondary planning night, Laplante and the guidance counselors encouraged

their students to schedule Junior Planning sessions or personal meetings to further solidify their plans for their post-high school path and prepare students for the future.

These meetings will be continuing throughout the second semester.



*Editorial*

# Reflections on Black History Month

On February 6, 1986, Congress passed Public Law 92-244. This historic day solidified February as Black History Month under US Law. President Reagan proclaimed that the purpose of this month was to “make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity... and celebrate the many achievements of African Americans in every field from science and the arts to politics and religion.”

Over the past 27 years, presidents have regularly delivered proclamations each February, in recognition of this month.

In honor of this significant month, we wanted to take time to reflect on the

words of Michelle Obama, the first Black First Lady of the United States: “History has shown that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

While we constantly strive to make this world a place where people of all colors come together, collaborate, and live in peace, the achievement of this goal has been more than rocky. Despite seeing progress, there have also been many setbacks to true equality, represented through the traumatizing events of the Black Lives Matter Movement, and most recently with the death of Tyre Nichols.

What her quote defines for us, the rising generation, is that we must take the experi-

ences of our past and use them to improve future actions. We are currently emerging to be a part of greater society and it is vital that we carry hope with us as we encounter obstacles among our paths. By utilizing and being inspired by the strength of African American activists, we can and will continue to make positive changes in our world.

Continuing to have both courage and hope will allow us to overcome any setbacks and come back even stronger. As a community, we Amity students and staff must implement attitudes of kindness and generosity towards others. Only then can we truly call ourselves advocates for change.

*This Editorial was written by members of the Trident Editorial Board and reflects its majority.*

## So Many Ways to Show Your Love on Valentine’s Day

by Rose Megyola ‘24

When Valentines Day comes, so does the opportunity to show your loved ones that you care for them. By loved ones, I’m not just referring to significant others; friends and family should also be celebrated.

Valentine’s Day is a holiday designated to love, so it wouldn’t be complete if all forms of love were not included. It can never hurt to reinforce the amount of love shared with those you care about.

In English, we don’t have a single word for platonic love. However, the Ancient Greeks did: *Philia*, or affection for friends. I think that for girls, we can practice Valentine’s Day by putting a little spin on it: *Galentine’s Day*. I say this because if we already have *Friendsgiving* during Thanksgiving, there is nothing stopping girls from supporting girls by expressing their *philia* for one another.

There’s no doubt that we all love our closest friends. And I don’t think anyone has ever said in history that they dislike feeling appreciated by their loved ones.

There is an expansive array of fun activities to choose from when celebrating Valentine’s Day and *Galentine’s Day* this year. Romantic expressions of love are well known; one significant other often gives their other half gifts like chocolates or flowers and a nice dinner out.

However, if you commemorate this day platonically, there are still plenty of options! Some ideas for *Galentine’s Day* are: having a movie night, a heart-themed photo shoot, making each other bracelets, creating art together, or having a day buying gifts for each other (which I imagine can be very touching if you know the person well with all their likes and dislikes). Any celebration is fit for Valentine’s Day as long as it’s done in love.

## The Speaker of the House Election Highlights a Divided Party

by Ellen Ko ‘24

Typically, opening day in the House of Representatives is marked by the short-lived promise that this Congress will work better than the last. However, this hope was immediately squashed by representatives’ failure to elect a speaker on the first ballot. It was crushed again when representatives could not elect a speaker on the second ballot. And again on the third. And on the fourth. Fifth. Sixth. Seventh. Eighth. Ninth. Tenth. Eleventh. Twelveth. Thirteenth. Fourteenth.

Finally, Representative Kevin McCarthy was elected Speaker of the House on the fifteenth ballot. If this vote shows anything, it’s the reality of a divided party within a dis-united government.

The polarization of our country’s legislature is beginning to creep into one of the major parties. Many of the legislators who refused to vote for McCarthy are a part of the Freedom Caucus and align themselves with Donald Trump’s ideologies. These few far-right legislators indicate the growing disunity in the GOP. The impact of this faction beckons the question: what now?

The fifteen separate ballots necessary to

elect Kevin McCarthy signifies that disunity within the Republican party is beginning to hinder its success. If the party could not elect a Speaker of the House, then what does that mean for legislation? If a Congress full of elected officials cannot unite for the sake of their own party, then how will future legislation ever be passed?

In a post-Trump America, will compromise be able to be made? The foundations of our country were built on compromise, which arguably made our Constitution ingenious.

However, modern-day legislators seem unable to compromise to the same extent as their predecessors. This incapacity is because of increasing polarization. Because of the disunity that the Trump Administration brought about. This administration was the trigger for a multitude of nationwide debates, primarily due to his polarizing stances on current issues.

Will future generations have to suffer because of our own stubbornness? With this inability to compromise in mind, and the effects of it seen everywhere, from simple classroom debates to House Speaker elections, it’s in our best interest to reunite and reinforce the importance of compromise.

# The Amity Trident

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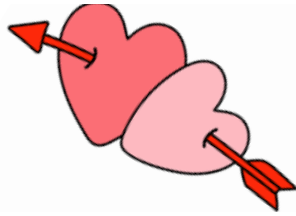
Check your email and listen to the announcements for information on a writers meeting for the March issue.

**Get involved. Write for the Trident!**



# LOVES OF LOVE

*Kiley, you are the glue that links my Okazaki strands together. ~ Aadya*



*Hannah, you're eating it up fr. Love u queen - Grace*

*Audrey + Nina, if you were vegetables, you guys would be "cute-cumbers!" ~Aadya*

*To the Crime Buddies + honorary members, Thank you for such a wonderful year and im so thankful for all of you guys. Love you! <3*

*More Lines of Love appear throughout the issue!*

*Sam, I want tibia your valentine!  
Love, Aadya*

*To Mr. Shamp, Are you the moon? Because even when it's dark you still seem to shine!  
- Senior SRP Girls*

*Sheehan, w~w~ when I go home I stare at my wall filled with posters of you and I try not to kiss your lucious lips.  
- Yazeed Hasan (Seafood Gobbler)*



*Kaylah Quest, Love you the most fav, keep being great. - Mari <3*

*Sarah, you slay so hard. I love u queen - Grace*

*Max, you are the most foul human being ive ever met! ;)*

*Mrs. Mozealous, Thanks for being the best counselor! Hannah*

*To Henry Jeong, I love your smile.  
From your secret admirer*

*To Mr. Stockmol: Thank you for giving us candy #coolest-mathteacherever.  
From: Camryn and Emily*



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# Finding Each ‘Piece of the Puzzle’

## Alumna Courtney Gibbons Thrives as STEM Policy Fellow

by Bridget Lowder ‘24

Each year, the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) places fellows in the executive, judicial,



and legislative branches of the federal government where they can use their STEM training to work on policy development and implementation.

This year 300 fellows – scientists, mathematicians, and engineers with a wide array of expertise, from rare genetic diseases to energy resiliency – have been assigned to the three branches.

Hamilton College Associate Professor of Mathematics Courtney Gibbons was selected as one of only two Science and Technology Policy Legislative Branch Fellows funded by the AAAS this year. She began her new role working with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in September.

Although Gibbons graduated from Amity in 2000, she was such a stand-out student that her legacy lives on more than two decades later. English teacher Tasia Kimball remembers Gibbons fondly from her time at Amity, saying, “I had her as a student for two years and she was one of those kids who could do all facets of English. She could write analytically very beautifully, but she was also a lovely creative writer ... We’re still in touch today and she sends me lots of pictures of her baby.”

I was excited to have the opportunity to interview Gibbons and learn more about her time at Amity and her journey to becoming a prestigious Science and Technology Policy Legislative Branch Fellow. During our conversation, we had the chance to

discuss the impact of her Amity experience, her new position, tips for current Amity students, and more:

**B: How did Amity prepare you for this position? Were there any specific classes or clubs?**

G: What’s funny to me now looking back, is how I wasn’t the world’s most engaged student in history classes or classes that would have prepared me to work in the Senate. I remember we were doing a crash course at the beginning of our orientation for this position and I was thinking “Oh my god, this is just like AP history. If I had just paid attention to it I would have been so prepared.” As far as my math career goes, I didn’t really see myself as a mathematician and I was surprised when I ended up majoring in math and then continuing further. I had some really great math teachers [that] were all very patient with me and encouraged me to keep doing math. With both my academic path through math and also my interest in how different people experience America, just trying to do things that make it a more fair and just place to live.

**B: How do you hope to inspire others, like students and the next generation, with what you do?**

G: Oh my gosh! Inspiration is maybe more than what I’m hoping for, although it would be nice. I think in my classroom, again this goes back to a conversation I had with Tasia Kimball actually, when I was first teaching in grad school, and she told me to think really hard about assessment and how you assess students. Of course back then I thought, “assessment, that’s easy, that’s just grades I need to figure out how to grade and then I’m done.” But it turns out it’s a whole piece of this puzzle and so what I really hope to do with my career is to create opportunities for students who like math to have fun doing math and maybe even forget about the fact that they’re being graded....So I’m trying to figure out a way to bring that experience to more students who maybe don’t necessarily see themselves as math people until they get

to start playing with math ideas the way a mathematician does.

**B: That’s really cool! I wouldn’t honestly consider myself a math person, but maybe in the future I will be.**

G: Honestly, I dropped out of the first college I went to, finished after a little bit of time and then finished my undergrad at Colorado College where I honestly took Calc III because the guy who was at the tent at the meet our faculty thing was wearing the same Converse sneakers I was. The whole fellowship thing is a weird journey too, I knew that I wanted to do something like it but the fact that I moved from central New York to where I am now, I live across the river from Washington D.C. I have a new baby. This is not even two years ago what I would’ve imagined for myself. So if I’m allowed to give advice, it is to make the space to throw your plans aside to go on a weird journey.

**B: That’s actually a perfect transition to my next question. Do you have any tips for Amity students who would be interested in sort of what you’re doing and hoping to set out to accomplish?**

G: A Google search is good if you occasionally look out for fellowship opportunities. Also asking people about what they’re doing and if they enjoy the sorts of things they’re working on and staying in contact with them. I had been on a policy efficacy committee for the association of women in math, which is kind of a public policy thing we met like once a month, and the executive director at the time had done this fellowship and she said “are you aware this fellowship exists? You’d be really into it.” So just telling people who you are and the kinds of things you’re interested in is important.

**B: That’s some very helpful advice! Going off what you were just talking about, how were you chosen for this role and how did you put yourself out there?**

G: I really considered doing this ever since I was a grad student in 2009. I saw a booth at a math conference that said “go to Congress” and I thought that would be cool if I was a professor one day. When I did apply,... I was asked to give a five minute briefing to a panel of scientists who were interviewing me. I think my favorite part was when I said, “And I really want to go to Congress because Rosa DeLauro told me to when I was nine.” They were very confused and I said “I met her during her first term in Congress in New Haven and she said they needed more women in government.” I had applied for working in Congress and for a different version where I was working for an executive branch agency. Then, I found out that I could have either of those positions at the same time I realized I was pregnant! I thought since I was pregnant there was no way I could drop everything and go to D.C. but then about 10 minutes later I changed my mind. For the legislative fellowship, there was a round of interviews with actual congressional offices after that and it was kind of a blur but that’s where I found my placement. So now I work for the Senate committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, which is a committee that does a lot of different stuff but its jurisdiction includes how the government procures things.



Photo contributed by Courtney Gibbons

## Connecticut Hurricanes: The Storm Behind the Scenes

by Grace Cavallaro ‘24

It is Friday afternoon at 2:18. Students flood the hallway, chattering with excitement as they rush to get a head start on their weekends.

What most students do not realize is that the activity in the building does not end when everyone leaves. Even most of the sports teams that practice on Saturdays are not around on Sundays. What happens at Amity when no one else is around? Why is the front parking lot full on some Sundays?

Those cars belong to members of the Connecticut Hurricanes, a drum and bugle corps based in Seymour. The Hurricanes were founded in Derby in 1932 and are now the oldest continually active member of the Drum Corps Associates (DCA), the largest competitive circuit for drum and bugle corps, specifically for groups of all ages.

Other groups, such as Drum Corps International (DCI) have age restrictions (DCI is only for

members under 22 years of age). DCA is unique because there is no age restriction, and thus the Hurricanes have members of all ages, from high school students to those who have aged out of DCI. Last year, the Hurricanes took home their first DCA world championship in over 40 years.

The DCA schedule usually includes having member programs practice on weekends over the winter,

and then more consistently in the spring and summer leading up to the summer competition season. It is not easy to find winter practice space, but the Hurricanes found their solution at Amity.

Hurricane operations manager Daniel Staffieri has been working at Amity with Phil Dolan, the band director, for about twelve or thirteen years, after having worked at

various other high schools teaching band. Staffieri was in the corps for fifteen years before teaching, and he is now responsible for securing practice facilities, finding fields to



Photo contributed by Hurricanes Facebook

run for long periods of time, even running from eight in the morning to nine at night. This seems like a huge commitment, and it certainly is, but as Staffieri put it, “What we

need to pull off you can’t learn in two hours a day.” Practices have different focuses, including calisthenics, dance class, drill, and music. The band has a rich history and certainly works hard to maintain its tradition, yet there is so much more to the Hurricanes than just their hard work to prepare for shows. The Hurricanes have become a family for those who may not have a strong family connection at home. The band is a very welcoming community that takes everyone, no matter what. No one is turned away. Even those who have never played an instrument can, with hard work and commitment,

pick it up through the Hurricanes. The Hurricanes have always fostered a family atmosphere in which everyone becomes close over the time they spend together. It may seem difficult for members of all ages to be able to connect so well, but Staffieri explained that with everyone there for the same goal, by the end of the year, members do not even realize there is an age gap.

“We’ve had boys and girls joining the band needing a big brother and finding a big brother,” he added. The band environment has provided mentorship to many kids regarding life skills, not just music.

Why commit so much time to marching band? Staffieri said he wished band was as popular as sports because it’s just as much fun. “There is no other feeling in the world than to go out on that field and compete with 100 people who are like your family. You do it for yourself, but when you love each other that much, you do it for everybody around you. It’s a sport, it’s just music sport.”



To my period 4 class, you are my favorite class! Love u guys! <3 <3

To Grace, We love you Ricky Rain!!



To Emily Gu and the science bowl team captains, thanks for being great captains! When is the February tournament? Love, Anita

To Shreya: I wish I'd paid more attention to science in high school because you and I've got chemistry and I want to know all about it.  
- Your secret admirer

To Bestie Zaleski: Thank you for taking on the role of being this teacher. We appreciate your efforts to teach this class, to listen to us, and to understand us.  
Love, the PRLAAB class Period 5

Dear Mr. Baretta:  
Dinner date @Mickey D's 8PM 2/14?  
Love, Kevin Zhao  
2023

Sheehan \*uwu\*, I love your Sartin youtube videos because your costume is very cool. But I like seeing you even more with the suit off  
XOXO - Charles Chen (professional osu gamer)



To My Bio Buddies, Thank you guys for being there. I appreciate y'all so much! U guys can make me feel happy in seconds of just being in class. I love u guys!! <3

To Thomas M. '23, I love your personality and you're cute.  
Love, your secret admirer

I love Olivia Cummings with my whole heart<3 From your secret admirer

**Sena Ho, you are my soulmate and I love you. Tomorrow X Forever. - Marin <3**

Happy Valentines Day Danny! Love you the most! Love, Mrs. Zaleski (mom)



To everyone, thank you for being so welcoming to me during my first semester at Amity!  
Mr. Hauser

Dear Flork, we're not lazy, we're just overflowing with potential energy :)  
Love, Nina and Hannah

To Kaitlyn K, You are my best friend ever - Matty M.

Mrs. Clark, we can't thank you enough for everything you do! We adore you!! Love, Your Trident Staff

I love Angela - From Your Secret Admirer

To Hastings: we love you xoxo em and cam

# BOY LOVE



Sarah- I don't like you ;)

I hope you know CPR because you took my breath away!! :)))) to my dearest emily baitch - Grayson Key

hey baefy, what would you do if i was under your bed right now? - secret admirer

To Coach Jacobs, we would love to wish you the best TIME in your retirement!  
Love, the Health and PE Department

Mrs.P: To us, you're hydrogen because you are our number 1 - Senior SRP Girls

Dear Maurice Byrd, I love your beautiful locks. You a dime. From, Burke Lindsey

Sheehan, you put my reality on edge ;) \*whimpers nervously\* \*blushes with excitement\* - Ian Lee (Gacha gamer addict)



June Lin I love you! Mwah! - Marin

Dear Sarah, I'm so extremely happy I met you, you deserve everything good in the world <33

Dear Marin, thank you for being in my life love <3 you mean everything to me

Grayson Key- They can't fit what I feel for you in a conversation heart - Emily :)

To Hannah C, you are so smart, cute

Sheehan, Your beautiful bengali eyes, your huge dorito back, your luscious hair, and your spectacular physique. I dream of holding you in my arms while we count sheep. \*blushes\* Ben (Discord Mod)

I think your skin is hot, how much robux would it take for you to go out with me? - Your Secret Admirer

To my favorite class, you know who you are ;) - Ms. DiGangi

To Ginny: Do you like cats? because I'd like you to take meowt xoxo em and cam

Viviana Pfannenbecker you the love of my life - your secret admirer



Georgia, you're my best friend! love you lots

**I love Mr. Shamp. -- Mr. Stanley**

To Justin Minaya, I think you're really cute. From, your secret admirer

Audi TT- You are my main girlfriend

Sheehan, there are 346 things I want to SAY to you by the BROOK, near the road while we eat ORANGES in our beautiful DARK BLUE HOUSE.- Trevor Llavalee (Tech office menace)



# Student Artwork Displayed at Hartford Exhibition

by Selin Ho '23

Following an eventful Sunday in Hartford, students were led into a large open gallery exhibiting artwork from high school scholars across the state. The CT Regional Scholastic Art Awards are a series of awards given to students who have achieved high artistic merit. They enter this competition to earn recognition for their work and respectively win various awards.

The awards are categorized as Honorable Mentions, Silver Key, and Gold Key. Students Fiona Jaimes '23, Selin Ho '23, Nora Losty '23, Deborah Luo '24, Amanda Koola '24, and Michael Aversa '25 all received awards that day and were invited to visit the student art display being held at the Donald and Linda Silpe Gallery.

When first entering the gallery, students are immediately hit with a vast collection of artwork that lines the gallery walls. Both large and small pieces

of art alike inhabit the same wall space, creating an almost overwhelming experience of acclaimed work. Students can gaze at each piece for hours, taking in the insurmountable skill and beauty each artist embedded into their craft. There are a large variety of pieces, ranging from photography to sculpture, painting to textile work—the students used almost any medium imaginable. The first gallery room spanned almost 20 feet, with 10-foot high ceilings.

Within the middle of the room stood the sculpture work, both large and small. They were displayed with meticulous attention. Each winning piece was arranged appropriately and had a small label attached to signify the artist's name, school, art advisor, and award level. Students who received gold or silver keys respectively had a small gold or silver key sticker next to their name. Not to mention the complex concepts displayed by the students had most gallery viewers in awe.

Some pieces were highly-detailed representative paintings—displaying still life's of fruits, tables, houses, and other amazing subject matter. Other

pieces were more abstract, creating a collaborative commentary on political stances, environmental issues, cultural heritage, and social constructs.

In addition to the first gallery room, the second room was much larger, nearly the length of three classrooms. It housed even more work from the respective students, including the pieces that were granted special awards. Though all artwork was displayed, a certain collection of students were given an award for "Best in Show" which was placed in a specific corner of the gallery room. These pieces were deemed the best out of the shown collection in Hartford, and some students even left with monetary prizes.

Overall, the CT Regional Scholastic Hartford Exhibition was an amazing way to showcase talented young artists in a professional gallery. It opened the eyes to hundreds of educators and parents who witnessed the pure artistic ability of students. The gallery show ended on February 3rd, yet it nonetheless conveys the true power of art and the never ending pursuit of the arts for students all over the state.



CT Regional Scholastic Hartford Exhibition



Photos contributed by Selin Ho '23

## AP Art Students Showcase Their Talent in Local Gallery

by Alice Xu '24

In recent weeks, Amity's AP 2D and 3D Art students have had the opportunity to share the products of their talents and dedication with the community in the Painted Path Art Gallery at 10 Selden, a local event space in Woodbridge that has hosted Amity art students' works in years prior.

This gallery opened January 27, and since then, it has been open every Thursday through Saturday from 5:00 to 8:00 pm until the day of its closing on February 16. It featured displays of 2D and 3D art, the result of a half-year of work on the part of each student.

Many of the projects shown were pieces from students' sustained investigations, a section of the AP portfolio in which students develop a question or inquiry to guide their work and present fifteen pieces related to the aforementioned prompt. Besides being able to showcase their work to the public, students were also offered the option to sell their work, if they so wished. Even if they

chose not to, just presenting their artwork in Painted Path provided a unique and new experience for many students.

Deborah Luo '24 commented on the novelty and excitement of seeing her artwork "in a non-school environment. There's something really cool about getting to go into a

gallery, point at something on the wall, and say, 'I made that!'"

The sentiment is no doubt shared by many who, for the first time, were given the chance to see themselves as artists in a gallery.

For Emily De Souza '23, this was likewise her "first year being able to experience the art exhibition, and it was an amazing experience. We had conversations about the pieces and

other art related topics, the vibe was calming and relaxing. I would definitely recommend an experience like the gallery to any student."

This gallery provided students with an experience to remember and a place where they could give themselves a voice through their artwork that is seen and recognized outside of school.



Photo contributed by Deborah Luo '24  
"Sketch Jacket" by Selin Ho '23

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# NHS Hosts BOWA Community Boutique

by Nina Carmeli '23

The National Honors Society hosted and pioneered a town-wide charity thrift store titled "BOWA Boutique". The fundraiser was presented in two parts, first with a drive for clothing collection, followed by a shopping event where community members could revamp their wardrobes by snagging gently used items from across the three towns.

The first part of the "BOWA Boutique" mission began from December 9 to December 23 of 2022, where students and other members of the community had the opportunity to donate gently used and washed clothes at drop-off locations at the high school, both middle schools, the Orange Community Center, Woodbridge Town Library, and the Case Me-

emory, this two-part event was handled efficiently and effectively. The Thrift Store subcommittee met many times after school and early in the morning to plan



this fundraising event.

After the completion of the drive, BOWA community members were invited to attend a thrift store event hosted by the students in the high school cafeteria. On Saturday, January 7, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm, students, parents, and members of the greater community gathered to "shop" the collected second-hand clothing and accessory pieces donated in weeks past.

The cafeteria was transformed into a "shop", featuring baked goods, refreshments, music, and decorations. Clothing was separated by type of article and size to allow for easy perusing.

Boulton explained that the fundraiser was a win-win, saying, "The monetary donations made from the thrift event go to the National Honors Society fund, but 50% of the profits made off of the cloth-

ing will go to charity.

"As well, all donated clothes that were not purchased are currently housed and will hopefully be used for another thrift store event soon. I'm glad we were able to have such a successful event and get so many people involved," she added.

Shreya Hebbar '23, one of the organizers, also shared the same sentiment. "It was really cool to see how there were so many clothes and we raised a lot of money which was amazing," she said.

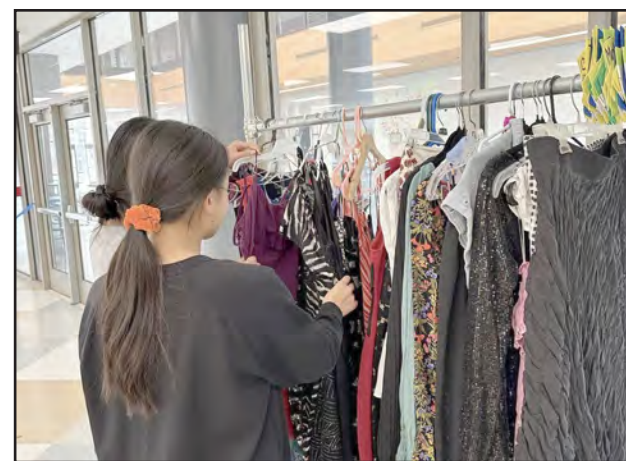
In addition, Karishma Bulsara '23, social media coordinator of the NHS, shared, "I thought it was a well-planned event that went really well. It was a success and we definitely hope to do it again in the future."

The committee agreed that this was a major success and is excited to plan a similar event in the future.



morial Library.

Headed by Sydney Melchiorre '23 and Ava Boulton '23, members of the National Honors Soci-



All photos contributed by Amity National Honors Society Instagram

# Music Department Celebrates the Season with Annual Winter Concert

by CJ Brinton '24

The Music Department's annual concert returned this year in two parts: a testament to the talent and the hard work of all students involved. Strings ensembles

performed on December 21st. The next night, December 22nd, the Choral and Band ensembles performed.

The decision to split the concert was necessary, as each ensemble performed several pieces, which would have concluded in what is called a "marathon" of music. The vast array of performances reflected the dedication of the directors for each respective ensemble. For Choir and Band, the preparation for this performance only began after the conclusion of Music in Motion, the fall show.

Ben Aviad '24 reflected on this saying, "We began rehearsing for the event in early November, giving us just several weeks to perfect each piece." Band Director Phil Dolan also commented on the theme of this concert, which guides each director in choosing material.

"Typical concert repertoire is selected with an emphasis on the season. In this case, winter. I do pick literature that celebrates the different events that take place during that time of the year as well music that is representative of winter," he explained.

Several students also said that this is their only "formal" concert during the year, a fact that certainly impacts the theme and the choice of pieces to perform. Marin Korenaga '23, a member of both the Chamber Orchestra and the Amity Orchestra described, "My favorite piece to perform was 'Merry Go Round of Life' from Howl's Moving Castle. I really enjoyed playing something that I've grown up listening to."

As for the second night, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Concert Band, Rhythmix and Choir participated. Gabi Restrepo '25, a member of both Choir and Rhythmix, Amity's acapella group, described the preparations required and her opinion of the performance. She said, "We had our usual meeting every Thursday after school. Rhythmix ones were rarer [than Choir] as we only practiced together once a week for an hour max; because of that, we had to be extremely focused and dedicated during rehearsal," but, "even so, everyone did their part and practiced at home on their own, which allowed everything to come together smoothly and helped to strengthen our sound."

Rhythmix performed the classic holiday tune "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas," using an arrangement by acapella group Pentatonix. The Jazz Band

performed two songs, "Hot Chocolate" from the movie Polar Express, and a Latin fusion song "Take 5," while the Concert Band/Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed four songs. Aviad expressed that his favorite was "Hanukkah Highlights" because "it was catchy and was a different style from the other pieces we played."

Dolan agreed with this sentiment, saying "Students really enjoy playing music of the holiday season."

Amity Choir, which joins Concert Choir and Honors Choir, performed a total of four songs, two of which were accompanied by the immensely talented Deborah Luo '24, who is also a member of Jazz Band and Rhythmix.

Harry Rosenay '23 explained the immense amount of work Choir Director Marcia Rizzotti put into this performance, and the dedication of the Choir both in and out of school in order to create the best sound and performance possible. Emotion in performance, no matter the instrument, draws and keeps an audience more than any note progression could.

In addition to the success found in this concert, Korenaga reflected on this being her last Winter Concert at Amity. "It definitely makes me feel grateful to have been able to perform in every winter concert since I was a freshman," she said. "Throughout high school, orchestra has been something of a constant in my life, and the class environment (with the mix of underclassman and upperclassman) was always comforting to me. Performing in a group is such a special experience, and I'm so grateful that Amity provides such a wonderful experience."

With the success of this year's Winter Concert looming, Dolan expressed excitement about the next performance for the Music Department. He said, "Next up is our MusicFest concert on May 18th! We are currently looking for students that might have a band or want to participate in a 'rock concert' style atmosphere."



Photo contributed by Trident staff  
Students perform during the annual Winter Concert.



# Kansas City Chiefs Upset Favored Philadelphia Eagles in Controversial Super Bowl LVII Win

by CJ Brinton '24

At the State Farm Arena in Glendale, Arizona, seas of Midnight Green and Silver opposed Red and Gold as the biggest televised broadcast of the year, tuning in over 110 million viewers to Fox, began with a 6:30 pm ceremonial coin toss and subsequent kick off.

Super Bowl LVII took place on Sunday, February 12th and saw AFC (American Football Conference) champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, face off against NFC (National Football Conference) champions, the Philadelphia Eagles.

Seemingly every major news source predicted an Eagles win, in addition to overwhelming sports betting averages. Alas, the Chiefs pulled themselves to a tie-game in the fourth quarter, followed by benefitting from a controversial hold call against Eagles player James Bradburry.

From there, the Chiefs strategically ran out the clock and scored a field goal, leaving the Eagles mere seconds for a miracle, one that didn't come.

Despite Tight End Travis Kelce's post-game comments, that no one respected or believed in the Chiefs, they were far from a massive underdog. Both teams had tremendous records entering the postseason, and both seeded #1 in their respective conferences. Both teams also had exceptional quarterbacks to lead.

Patrick Mahomes is QB for the Chiefs, in his third superbowl appearance, and second win. He was drafted to the Chiefs in 2017. Eagles' QB, Jalen Hurts made his first Super Bowl appearance, and led the Eagles back to the superbowl after five years.

The faceoff between these two immensely talented players makes history, as this was the first time both teams had African American QB's.

The game was indeed fast-paced, with both teams having scored a touchdown seven minutes into

the first quarter. Philadelphia received the kickoff, and proceeded with a quick possession. Their plays were seamless, Hurts' passes were gliding into his receivers' hands. The prophesied Eagles win seemed more than possible. But the Chiefs first possession was comparable to their opponents in time taken to make a touchdown.

The game continued at a nail-biting pace, as the Eagles would create a lead, just for the Chiefs to tie it.

As the third quarter began, a new energy emerged from the Chiefs locker room. Mahomes walked out, no sign of a limp noticeable. He played the entire game in pain, but that didn't slow or hurt his game. In the second half, the Chiefs took their first lead, and they ended up outscoring the Eagles 24-11.

The closeness of the game is arguably what made it so exciting, an aspect completely ruined in the last minutes of the game. The referees appeared not to call much, lest the two "loss of control" calls, equally distributed with one per team, and requiring review of all 20+ camera angles of the play.

The score was tied at 35-35, and a failed completion pass from Mahomes to JuJu Smith-Schuster pointed to a fairly decisive final possession by the Eagles.

But after a yellow penalty flag was thrown on the field, calling a hold on cornerback James Bradburry, suddenly the Chiefs regained possession - a first down, and were positioned just five yards from the endzone. Their strategic play to run down the clock, then get a field-goal fourth down punt, made sense in theory.

At the Super Bowl, however, it felt all too anticlimactic. No one held their breath as Mahomes knelt after the hike, the third time, they just watched the time drain, as the Chiefs used their remaining timeouts. Fans from both sides

watched on, as the once nail-biter game came to an unfortunate conclusion.

Despite being subject to the referees' questionable calls, both teams were equally deserving of the Lombardi trophy. They played an outstanding game of football, one that was enticing, and filled with passion for the game.

The honor to even play in the Super Bowl was lost on no one, though a win does feel glorious. To no surprise, Patrick Mahomes was named Super Bowl LVII MVP.



Photo accessed from CNN

**Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes lifts the Lombardi Trophy after their Super Bowl LVII win.**

Tragedy seemed imminent just minutes before halftime, as Mahomes was sacked and hobbled to the sideline, clearly in immense pain. Mahomes was already playing on a high ankle sprain. During the final possession of the half, Mahomes' condition did not seem to improve despite time to rest, and being tended to by the trainers.

Without Mahomes to compete against Hurts, the Eagles would surely have the win. They certainly had the lead heading into the second half, with a score of 24-14.

## Boys Basketball Seniors Reflect on the Past Four Years

by Andie Napolitano '24  
and Will Napolitano '24

On February 21, seniors Ryan Burns, Francis Cavallaro, Jack Pretlove, Silas Sor, Chance Starrett, and Gavin Storrs will play in their last home game with the Amity Basketball Team.

Ahead of their senior night game and the approaching end of their final season, the six seniors reflected on the past four years as members of the team, their favorite experiences, and all of the lessons they have learned along the way.

A highlight of the season was the recent 74-71 victory over Milford's Joseph A. Foran High School in overtime on February 10. Starrett said, "Beating Foran in overtime was my favorite memory of the season."

Additionally, the seniors will miss the fun experiences they shared together over the past four years. Cavallaro said "My favorite memories are of close games, freestyle rap on the bus, and just being on the team."

Throughout their time on the team, the seniors have not only learned basketball skills but life skills that they will carry with them after high school and beyond.

Sor said, "Being part of the team gave me communication and social skills which I'll be taking with me everywhere in the future. I've also learned to be teachable which is an important skill for me to carry on throughout college and my life."

For these seniors, the past four years on the basketball team has allowed them to grow as players, teammates, and people. It has given them years of failures and successes, of memories and formative experiences. As this time of hard work and dedication to the Amity Basketball program comes to an end, these six are ready to carry the skills and life lessons that they gained as basketball players with them into their futures.



Photo contributed by Will Napolitano '24

**Amity Boys Basketball Seniors (not pictured Francis Cavallaro)**



## A Peek into the Recruiting Process for College Athletes

by Avery Dillon '24

Sports recruitment is a long process in which athletes have to perform at the highest level they can, combined with the pressure of playing in front of college recruiters. Collegiate level athletics have been around for about 160 years, but as sports evolve and grow, the recruitment process continues to change.

When colleges began recruiting players, athletes with more popularity, due to their talent, were prioritized and coaches were often limited in who they could see play. Now, high school athletes have the opportunity to email and call the coaches along with opportunities presented through recruitment camps and showcases for many different sports.

For many athletes, the dream of playing a sport they love in college begins at a very young age, as does the hard work required to get there.

In this process, athletes need to work hard to become the best at whatever they are doing within their sport. This includes hours of practice, workouts, and recovery. When athletes are the best, they often will receive information from various college coaches indicating interest. Players can also let coaches know that they are interested in their college by emailing, calling, or showing up to camps that the college coaches host. Athletes can also attract coaches' interest by playing in college showcases. These events are when club teams are invited to play games against other high-level teams and college coaches come from all over to watch these athletes.

Liliana Fleming '24 is committed to play women's lacrosse at Northern Michigan University, and she explained that she "reached out to a lot of schools to express interest and attended a lot of lacrosse camps so I could hopefully put myself on their list as someone they would be interested in recruiting."

She went on to explain other factors in the choice of where to play in college, saying, "It also was not just about athletics, but about academics and the school atmosphere itself."

Amity High School has a very good athletic program that produces collegiate-level athletes annually in multiple sports. Along with this, Amity offers guidance in the recruitment process through their guidance, college, and career counselors as well as the Athletic Director and the coaching staff of each sport. Since this process can be very long, strenuous, and stressful, having resources available is great.

When talking with Monmouth University softball commit, Kylee McInain '24, she said, "Amity High School has helped me with my recruitment process tremendously. I found out the requirements needed to play Division 1 softball and also was taught how to communicate with coaches."

The NCAA has many regulations to ensure equal opportunity for all those capable of playing at the collegiate level. For example, the NCAA states that Division I coaches cannot talk to players about recruitment, therefore cannot offer a position on their team until September 1st of a player's junior year of high school. DII coaches can begin conversations in June of sophomore year, and DIII coaches are not barred from conversations, but cannot offer spots to athletes until they complete their sophomore year.

Again, attending showcases, camps, and reaching out to schools about interest puts athletes on their radar. Students can contact schools, but coaches cannot necessarily reply directly to the student. However, indicating interest may spark coaches to look further into a player but respect the date for 1 to 1 communication. Immense work, dedication and time must be put into this process, but if the dream is to play sports in a collegiate program, all of that is worth it.

## Success and a Strong Bond Define This Season's Boys Ice Hockey Team

by Liliana Fleming '24

The Boys Ice Hockey team is over halfway through their season, with a record of 7-7. The team has seen a big improvement from last year's season, not only in their record but in their play as well.

Senior Co-Captain Dean Gattinella commented on the team's season so far, saying, "This season started a little shaky, but these past few games we have turned ourselves around and are now on track to be one of the best teams in the league."

Earlier on, the team played tough games against some of the better teams in the state including North Haven, Guilford, and the Westhills-Stamford Co-op. More recently, boosting their team's confidence, Amity has had some blowout victories. They played Branford, winning 7-1 and later the Brookfield, Bethel, and Danbury Co-op, defeating them 10-2.



As the team says, fans can have a big impact on the game. Not only do Amity's fans boost the team's ability to win a game, but a boisterous student section for the other team can turn games in the other direction. Support and criticism from the stands certainly can bring pressure, but the results can feel glorious.

Senior Co-Captain, Brendan Smith expanded on this sentiment. He said that the best part of the season (so far) was "playing in the season opener at home against a packed student section and crowd and getting the win." The team's success is not only attributed to how they play, but also dependent on how they act and work together.

"The best part of the season so far is the moments off the ice," Senior Co-Captain Ben Qian '23 said. "The team's high and low points that we share together have created a stronger bond."

The team has also emphasized having a positive outlook as the regular season comes to a close, despite the bittersweet realization that for seniors, these are their last games.

To end the regular season, the team's upcoming games include Watertown-Pomperaug, E.O. Smith/Tolland, and the West Haven Co-op. After those, the team looks to play in the SCC and state tournament beginning in March

## Girls Indoor Track Travels to New York for Prestigious Armory Meet

by Shreya Hebbar '23 and CJ Brinton '24

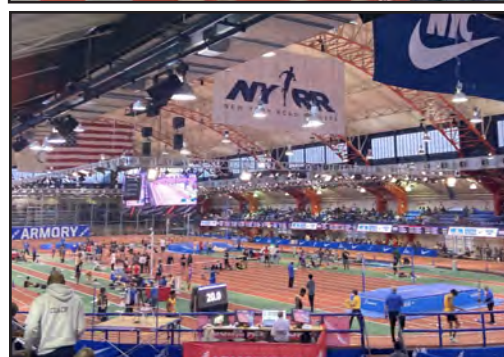


Photo accessed from @amitygirls.distancetrack on Instagram.

Of all the meets of Indoor Track season, the most coveted is certainly the Armory meet. This takes place at the Nike Track and Field Center at the Armory in New York City.

On Saturday, January 7th, the Amity Girls Indoor Track team traveled to New York to compete in The Armory Hispanic Games. Amity participated in part of this massive two-day meet encompassing over 150 schools from up and down the East Coast. Amity competed in the 4 by 800 meter relay, the 4 by 400 meter relay, and the 200 meter race.

The inside of the building had a very lively and energetic atmosphere with people cheering all around the track. Amity head coach Bobby Burns reiterated this. He said, "As you walk in, you feel the history of USA track and field. Many great athletes have competed at the Armory. It's an amazing experience to take our girls there."

The history of the Armory is vast. The facility has been open since 1911 and holds numerous international, collegiate, and high school competitions every year. Nationals for High School Indoor Track are often held there, and the track holds over 50 current high school track records and numerous professional records. Being that this

facility is designed to house elite competitions, Amity runners were excited to find that the track was banked. This means that turns were elevated to improve running performance. Banked turns allow for more momentum to be geared towards the center of the track, enabling runners to retain largely the same speed throughout a turn. Macie Salado '25 said, "The banked turns made me feel super fast."

Amity was well represented in the 200 meter as Salado placed 22nd, with a time of 27.69 seconds. Among other Amity students in this race were Yunah Kim '25, Gabriella Tessitore '26, Riley Zielinski '24, and Grace Launder '24. Four of the six that ran clocked a personal record in this event.

In addition, Kim, Launder, Salado, and Besjana Bobi '25 ran the 400 meter relay, placing 11th. Avery Palmucci '23, Nell Grant '23, Mackenzie Martin '24, and Evelyn Carrington '23 ran the 800 meter relay and impressively placed 8th as a team with a time of 10:45.

Grant expressed her gratitude about being able to attend this meet, saying, "I have dreamed about running at the Armory since I was a freshman and it was a very memorable moment to run there as a senior."

Running at this facility was an honor for the program and a reflection of the success they achieved. The team will compete in their final meet of the season, the CIAC State Open Championships on February 18.

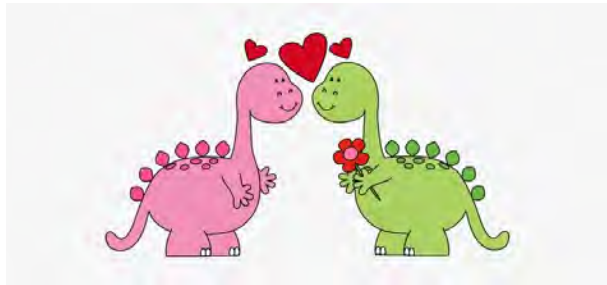


# LOVES OF LOVE

Hey Mr. Cumpstone!  
If you are reading  
this you should give  
me an A+ for the  
year :) - Ben Aviad

To Alice, Copernicus  
was wrong. You are the  
center of my universe.  
Love, Angela

Sheehan, I love it when you finish up  
all your chores and when you mop  
your dirty floors. Spoiled rich kids may  
be the worst, but everyday I'm grateful  
to see your eyes - nacho libre



Sheehan, I know you like to mess  
around with russians in the box-  
ing ring, but let's stop fooling  
around and let this russian give  
you a ring \*touches fingers to-  
gether longingly\*- Redgar



I LOVE  
YOU THE  
MOST!!!!  
From:  
Sam

Becky, you are killing it! I'm  
proud of you :) -Hannah

Ethan- ET my love :D

I'd cross every road for  
you ;) -Brendan Corey

**To Grace M: I love you  
cheeky, ur my fav person  
ever <3 -Sarah**

To Kaityln K,  
You are my  
best friend  
ever -  
Matty M.

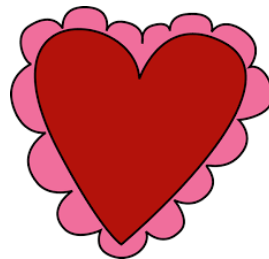
Humans  
are 70%  
water  
and I'm  
thirsty  
for yours  
- To Nina  
from Max

Sena you are such a genu-  
ine sweet soul. I <3 you

**Peyton, I love you tons!**

To Spencer: Your mom From, Max

Happy Val-  
entines Day  
Clark! Love,  
Uncle Dan!



hey iris you're so cool and  
funny and special and  
you have mad rizz xoxo -

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