

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXIV-No.2

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

September 21, 2021

Reopening Amity, 2021 Edition

by Aadya Wijesekera '23 and Nicole Grosso '22

This fall, Amity administration tackled the challenge of safely reopening through various mitigation strategies, including physical distancing measures which can be seen in almost every classroom in the school.

While there is no more plexiglass lining the tables of science classrooms, desks are still spaced out and typically not pushed together in most rooms around the school. This is done in accordance with the three-foot physical distancing requirement in place this year, as opposed to the six-foot distancing requirement from 2020-21.

To further aid in physical distancing, more locations are being utilized around campus, including the patio outside the cafe for increased space during lunch and the senior courtyard. The soccer/

lacrosse field was used on the first day to hold an outdoor assembly. Physical distancing is a major part of Amity's reopening plan, though it is not the only part.

Scheduling also plays an important role. This year, schedules



Photo by Trident staff

Students gather during an outdoor assembly on the first day of school.

were tailored to include a fourth lunch wave, as opposed to the three lunch waves of prior years.

Although this means a slightly shorter lunch than the norm for returning students, it also means an extra 20-minute Student Suc-

Continued on page 2

Link Crew Holds Successful 9th Grade Orientation

by Nina Carmeli '23

On Friday, August 27th, the entire class of 2025 met for the first time in person and participated in the annual Link Crew Orientation.

Every year except last, Link Crew has helped incoming freshmen get assimilated to the high school through a series of team-building activities, a tour of the building, and a barbecue lunch to get to know each other. Every 9th grader began their day in the gym, engaged in opening icebreaker activities led by the Link Crew coordinators. They were then split into various link crew groups to continue activities in smaller groups led by their Link Crew leaders.

This year, though more normal than last year, still presented challenges in meeting new people and attempting to get to know one another. Many activities that would normally include yelling, handshaking, fist-bumping, or tagging, had to be cleverly replaced with COVID-safe alternatives, and masks were worn at all times. Nonetheless, the event ran smoothly and made the process of transitioning to a new school possible for freshmen.

Link Leaders, both juniors and

seniors, were trained on how to lead the 9th graders on Orientation Day and gave up a portion of their summer vacation in order to properly prepare themselves for the event.

Allen Liu '23 said, "Being a Link Leader is such a great way to guide and connect with the younger students at Amity, and it was a blast to meet and bond with my Link Crew on Orientation Day!"

"I'm really glad to be a leader and be in the position to help alleviate some of the pressures of high school for Amity students," he said.

Another Link Crew leader, Anushka Acharya '23 added, "I thought it was such a successful event. It was so nice to meet the ninth graders and give them insight on how to succeed in high school. I know they were very nervous in the beginning and it was so heartwarming to see them open up to each other and get comfortable around the school."

Getting the first glimpse of the high school experience, many freshmen agreed that orientation was an enjoyable acclimating process. Libby Grant '25 explained, "The

Continued on page 2

Spartan Stories Endures in a Year of Change

by Simran Jain '23

This school year begins with a new normal including many changes. In honor of a year of change, the Spartan Stories speaker focused on the changes in her life during her high school career and in the years following.

At the beginning of every school year, Amity alumni are invited back to speak to current students about their journey through high school, college, and the professional world. The speaker for this school year was Kimberly Simon, class of 2011. Simon is a musical theater performer, co-producer of the concert series Pronoun Showdown, program producer of the Stephen Sondheim Awards, and the owner of AllWriteByMe, a lettering business.

She told students about her journey through high school, and

how her perception of herself changed throughout high school and the rest of her life.

In her speech, Simon spoke about her journey as a dancer who loved theatre and decided to change career paths. Her entire life's view shifted; she didn't want to be a professional dancer anymore and was instead going to be in theatre.

Students learned much from her speech, including SiRu Liang '23 who realized her "goals in life might change and that's okay."

Growing up, students are advised to choose a career path, and many times think they have to stick with it no matter what.

Olivia Perkowski '25 stated, "It was so cool to see someone who graduated from Amity and is so successful tell us about her story... what I gathered from it is that not everything works out like you planned it to."

Simon's speech also covered her college journey. Many seniors at Amity will start applying to colleges soon, and with their applications, they have to consider what colleges they want to apply to. The one highlight in Simon's speech was her college journey. She was accepted into NYU, and after a short time there, she decided to discontinue her degree; instead, she pursued a 2-year degree at a drama school. She then pursued a 4-year online degree.

Katelyn Losty '22 said, "My biggest takeaway from Kimberly Simon's speech was to not be afraid to venture off the path thought was best. As I begin the college application process, I will keep in mind to choose the college and major that I find the most happiness and interest in."

Continued on page 2



Photo contributed by Lisa Toto
Kimberly Simon speaking to students

IN THIS ISSUE



Remembering 9/11
Features, 5



Amity United
Centerspread, 6-7



Local Band "The 7s"
Arts, 8



Football Returns
Sports, 10

Reopening Amity, 2021 Edition

continued from page 1

cess Planning (SSP) period. This block can be used similar to a study hall period and may serve as a homeroom for tasks like Naviance or other college planning.

While schedules and distancing have changed between last year and this, there are still similarities in some of the strategies used to keep students and staff safe. Mask wearing, contact tracing, and quarantine are among some of the less-changed mitigation strategies.

Masks are still required to be worn throughout the day, except when outside, in

the cafeteria while eating, or during a mask break.

Contact tracing and quarantine remains similar for unvaccinated individuals. If contact traced, an unvaccinated individual is required to quarantine for 10 days. Quarantine does not apply to vaccinated individuals who have been contact-traced through the school and have sent in their vaccination cards.

Asynchronous remote instruction is provided through Google Classroom to individuals in quarantine, though no synchronous remote instruction will take place. This holds true for inclement weather and snow days. Students will have

the day off.

Despite these continued challenges, students are excited to be back in school. Amity's freshmen have been looking forward to a semi-normal high school experience, and upperclassmen are also thrilled to return at last to in-person school.

Avery Butt '22 said, "I am so excited to be back in school for my senior year. It will be nice to be back in class with all of my teachers and friends."

As aspects of the school year return to normal despite the ongoing pandemic, Amity looks forward to a brand new school year.

Link Crew Holds Successful 9th Grade Orientation

continued from page 1

orientation was very exciting the whole time. The Link Leaders did a fantastic job of getting us hyped up for the year."

"Between walking into all of them clapping and getting to see all my friends again, the whole atmosphere was so positive and thrilling!" she added.

Soumya Wijesekera '25 said, "I think that the orientation definitely made the first day of school transition easier. Everybody was so helpful and it was a great way to get to know people in the school."

Link Crew leaders were trained and guided by

Anastasia Kimball, Marian Boyns, Wendy Carrafiello, Scott DeMeo, and Jennifer Bonaldo to ensure a successful orientation.

Carrafiello noted, "It was uplifting to see Link Crew return in person this year to welcome our incoming 9th graders, who haven't had a full traditional school year since 6th grade. Our leaders worked hard to make orientation day excellent and look forward to future activities with their Link Crews."

The entire school is excited to welcome the class of 2025 to Amity, and incoming freshmen are looking forward to the start of high school.

Spartan Stories in a Year of Change



continued from page 1

In addition to her high school career, Simon spoke about her life after college, including her experiences working professionally as well as the importance of the connections that she made while at Amity.

Sophia Cossitt-Levy '23 said, "It was really cool to hear about her experience at Amity and how she's still in

touch with people even years later."

The connections she made don't just apply to students, but teachers as well. Robert Kennedy, director of Amity Creative Theatre, said, "I love when my students come back... I am so proud of Kim and what she has accomplished."

Students learned very valuable lessons from the experiences and stories of this year's Spartan Speaker.

OBOA Encourages Students to Read Books about Social Justice

by Brodey Lu '22

This summer, One Book One Amity (OBOA) continued to pursue its mission of promoting discussion through literature. Like last year, students were given the freedom to choose a book, while being given a general theme for guidance. The objective for this year was to read a book that promoted the discussion of various social justice issues.

With such an open topic, students focused on a wide range of relevant ideas, including race, gender identity, disability, mental health, and environmental awareness. One advantage of allowing choice was students could decide if they wanted to read about an issue that meant some-

example of this, with over 100 suggested book titles covering a wide range of topics. Students referencing this sheet could find books for an array of social issues while also being able to choose from both fiction and nonfiction genres.

Other opportunities to explore new books included the many "suggested reading" lists provided by town libraries in both Woodbridge and Orange and even just conversation among peers about which books were read.

Though the time for summer reading may be drawing to a close, the mission of OBOA is far from complete. The club hopes that reading books can start discussions about important social issues that continue throughout the school year.

James Nichol '22 said, "OBOA sheds light



thing personal to them or discover new insight on a topic that they weren't as familiar with.

No matter the reason for reading, the end goal is to learn a valuable lesson about a current societal problem.

Parker Paragas '22, said "The book I read reminded me that we should not see people for their background or ethnic group. What matters is who they are and what they do." This statement may sound quite familiar for many students, while others spent time investigating different themes. The diversity of selections only adds to the depth of the subsequent discussions.

Of course, being given such an open choice can also pose a challenge for some. However, students who found it difficult to settle on a specific book to read were offered many resources to help. The extensive Google Sheet posted on the Amity Library website is a prime

on matters that need to be talked about more" by challenging students to delve into a topic of their own interest.

This serves as an important contribution towards the constant efforts for a more welcoming and inclusive school environment, by introducing more perspectives and teaching students the importance of speaking up against injustice.

As reflected in the OBOA letter, "We believe that we can help contribute to that goal by: Promoting Social Justice One Book at a Time and allowing for the time and opportunity to read about, talk about, and act upon the issues that we believe are important to making our world a fairer, more just place."

Such a widespread goal is always difficult to achieve, but encouraging students to broaden their perspectives through literature is certainly a step in the right direction.

New Staff and Faculty Welcomed to the High School

by Isabella Florez '23

As we start this year, Amity welcomes many new staff members. Fresh faces in the academic and resource departments as well as in the school offices provide experience and expertise to students.

Social worker Jennifer DeMattia and school nurses Maegan Wing and Kate Enders are joining Amity to provide health and wellness services. Cynthia Jevarjian as well as Cynthia Como join the main office as administrative assistants. After a career as an accountant, Como wanted a change from a business environment.

When asked about her experience so far, Como said, "I am enjoying the engagement with the students, which is something new for me."

The science department is gaining Margaret Huang, a chemistry teacher, as well as Danielle Carbone, a biology teacher. Carbone's experience includes work at a veterinary clinic, studying dolphin communication in Bimini, and conducting research in a developmental biology lab.

Carbone said, "I feel a strong sense of community and kindness. I feel welcomed and grateful to be a part of this school!"

Two new art teachers, Matthew Fletcher and Dan Proto, were both part of the Amity Middle School Bethany (AMSB) community before coming to the high school. Fletcher joins the faculty as a visual

arts teacher from Amistad High School in New Haven. Before teaching for the last five years, he had worked as a gallery artist as well as a comic book artist. He has also been a softball coach at Amity for the past six years.

Proto is beginning his eleventh year teaching. Most recently, he taught at AMSB. He is now teaching ceramics, which he is enthusiastic about.

He said, "My own personal work is usually sculptural, so being able to teach ceramics this year aligns well with my own sensibilities as an artist."

Finally, Allison Morrill is Amity's new special education teacher. Prior to joining the Amity community, she supported students with intellectual disabilities through the CrossingPoints Program at the University of Alabama. She is appreciative of the warm welcome she has received here.

She said, "I am ecstatic to feel the sense of community that Amity has and am looking to get involved in working with some clubs! Amity has been an extremely welcoming place so far and I am looking forward to meeting more students throughout the year!"

In addition, Katie Yates is a long term sub for English teacher Shannon Martin, and Michael Battista and Kevin Dwyer are new to the Career and Technical Education department.

Collectively, the diversity of experiences these new staff members bring will enhance our school community.

The Ongoing Attack on Women in Afghanistan

by Ellen Ko '24

On August 15th, 2021, the Taliban took control of the Afghani government after the then-president, Ashraf Ghani, fled the country. Once the Taliban took over, there was a 180-degree turnaround with women's rights. Girls 15 and older are now being forced into marriages with adult men and women are stuck in their homes for fear of the Taliban's forces harming them. I think that if there was actual respect for these Afghan women, this would not be a systemic issue within the Taliban forces.

The Taliban are very dangerous and powerful. They have been operating a certain way for decades, through the oppression of women, and yet claimed after they took control that they would respect women. This is highly doubtful, and so far, simply not true. Additionally, this attack on women is not ongoing purely because of what the Qur'an states about women; it is an issue that is deeply rooted in misogyny and a patriarchal society.

Misogynistic views and practices are highly prevalent here as a result of a society that continually looks down on women as less than equal. Personally, the cri-

sis has been at the forefront of my mind, and so have thoughts about my life and experiences as someone in a developed country.

The fact that girls my age are being forced into marriage and women even younger are losing their education made me realize the privileges that I take for granted. It is dismaying that the basic rights women deserve are being curtailed due to a warped understanding of religious texts and a lack of awareness about women and gender in general.

Religion can be a positive belief system that helps people hold onto hope and find meaning, often sparing them from existential angst. However, I think that when people start using religion as a justification for hate and oppression, it turns into a harmful weapon. We are seeing this right now with the Taliban and the restrictions of women's rights.

The main goal of the Taliban is to preserve Islamic purity rather than maintain good governance. They believe a prominent aspect of Islamic purity is that women cannot be equal to men and therefore should be protected. The concept that women cannot leave their homes without wearing a burqa is, in my opinion, belittling to women as it strips

them of their bodily autonomy.

This has been a part of Islamic culture for centuries while we in America now live in a society where women have started to reclaim their own bodies, part of which includes the clothes they choose to wear. I believe that being stripped of the choice to wear a burqa - or not - is detrimental to a woman's identity and an infringement on their rights.

Of course, there is no denying that Islamic culture is rich with beautiful history, as are all other cultures and religions. However, in this modern age where more and more people are educated and accepted globally, there is a more progressive view on the rights women should have.

Unfortunately, despite this growing awareness, there will always be people who refuse to accept others and cling to their more traditional, harmful beliefs.

Overall, the Taliban have shown their high regard for Islamic culture clearly but have continuously enforced a lower position for women in society. I think extreme measures need to be taken to protect women in Afghanistan and ensure that they can keep their rights. The Taliban must be stopped.

Reflecting on the 20th Anniversary of September 11

by Abby Ball '22

September 11, 2021, was the twentieth anniversary of the attack on the twin towers on September 11, 2001. As we look back on the damage and sequence of events following 9/11, it is important to remember those who died and put their lives at risk. 9/11 had a considerable influence on foreign affairs, national security, and ways of life, but most importantly, on how we think.

It is significant to note that no student at Amity was alive at the time of 9/11; it is just another event in history to us. However, to our teachers, parents, siblings, and others, 9/11 was a history-defining day ingrained in their memories.

Personally, my family was not directly affected by 9/11. When I asked my mom about what she remembers, she explained the widespread panic and fear that swept through the nation. Everyone remembers where they were and what they were doing when they heard about the crash, and then the second one. I think that in this case, most Americans, regardless of their political affiliation, were united behind President Bush and the ideals of protecting our country.

We are living in the legacy of 9/11, in a period of time vastly different from before. As a result, our behaviors and beliefs about security, foreign affairs, and immigration all shifted, whether we noticed it or not. One such example is the increased xenophobia and racism towards Muslim people after that day. Hate or violence is unacceptable no matter the circumstance, yet many people in America hold discriminatory views.

Families still grapple with losses, and the ramifications of 9/11 and the war in Afghanistan that ensued are still felt today. Just recently, in August, the war in Afghanistan officially ended when Biden withdrew troops. Unfortunately, the Taliban also regained power, making this year's 9/11 a very sensitive and painful subject for many people. This news, combined with the 20th anniversary, makes this year's September 11 stand out more from others.

Of course I will not ever know what experiencing the events of September 11 was like, but we all recently underwent a huge change in how we live and see things in the pandemic. Although they are very different situations, both 9/11 and the pandemic are some of the most transformative events in the 21st century.

So, while this day may not have as much personal meaning to students, we should still consider its overall significance and role in our lives. I say that we should take time out of our day to reflect or ask people in our families about this event. Better yet, watching a video or listening to a podcast about someone's firsthand experience would provide much more insight.

I think there is always something more we can do to better our understanding of the past and its effects though we must check that the information we learn is factual and respectful of all people and stories.

Ultimately, how we remember and honor historical events and people matters. 9/11 is a defining event in our country's history, so commemorating it wholly and appropriately is essential.

the TRIDENT

EDITORIAL STAFF BY SECTION

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Audrey Marin '22
Zachary Garfinkle '22
Adithi Wijesekera '22

NEWS

Nicole Grosso '22
Aadya Wijesekera '23

OPINIONS

Abby Ball '22

FEATURES

Megan Wu '22
Scott Lowder '22

ARTS

Sena Ho '23

SPORTS

Ryan Lima '22

FACULTY ADVISOR

Emily Clark

WRITE FOR THE TRIDENT

Great opportunity to get involved!

See your name in print!
Communication is through email, so you don't have to worry about missing extracurriculars or sports!

ONLINE PUBLICATION

To view the newspaper online go to <http://ourschoolnewspaper.com/Trident/>

All issues are published online!



Returning to Normalcy with a Feeling of Promise

by Keziah Smith '22

As the 2021-2022 school year kicks off, Amity is seeing many changes from the previous year. With full days, lunch, and arrowless hallways, this year feels much more promising. Needless to say, virtual learning in 2020 was less than ideal. And although not everything is set in stone this year, the revert back to some normalcy is refreshing.

Personally, my favorite part about this year is being done with hybrid learning. For me and many other students, hybrid learning was a pain; it was very difficult to learn from home. Unlike in a classroom, students could easily take out their phones in the middle of a lesson and completely drown out everything a teacher said. Just to be

clear, this was not the fault of the teachers.

Even my favorite classes started to feel unbearable while I was remote. Many teachers, like Spanish teacher Marissa Altimari, are also relieved to return to "normal" learning. "I love teaching this year because we are in-person. Last year was a challenge teaching live and on-line. Students need structure and I already see a difference in student motivation and performance."

I admit that when I first heard about the switch to the 2:18 schedule, I was quite skeptical. After all, we had been going to school for half a day for an entire year. I thought the transition would be dreadful, but for me, it was actually not that bad. I ended up liking school more, especially with the additional time in classes that allowed for

more productivity. Teachers don't have to race the clock anymore and have time to complete lessons.

According to Altimari,



Photo contributed by Lisa Toto
Faculty on first day of school this year

"the extra time allows [her] to incorporate more practice and fun activities in class."

Although an additional ten minutes to each class seems insignificant, those extra minutes can allow for better note-taking, questions, breaks if needed, and more social interaction. Without those intense time constraints, my classes have already picked up a better pace.

Arguably the most exciting aspect of this school year is getting back to in-person events. Last year, virtual events took place on Zoom and other platforms as it was the safest and most sustainable option. While these virtual events served their purpose, there is nothing like gathering with friends and classmates.

Bridget Lillis '22 says the anticipation of future events is thrilling. "I definitely prefer in-person events over virtual events; I can't wait to attend school events

that were put on pause because of COVID. I love physically being around people and I feel like events are more lively in-person," she said.

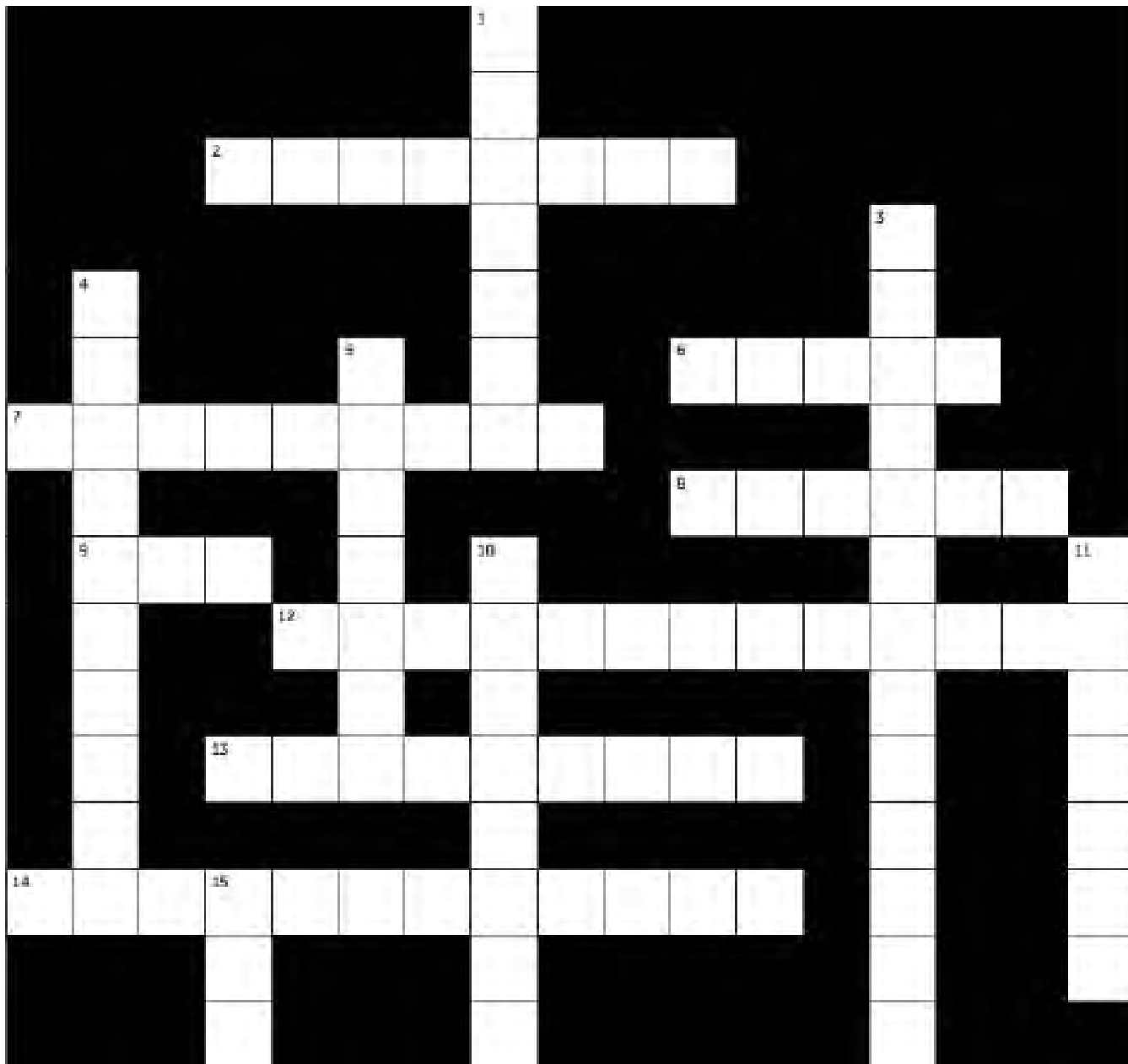
This school year has a lot to offer, but it is important to remember these commodities are not necessarily permanent. The only way we can keep progressing is if we follow the safety guidelines in place - wearing a mask being the biggest one.

If wearing a piece of cloth on my face for a couple of hours means that I can see my friends, participate in extracurriculars and events, and safely attend school every day, then sign me up.

While masks are not the most comfortable thing, wearing one is a small price to pay. I am hopeful that someday we will be able to finally get rid of them for good, but until then, we can suck it up.

September Crossword Puzzle

by Abby Ball '22



Across

- 2. Element that makes up about 78% of Earth's atmosphere
- 6. State that has used the death penalty the most
- 7. Highest social class in ancient Rome
- 8. City where first Olympics was held
- 9. Hurricane that devastated New Orleans
- 12. The fear of snakes
- 13. Philosopher who said "I think therefore I am" (last name)
- 14. Popular Netflix show starring Anya Taylor-Joy

Down

- 1. a.k.a. the Sunshine State
- 3. One of four sports to make its Olympic debut this summer
- 4. Pandemic with the second-highest death toll in history
- 5. An animal with three hearts
- 10. Famous Japanese animator and screenwriter (last name)
- 11. President of South Africa from 1994-1999 (last name)
- 15. Tree that New Haven was named after

Pistachio Cafe: A New Haven Spot with Unique Charm and Taste

by Abby Ball '22

When I stepped through Pistachio Cafe's doors, I felt transported to another time. The cafe was unlike anything I'd ever seen. It had white floral wallpaper, old radios on the wall, a teal and gold-lined ceiling, and elaborate chandeliers, antique lamps, and sofas. The whole space emanated a sense of grandeur and charm; there wasn't one unique, quirky part of it that I didn't like!

The cafe's location on Whalley Avenue in Westville (right near New Haven) was very convenient. I suggest going with a friend and then heading down the street to the vintage thrift shop or around the corner to Edgewood Park. The hustle and bustle of the town combined with the cafe's position on the corner contributed to a very stimulating atmosphere.

On the inside of the cafe, there was a section of sitting chairs and couches in one corner and then a group of some more traditional tables and chairs. All of the interior had a very vintage, welcoming feel that made it the perfect place to sit and chat or simply read a book. I didn't want to leave!

Once my friend and I had stopped admiring the walls and decor, we ordered

was a bit overwhelming, the vast array of pastries and drinks was definitely an upside. Once we got our order, we sat and ate on a comfy emerald couch in the corner. And, of course, we had our own little marble coffee table.

I felt I had to get something with pistachio in it, and the baklava was definitely the right choice. It had the perfect amount of honey and flaky layers so that it wasn't overly sweet. I ate it in three bites. The crunch of the pistachios was also a nice touch!

My friend and I agreed that it was our favorite pastry, and it only cost \$2.75, which I thought was a very fair price.

I expected the mango smoothie to be more of a puree, but it was actually a nice blend between mango and oat milk. I also wasn't sure how the oat milk would turn out, but it had a pleasant aftertaste! I recommend getting a drink with your pastries or sweets since it's a nice palate cleanser. This cost \$4.50 as a small, but the size was perfect.

I thought the almond tart was a bit thick and large, but good nonetheless. It had a very sweet, almost synthetic almond flavor, but the crunch of sliced almonds and crust combatted the sweetness

my friend loved it. It did cost \$4.85 though, which was a bit pricier than the other selections.

We also got the cranberry financier, which was essentially a mini rectangular cake filled with cranberries.

As someone who enjoys sour flavors, I thought the cranberries added the perfect punch to the sweet vanilla flavor. It was also very easy to eat and didn't fall apart like the tart did. This was a close second to the pistachio baklava, and it only cost \$2.40.

Overall, the sweets we ordered from Pistachio's were very appetizing and baked with a lot of experience. Honestly, I think the most appealing part of this cafe is the broad scope of foods they offer. The fact that I only ordered a small sample of their selection makes me eager to return.

I saw that they also have ice cream, bread, cheesecakes, and various kinds of coffees, teas, lattes, and other fruit smoothies.

Without a doubt, this cafe has something for everyone, whether you like hot or cold drinks, sweet or sour flavors, or just want somewhere fun to hang out. My friend and I can't help but rave to others about this cafe's charming, intricately decorated interior along with its convenient location and prices.

How America Came Together after Falling Apart

by Grace Cavallaro '24

9-11-2001. The date rings a bell to every American. It seems that every life has been touched in some way by the attacks, yet no student attending Amity was even alive. To the teachers, faculty, and parents, however, the date means something totally different. Everyone has a story to share, and so today, you will have the opportunity to read the story of an Amity parent who had quite a vivid experience on that traumatic day.

The mother of Jillian Barnes '24, Misty Barnes, remembers the day as if it were yesterday. She was even able to remember her outfit: "I was wearing a tan suit. Sleeveless top that came to just above my knees, and I had on navy blue heels with it," she recalled.

Barnes, a teacher, drove into work and taught two classes before leaving for her break, when a boy rushed into the room and turned on the television. "A plane just hit the World Trade Center!" he cried.

Frustrated, Barnes yelled back, "Turn it off! And don't ever say something like that again!" As she walked over to turn the television off, the news came on. In shock, she ran to the department office. From that point on, the teaching ended. It was a big rush to dismiss every student and get them home safe. By noon, everyone was dismissed.

In the days that followed, everyone was still traumatized, but Barnes had to just keep teaching. As Barnes put it, "Coping with it was just, you had to. You had to move forward. You had to go to work. You had to teach kids. You had to give the kids a sense of security and normalcy because they needed the distraction and focus on something else. But every night you would sit in front of the TV, glued to it, and cry as videos and pictures were released. All you could do was cry and pray. Pray for all those families who knew someone, a family member, a friend, who never came home."

Does the story end there? No. Even in the face of defeat, America rose in unity and

patriotism. As Barnes remembers it, "Every person, everywhere wore red, white, and blue ribbons. They were tied in a little loop, like you see today. Every telephone pole on Racebrook Road in Woodbridge had an American flag on it. It was beautiful."

On September 21, Barnes and her family had tickets to a Mets game. "It was so scary, it was so unknown. Was the stadium going to be safe, was the Whitestone going to be safe? You just didn't know."

Out of the fear came unity. "The game was filled with flags, people wearing patriotic things and showing their support and sadness. They had the department of sanitation, firefighters, and police officers all march out onto the field. All throughout the game there were chants of "USA" from every person in attendance. It was so very emotional. You were just very proud.

There wasn't a dry eye for the Star Spangled Banner, or really for any moment. It was loud, and we felt powerful. And then when Mike Piazza hit that home run in the 8th inning to give the Mets the lead, it was surreal. It's like you didn't just experience that, how could you? It was too perfect. And there were so many tears after that homerun. There were tears the whole game - seeing the players embracing each other no matter the



Photo from *The New York Times*
New York City skyline on September 11, 2001

team, seeing the men and women in uniform, everything."

The story ended with Barnes describing the pure pride and love that every American shared for the country.

"Every person on US soil, no matter their race, you didn't have to be born here, but whoever was here then, felt the pain and we were united. It didn't matter. We were all united in love for this country. Even if it wasn't someone's home country, we were all united. And the President handled it amazingly - he brought comfort and a sense of security that it was going to be okay. That Mets game was the big unifying moment for me because we were all there together, united in sorrow, fear, and love.

"It was like putting a small band-aid on a huge wound, but that game started the healing process, just a little bit. It made us realize, you know, it's okay to smile again, it's okay to cheer. That game was magic."

A New Covid School Year

by Jennifer Li '23

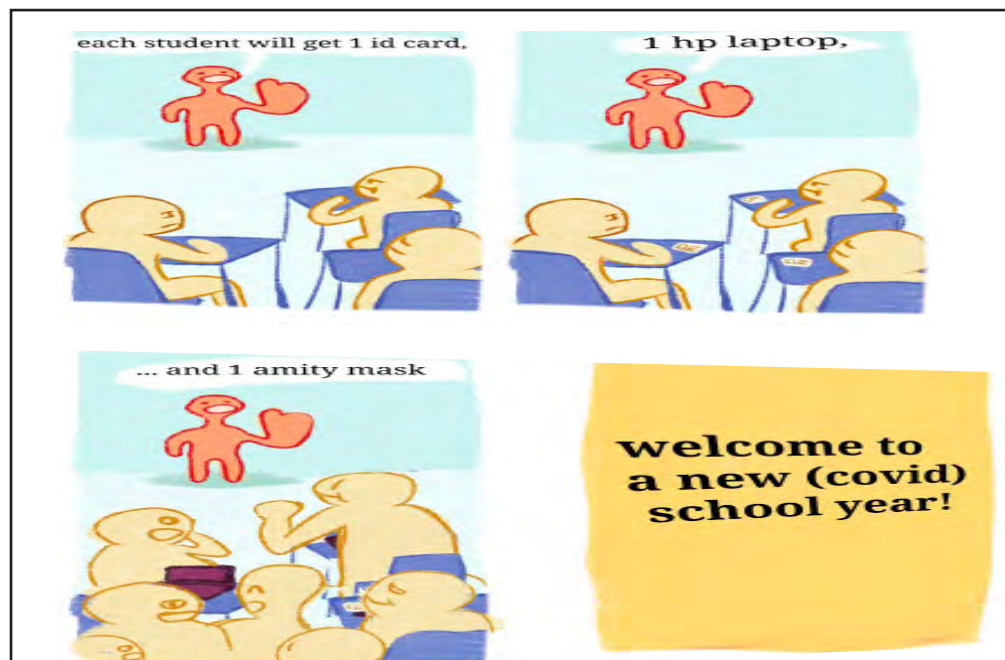


Photo courtesy of Abby Ball '22

Pistachio Cafe's smoothie and sweet treats

the mango smoothie with oat milk, pistachio baklava, almond tart, and the cranberry financier.

Although their menu

nicely. There was even a surprising bit of raspberry filling in the middle!

Personally, this was a bit too sweet for me, but

You won't find another place as unique and tasty. I definitely recommend downtown New Haven's Pistachio Cafe!

STUDENTS AND STAFF DEMO

As the new school year is underway, it is important to reflect upon how v
 vironment. Our theme for the 2021-2022 school year is Amity United, wh
 responses from students and staff when members of the T
Why is unity important as we go into this new sc

Mr. Serapiglia, math teacher: “As we are all returning to in person learning together, we need to work together to make sure we can continue to have in person learning all year long. We need to be on the same page. A United Amity looked like the first day where the whole school had an assembly on the soccer field. It is important to have events and spaces. I look forward to going to the football field to hold more outdoor gatherings.”

Aayan Chaturvedi '22: “Especially now coming out of the pandemic, unity means a lot more. Staying connected with everyone makes it easier to handle what happened. One thing Amity students have is school spirit, whether supporting the various sports or clubs within the school to make us more than just our classrooms and classes.”

Mrs. Browett, history teacher: “I think our country has seen a lot of division politically and socially so physically being together is really important. While I think big events are important, for me personally, I think better examples are when students include each other or talk to others they are not used to, out of their comfort zone.”



Anushka Acharya '23: “Unity is important as we go into this school year because it creates a better social and learning environment, where people are comfortable to be themselves and know that someone is always willing to help them.”

Soumya Wijesekera '25: “Unity is important as we go into this school year because it creates a better social and learning environment, where people are comfortable to be themselves and know that someone is always willing to help them.”

Jeffrey Tafuto '22: “Because it is important for all of us to be connected in our community- we were all split up at home or school, now all together, kind of cool! During pep rallies and sports events, we all share school spirit, which represents the unity of Amity outside of just academics.”



Mrs. Piscitelli, science teacher: “Especially all together as a student body and faculty, it’s important to establish this sense of community that was lost in the past year and a half. A united Amity looks like comradery, interactions, smiles, enjoying being in the building being together. With everyone back in person physically, the energy level is higher. People appreciate being together.”



Aviva Wyner '22: “To me, a united Amity really boils down to just students supporting students.”

Eydan Lavi '24: “Unity helps us be more connected as a school and grow closer as a community. Different events bring us together. Supporting other people, clubs, sports, fundraisers, participating- that’s what a united Amity looks like to me.”

**FIND YOUR PASSION...MAKE IT HAPPEN.
 BE TRUE, BE YOU...STRONGER**

ONSTRATE UNITY AT AMITY

we can demonstrate camaraderie and friendship to create a positive en-
rich emphasizes the value in supporting those around you. Take a look at
Trident staff asked them these questions regarding unity:
school year? What does a united Amity look like?

Mr. Roy, history teacher: “This is a great theme because over the last year and a half, we’ve been largely separate. The nature of the social and political environment also warrants a focus on what we all have in common rather than our differences. Bringing groups together is important. I think Link Crew is really great because juniors and seniors work with freshmen. The nature of that program is an example of that.”

Karishma Bulsara ’23: “Unity is important because it gives you reassurance that someone is looking out for you. As we all navigate through this new school year, it is comforting to know that you have friends and teachers that are willing to support you.”

Henry Ranani ’24: “Unity is important because, especially because in a difficult time, it’s important to have a community support you. A united Amity includes sports games and events, just ramping up. I think it’s a huge aspect of school.”

Miles Katz ’24: “I think since we were so separated by hybrid learning last year, I think it’s really important this year to come together- especially sophomores that had only hybrid last year and are now in the school always. People are brought together by the music on Fridays between classes. It makes me look more forward to the weekend and everyone is looking forward to it as much as I am.”



Mandy Robinson ’22: “Unity is important because more than ever now, we have to include everyone and be empathetic. People might be going through things we don’t even know about and it’s important to include and be united in order to support each other.”

Mr. Shamp, science teacher: “We’re all in this together. It is difficult to feel supported without people around you. I missed pep rallies. I think they’re really cute and I like them.”



Mr. Allard, English teacher: “Unity is important for two reasons: 1) if unified, nobody is alone; 2) we need unity as humans to get things done and meet our true potential. The big first step is getting people into the building. What unity looks like is more people helping others in the hall. It is the little actions that unite us before we even realize. If we plant and cultivate it and nurture it, it happens naturally.”

Melanie Sherrick ’22: “A united Amity means inclusivity, no hate, and no discrimination. Unity is important because this is our community, and it’s so important to support and love everyone in it.”

...GO THE DISTANCE...BE THE CHANGE...
...TOGETHER...AMITY UNITED

Amity's Own Cover Band: The 7s

by Sena Ho '23

Declan O'Rourke '23 and Christopher Carlson '23 play in a five-member '90s cover band called the 7s. They started their musical journey five years ago alongside Lake Zajac, Justin Sims, and Oliver Nappi—the group's bassist, guitar player, and lead singer. Two of the group's most popular songs include "Drop the Guillotine" by Peach Pit and "Are You Gonna Be My Girl" by Jet. Unlike other cover groups, they add their own twist to the original songs such as changing the instrumentation or song structure.

In an interview with O'Rourke, he was asked about the impact of COVID-19 on a band that depends upon shows to continue running. It has been more than a year and a half since COVID-19 shut nearly everything down from businesses to res-

a month and a half. Currently, they are prepared to hit the stage again, fully vaccinated.

O'Rourke shared his own comments on what music means to him and how the group has impacted his life.

"The band really piqued my interest in guitar and music as a whole. That led me to hoping to pursue jazz guitar in the future, and going to school for it," he said.

To O'Rourke, performing with others gave music a different meaning and helped him form a special connection to the process and thrill of entertaining an audience.

He also gave advice for those with an interest in performing. "If you are interested in music but not sure where to go next, find people to start making music with," he said.

O'Rourke has expressed taking the music route in the near future, which will



Photo contributed by Eric Carlson

Members of local band The 7s.

taurants to entertainment and recreational activities. The group was held back from

surely inspire other students and audiences to follow their own dreams as well.



Photo contributed by Eric Carlson

Justin Sims, the guitarist of The 7s, at a concert.

performing for the duration of this time, even restoring to playing with masks once conditions became less severe.

In fact, the 7s' band manager has fallen ill with the virus, resulting in a setback for the group which prevented them from playing for

Many individuals in the Amity community have begun to spread their wings and pursue the most unique passions, especially the 7s. They are slowly making their way into live shows, one of which will be at the Milford Porch Fest on October 2.

Local Fairs and Events Highlight the Fall Season

by Sena Ho '23

46th Annual Orange Country Fair

Date: September 18-19

The 46th Annual Orange Country Fair will be held at the Orange Fairgrounds on 525 Orange Center Rd, Orange. The fair will include a variety of interesting activities such as craft exhibits, children's games, country music performances, friendly contests, antique car shows, tractor rides, carriage rallies, and more. They will also serve fair food fan-favorites like funnel cakes, fried dough, chili, burgers, and Philly Cheese steak subs. For more information, visit the site: <http://www.orangecountryfair.com/events.htm>.

Seymour Pumpkin Festival

Date: September 19

At this year's Seymour Pumpkin Festival, taking place at French Memorial Park on 73 Spruce Street, Seymour, there will be many activities to pick and choose from. Music and entertainment will be featured at the festival alongside pumpkins, food vendors, carnival games, and craft booths. Hand-made jewelry, sculptures, small furniture items, painted glass, and many more will be sold at these booths. Check out <https://www.seymourpumpkinfestival.com/> for more information.

Guilford Performing Arts Festival

Date: September 23-26

Guilford will be hosting the 2021 Guilford Arts Festival at 316 Little Meadow Road, Guilford. As always, there will be plenty of entertainment with performances from guest artists such as Iddi Saaka, Julie Fitzpatrick, Ortiz Dance, Ruth Lewis, and a few others. Each night will bring something unique to the table, such as live plays and spoken-word workshops. Visit <https://guilfordperformingartsfest.org/> for more information.

Newtown Arts Festival 2021

Date: September 17-19

The upcoming Newtown Arts Festival at the Fairfield Hills Campus on DG Beers Boulevard, Newtown, is designed to support local artists by presenting arts-inspired events with a blend of entertainment, education, exhibits/galleries, and sales. The Newtown Cultural Arts Commission brought together every form of artistic expression from dance and music to the visual arts. In addition to this event, the profits will be sent to fund scholarships for local artists, organizations, and festivals. Check out their website <https://newtownarts-festival.com/> for the latest updates.

Spirits of Milford Ghost Walk

Date: September 17-18

As the holiday season approaches, Milford has rebooted their Spirits of Milford Ghost Walk for families to enjoy. There is a 1 to 1 1/2 mile pathway through downtown Milford with exhibits

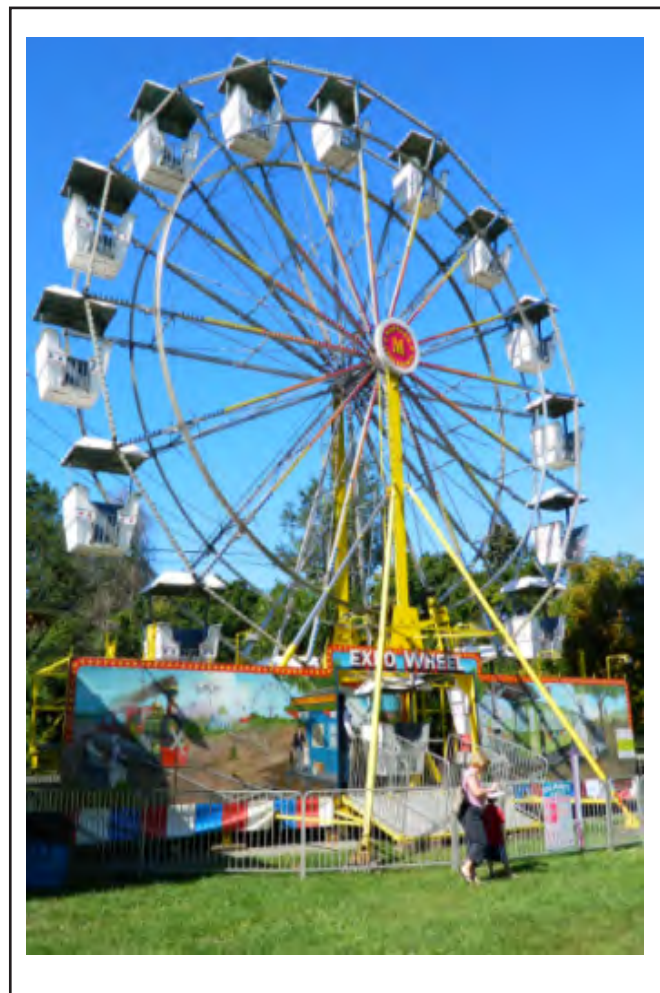


Photo contributed by John Ulatowski

Ferris Wheel at the Orange Country Fair

at the city's oldest locations and the cemetery for an extra kick. Guests can also choose to pursue a hunt for paranormal activity as EMF detectors and dowsing rods are provided. For more information check out their website: <http://spiritsofmilford.com/>.

Corn Maze at Treat Farm

Date: Now - November 14

Orange has already opened up their new corn

maze located at Treat Farm on 361 Old Tavern Rd. The location is built upon a 6.5-acre maze that was crafted for a more enjoyable experience. Along the way, there are games and activities to participate in instead of solely walking the long trails. In addition to the maze, they are also holding hayrides to bring family and friends closer together. More information is listed on their website: <https://www.treat.farm/the-corn-maze>.

She Shines Woman Focused Artisans Market

Date: September 26

Late this September, a very interesting event will take place in Woodbridge, at the New England Brewing Company on 175 Amity Rd. The purpose of the event is to bring attention to woman-focused artisans and their stories. As these empowering women are featured, the Kraftwich Food Truck and Spread Cheese Pop Up will make a special appearance.

All proceeds from the raffle in the form of donations from local vendors will go to the Woman and Families Center. Contact <https://www.newenglandbrewing.com/> for more information.

Legends of Fear

Date: September 25 - October 31

Lastly, Legends of Fear at Fairview Tree Farm on 2 Saw Mill City Rd, Shelton, is coming back for the Halloween season. This event will open at the end of September and will feature their classic

tractor-pulled hay wagon wide into their fields and "forest of fear" for a friendly scare. It is the perfect fall activity to enjoy with friends. There will also be the Melon Head Revenge Trail, Haunted Hemlock Manor, Pine Hills Parish, The Dark Harvest, and the Funhouse of Fear that is so much scarier than the haunted hayride. Visit their website <https://www.legendsoffear.com/index.html> for more information.

One Book One Amity Addresses Prevalent Societal Issues

by Nina Carmeli '23

Can you imagine picking one book to cater to every Amity students' and faculty's liking?

The One Book, One Amity committee has grappled with this issue for the past couple of years, trying to please a diverse group of students, while still choosing a book that brings the Amity community together in response to literature. This year, they have solved this grueling task.

Instead of choosing one book, the committee broadened their choices to include a wide variety of book options for the 2021 theme of social justice. Students had the option of reading about gender and sexual identity, race and ethnicity, ability and access, environmental justice, mental health awareness, or any other social justice topic that encompasses the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities.

Beyond the reading, students will be assessed on their choice of literature by individually responding to a number of handcrafted questions in order to reflect on the challenges discussed in their novel and what they took away from reading about their respective topics.

Marin Korenaga '23 said, "I read 'The Vanishing Half' by Brit Bennett and it was an amazing experience. This was such a beautifully written book. It was thought-provoking and made me feel like the characters came to life. This book opened my eyes to the racism that African-Americans still face to this day and the white society that affects it."

Dan Liu '23 expressed his appreciation for the book he read, saying, "This summer, I chose the book 'The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness' as my OBOA book. While the book was outside the realm of the genres I usually read, I found it very interesting and informative about the topic of racial justice and the fact that modern society is still far from achieving racial equality."

"This book provided a novel perspective regarding the current prison system and the phenomenon of mass incarceration, deepening my understanding of racial injustice in present times and the various ways society continues to exhibit racial biases."

Julie Chevan, an English teacher and one of the teacher advisors for OBOA, explained that the decision to make the book a free choice, as well as the social justice theme, was made solely by the students of the One Book One Amity committee.

"After surveying the student body in past years and with the challenges of COVID in the summer of 2020, we first switched from only one book to a choice model, asking everyone to read a memoir of their choice," Chevan said.

Chevan continued by describing upcoming events that the OBOA is hosting to further discuss and dissect students' books.

"We are now planning for some opportunities to talk more about the books and many of the topics they raised," she said.

"We are planning our second annual 'books and a blanket' event in the senior courtyard, after school on October 6th. Our big all-school Day of Dialogue will take place on the morning of October 14th and we're in the process of putting together a whole range of workshops led by students, teachers, and community members."

"In the six years since the start of One Book/One Amity, we've tried to make each year something different and something special. Our mission is to promote reading and get people talking!" Chevan added.

Take these book recommendations to heart and explore different topics of social justice that intrigue you.

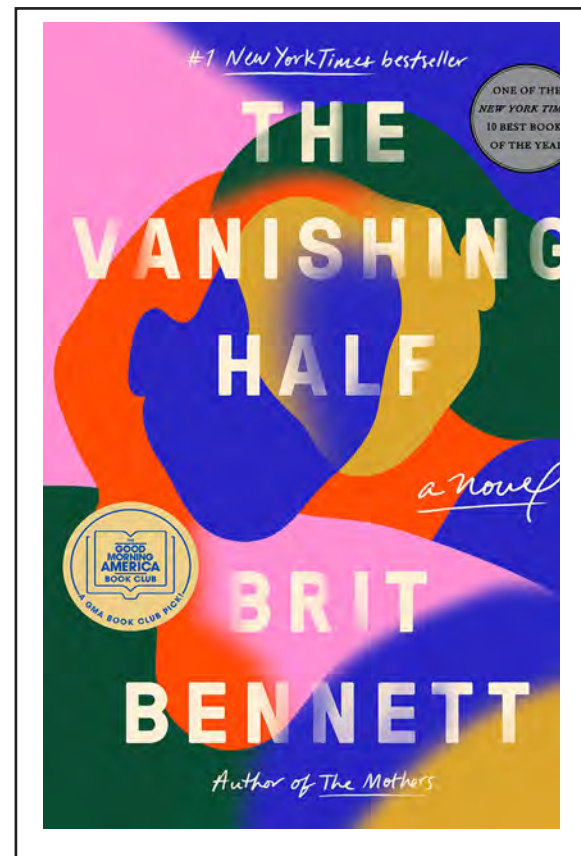


Photo from amazon.com

"The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett

Amity Art Club: A Fresh (St)Art

by Selin Ho '23

The Amity Art Club starts off the year on a new leaf. The

club focuses on helping art students find their creativity and passion through individual projects and community service. The club wants to expand its views by giving back to the community while still aiding students to fulfill their creative needs. It shifted its purpose from fundamental art lessons to a more inclusive place to help students interested in art.

There will also be community art committees to work with students on projects set by local groups and individual art initiatives to guide students in the right direction to help them pursue an art career. The Amity Art Club will redirect its focus to collaboration with other clubs, assisting students to find their artistic passion, and planning community outreach art projects.

Collaboration is the club's main goal for this year. It will work with various other clubs at the school like the Amity Creative Writing Club and student government to spread art to all aspects of the school community. Students will gain a greater connection to the Amity community by building relationships with other students through art and everyday activities. They will invest time to make the school a better place, participating in school-wide events and helping to spread the message of imagination and innovation through multi-media. The club is a place to work on strengthening students' creativity.

The club will also allow students to discover their interests through various art mediums, such as graphic design, video/film production, fine arts, industrial/product design, fashion, and even architecture. The leaders hope to inspire students to pursue their passions.

The club's co-president Mingyue Zha '23 said, "Without art, students are not able to express much of their creativity in school. Hopefully, this club can become a safe space for students to explore the deepest parts of their creative mind."



Photo from Anna Youtz '22

"Cherry Blossoms Swaying"

The students will be able to work on individual projects, testing them to go beyond their limits to utilize a vast expanse of art materials and programs.

"Inclusivity is an important factor of art and having the students work with multi-media art forms only helps them discover what they like," said Zha.

The club will offer all types of art equipment as well as provide artbooks. Artbooks are essential to learning about different forms and styles of art and can help give the students guidance in terms of what sections of art they are interested in. By letting students explore artbooks and showing the various forms of art, the club hopes to influence students into trying new things and discovering novel art interests.

Finally, the art club has also promised to focus on community outreach projects around Woodbridge, Bethany, and Orange. Not only should the students build stronger relations with fellow Amity students,

however, finding opportunities in the community helps the students gain connections with the greater area. They plan on contacting areas around the community to hold art events or design attractive signs for

their upcoming events.

These events will require committees in which the members will be split up into groups to complete certain projects. Each group is assigned to a local event, and those groups will work together to help the locals with their upcoming activities. The club says that these activities are a great way to use their skills and learn the importance of creative feedback when it involves a team.

The Amity Art Club hopes that by adding various new activities and reforming the club, students will gain a greater understanding of the arts and their artistic capabilities.

Zha added, "We are looking forward to expanding our horizons this year, and to introduce students to the beauty and vast expanse of artistic expression."

The art club encourages all students to try and explore the boundaries of their creative mind, and is looking forward to a successful year.

Football Team Returns to the Gridiron for the 2021 Season

by Clem Neary '22

long-anticipated return to the field after a cancelled 2020 season.

Connecticut was one of the fifteen states last year that did not hold a football season. Governor Ned Lamont and the state's Department of Public Health recommended the postponement of football, since coronavirus cases were rising at the time.

The Spartans kicked off their first game of the season on Friday, September 10th, away at Branford High School.

Amity rolled past the Hornets in a 21-0 score, with Jack Coughlin '22 and Clem Neary '22 scoring touchdowns, with an additional score by Nico Young '24.

Players on this team have waited almost two years just to play another game, one of the main

factors in their determination to be successful. Coughlin, a captain on the football team, is thankful for the team's preparation for this new season.

"Our coaches kept us in rhythm throughout the summer and into the fall," Coughlin said.

"It means a lot to us just



Photo contributed by Clem Neary '22

The Amity Football Team



Photo contributed by Clem Neary '22

The Team at Practice

to be able to practice together."

The team trained five days a week in the summer, working with Jim Ronai's Competitive Edge Sports Performance. The workout plan consisted

of weight lifting three days a week, and doing conditioning/running two days a week.

Matt Fitol '22, another captain on the football team, explains both the struggle and impor-

tance of training.

"Waking up at 6 or 7 every morning to work out is difficult, especially in the summer," he said. "But what made it easier was our desire to win as a team; we all have the same goals."

The Spartans will face off against Shelton High School in their second game of the season, this time at home. Padraig Haughton '22, the third captain on the team, says the team is prepared for their upcoming matchup.

"Shelton is a great team, they maintain a great football program," he said. "But we are always ready and prepared for whatever comes our way."

Come out to cheer on the Spartans at home this season on their new turf field.

Boys Soccer Looks Forward to a Groundbreaking Year

by Adam Florkiewicz '22

season to come.

However, the team is off to a rocky start. Their first game against Shelton was a 3-0 loss. Looking forward, Amity must now adapt to secure a favorable position in the league.

Aayan Chaturvedi '22 believes that a primary reason for their losses is their lack of communication. He claims that this issue harms many aspects of their game: applying pressure during a loss of possession, creating attacking plays, and marking players on defense.

The success they find in scoring goals and defending is when the team is interacting and working together, a crucial point that they are looking to improve on.

An advantage that Amity has, however, is their mentality. Regardless of the situation, they are always looking to keep themselves in the game and score goals.

Aaron Mayerson '22, a captain on the team, reflected on the cohesiveness needed for success this season.

"Last year, we didn't play as much as a team as we should have because we relied too much on individuals," he says.

"This upcoming year we want to keep that in mind and make sure we are working together. We are just going to do the best we can to keep a positive attitude and give 100% to every game," Mayerson added.

The Amity Boys Soccer team is anticipating a great

Chaturvedi, a center defensive midfielder, recalls the takeaways from their preseason tournament. He admits that the team did not communicate well, which negatively impacted their per-

formance. He says that Coach Mike Marchitto emphasized, during the breaks, the importance of team dialogue.

Afterward, Aayan states that they began to have more solid defense, an increase in goal-scoring opportunities, and an overall better display of their capabilities.

Aayan maintains that having quality pressure on the ball and winning back possession on the opposing half has been the source of many of their goals. Finally, he concludes that they must continue to apply what they have learned in those matches to the rest of the season to compete with high-intensity teams, such as Stanford, Cheshire, and Daniel Hand.

Jack Fortin '22, a center-back on the team, says that "[the team] should expect to perform better this year because of the many returners." He explains that they

have played together for a while. This experience should generate a smooth game dynamic throughout the season.

He added the newcomers provide different skills that will be essential to the team's success. He mentions two notable players: Paul Cortes '22, who provides good pressure and skill in the midfield; and Miles Katz '22, an outside center back that closes down attacks from the flank.

With the proper adjustments and unity on this team, Amity Boys Soccer can set themselves up for success this season.



Contributed photo

Boys Soccer during the first game of the season

"This upcoming year we want to...make sure we are working together. We are just going to do the best we can to keep a positive attitude"
Aaron Mayerson '22

CIAC Gives Green Light for Fall Sports

Players Rejoice with Hopes for a “Normal” Season

by Ryan Lima '22

athletic Conference (CIAC) has released its 2021 COVID guidelines for fall sports.

The document, published on August 12, draws a vast difference from the 2020 fall sports guidelines. In an interview with CT Insider, CIAC Executive Director Glenn Lungarini spoke on how these changes were able to be made safely.

“One of the biggest differences between last year and this year is that we have a year’s worth of data that we can all draw from,” Lungarini said.

“We all have a much better understanding of what’s effective and how to provide safe experiences for kids.”

The CIAC has allowed all fall sports, including football, to be in session for the upcoming season. However, this does not come without precautions being set forth. All athletes are required to wear masks during indoor activity, such as indoor practice or using the weight room.

However, athletes participating in outdoor activities, in sports like cross country and football, are not required to have masks.

With the loosening of restrictions by the

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic

Conference (CIAC), Colby O’Connor ‘22, a member of the Boys Cross Country team, says there is a better sense of normalcy around the team.

“[We] have had the ability to bond as it does under ‘normal’ circumstances, which has been a positive this year,” he said. “Our team is looking to be a contender in the SCCs and we are only getting better from here on out.”

Cohorts, which were established in the 2020

es, and officials is currently the most important mitigation strategy we have available for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks on youth sports teams, and in the surrounding communities that support them,” the CIAC statement read.

“The more athletes, coaches, officials, and supporting family members who are vaccinated, the more likely interscholastic and other youth sports teams will be able to avoid repeated quarantines and testing of participants, to keep practicing and playing throughout the scheduled season, and to get back to a ‘new normal’ for youth sports in our state.”

Toward the end of the document, the CIAC mentions that they have given clearance for fan attendance at regular-season games under district discretion. This was something that 2020 athletes in fall sports only got a glimpse of toward the end of their seasons, as some sports allowed attendance of up to two family members per player.

While regular-season games have been given the green light, a decision has not been made on fan attendance at the state championship games.

Natalie Furst ‘22, a captain on the Girls Volleyball team, spoke on the impact fans have on the players’ performance.

“I feel like fans can really contribute to the team’s energy level and competitive spirit,” she said. “I think we play much better and more aggressively when we have an audience cheering us on, so I’m very thankful that we finally have fan attendance.”



Photo from Hearst Connecticut Media

CIAC Executive Director Glenn Lungarini

CIAC guidelines, are no longer required for any sports. Full team activities are now permitted as long as all other protocols are followed.

The document also includes a joint statement issued with the Connecticut Department of Health, encouraging vaccination among those in sports.

“Vaccination of all eligible athletes, coach-

Amity Finalizes William Johnson Stadium Turf Field

by Jonathan Salado '22

improvements: the long-awaited turf field, which has been the subject of some controversy, is finally a reality.

Although work began on the turf field last summer, it was abruptly halted when a group of people appealed the Town of Woodbridge Planning and Zoning Commission’s decision to provide the permit for the project. After almost a year’s delay, work finally began on the field again this past summer.

Amity now joins several other districts such as Shelton, Milford, Branford, Madison, and Hamden which made the crossover to turf fields. The field has already seen some use with recent football practices and will be used throughout the fall season to host varsity, junior varsity, and freshman football and field hockey games, as well as a few boys and girls varsity soccer games.

Padraig Houghton ‘22, a member of the football team, says he is excited for Amity’s upcoming home game against Shelton.

Students, staff, and parents entering through North Pease Road on the first day of school couldn’t help but notice one of Amity’s most significant

“It gives us a sense of pride to play on it,” he explains. “I’m pumped for the new season.”

In addition, the SCC Unified Soccer Jamboree is set to take place on the turf field on October 13th.

Amity now has a new track, bleachers, lighting, and scoreboard. Athletes, coaches, and spectators will have an exciting year ahead of them on the new and much improved William Johnson Stadium Field.

Photos and comments from the Grand Opening Ceremony will appear in the October issue of the Amity Trident. Stay tuned!

Amity
PHYSICAL THERAPY

TRIDENT EDITORS OFFER WORDS OF WISDOM FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN



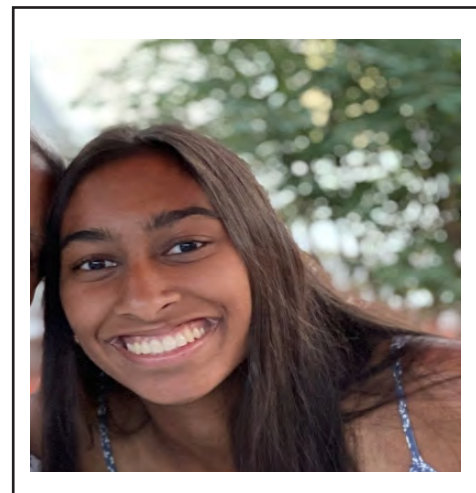
Zachary Garfinkle '22
Editor-in-Chief, Arts & Sports

Stay organized and make time for the things that matter. School is hard, but it's easier when you stay on top of it all. Don't let yourself get hyper-focused on your classes. When you need a break, spend time with people you want to be around.



Audrey Marin '22
Editor-in-Chief, News & Opinions

Take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way! Test out new things because you never know what might become your passion. Take advantage of these four years... they fly by very quickly. Focus on yourself and your educational experience. If you're ever struggling, Amity has countless resources to support you!



Adithi Wijesekera '22
Editor-in-Chief, Features

My advice is to push yourself outside of your comfort zone. Whether you take a challenging class or join a new club, you will surprise yourself at how much you learn from a new experience. While the high school may seem intimidating, remember that you have a large support system through peers and teachers.



Abby Ball '22
Opinions Editor

My advice is to try and make time for yourself. With homework, sports, and extracurriculars, it's easy to get overloaded and forget to take a break. But going outside, writing in a journal, or starting a new hobby is just as important as school! Your mental health and well-being should always come first.



Megan Wu '22
Features Editor

I think the most important thing to remember is that this is your first year of high school so everything is going to be new and different, and it's important to be conscious of that, but it's also important to have fun and make memories!



Scott Lowder '22
Features Editor

Looking back, I really wish I was more involved in clubs when a freshman at Amity. At the time, I felt bogged down with sports and homework, but it's really helpful to join clubs early to potentially get that leadership position in the future with your years of experience if interested.



Sena Ho '23
Arts Editor

In high school, keeping organized is the key to success. You will have homework from a lot of classes overlapping, so keeping a planner will help you! Also, if you have difficulties in your classes, ask for help from your teacher or classmates. Getting through high school is a joint effort and involves teamwork along the way.



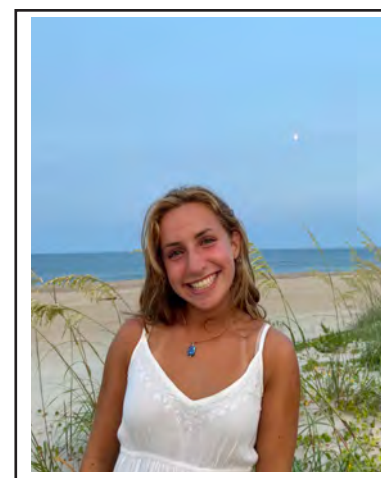
Ryan Lima '22
Sports Editor

Please try to take this first year seriously. People are tempted to slack off in these early years, which just causes stress later on due to them not having the grades they want. Use this year to build good study habits and organizational skills, so you can succeed for all four years you have at Amity.



Aadya Wijesekera '23
News Editor

Try to branch out and meet new people in your freshman year! Find people who have similar interests and goals to you or even those who are completely different from you. Surrounding yourself with good people will set you up to have an amazing high school experience.



Nicole Grosso '22
News Editor

Four years is a lot shorter than you think; don't leave high school wishing you'd done more! Get involved in everything you're interested in because it truly does make your time here worthwhile. You will meet so many amazing students and staff by simply doing things you love.