

# STRIDENT

## From the Halls of Amity High School to the White House Principal Andre Hauser Announces Presidential Run

by Aachal Gupta '25

It was a usual day at Amity, with students just barely paying attention to the regular announcements about upcoming activities and trying not to fall asleep. Then, Principal Andre Hauser took over the mic, making a statement on the loudspeaker that left everyone speechless. The school became pin-drop silent as he declared, "I am delighted to announce that I am running for president of the United States!"

The student body response was quick and varied. Some students erupted in laughter, assuming it was an elaborate early April Fool's hoax. Others exchanged confused looks, unsure if they had misheard. In an unprecedented move that left people stunned, Principal Hauser announced that his running mate for the presidential term will be none other than Ben Aviad '24. He announced Aviad as his vice president with pride, praising the young student's unwavering commitment and exceptional problem-solving abilities.

Aviad added, "I am thrilled for the opportunity to work alongside Mr. Hauser in leading our country to great success. I am confident that we will execute our executive duties to the fullest extent and make monumental improvements as running mates."

The school community was shocked by the revelation, which provoked a mixture of laughter and disbelief. But, anything seems possible with Principal Hauser and his student sidekick Aviad at the helm.

When asked for his reason for running, he said, "The whole thing is about bringing people together!" Hauser then revealed that the associate principals of the school will make up his cabinet, upon winning, throwing a twist on conventional campaign procedures. Together, they would approach the problems facing the country with the same effectiveness and insight that they use to handle school-related problems.

Using his previous experience as the principal of a world-class high school, Hauser did not waste any time in establishing his platform. Among his campaign's promises are, mandatory nap periods built into the day, an annual "bring your pet to work/school" day, and finally, putting the Spartan mascot on the hundred dollar bill. Hauser's personal favorite be-

ing "bring your pet to work day." He plans to lead by example, by bringing in one of his three dogs, his havanese named Tiny.

Hauser moved quickly to organize his fan base. He did not spare any opportunity to further his candidacy, from seizing the morning announcements to openly pushing it during parent-teacher conferences. Students discovered "Mr. Hauser for President" stickers which had appeared inexplicably on their lockers and that school walls were covered in campaign materials. As he gained more support, there was a lot of floating chatter on Hauser's actual motivations.

Was the whole thing a ruse to increase school spirit? Or maybe a grand plan to avoid hallway duty? Conspiracy theories were all over the school, with some arguing that Principal Hauser's presidential bid was really a facade for his trip around the world.

With this shocking revelation, there's no doubt Amity will never be the same. One thing is for certain: Hauser has already earned the votes and hearts of his school community, whether or not his presidential dreams come true.

Who knows? Perhaps Andre Hauser will trade in his principal's office for the Oval Office. This is your official notice to go vote for him at the polls on November 5th. At Amity, stranger things have happened!



## B-Town Bows Out of BOWA: Bethany Secedes from Region 5

by CJ Brinton '24

"I've had it!!" Several Bethinian students exclaimed on another near-freezing winter morning at Amity. While the roads were clear in Woodbridge and people were probably on the beach in Orange, snow and ice ravaged the tundra that is Bethany. The weather has been negatively affecting Bethany more so than any other town in the district since its establishment in 1832, when it split from Woodbridge. A curse descended over the town at that moment and has yet to be broken.

As climate change affects Connecticut, the winter weather in Woodbridge and Orange seems to get more mild with each passing year, while Bethany remains a stagnant target for snow, ice

storms and natural disasters. Tensions have been rising between Bethany residents who want Amity to account for them in decisions on "winter weather" days and other students who just want to get as much education in as possible.

Bethany resident Sarah Fortin '24 pointed out a turning point not just in the climate of Bethany but in the social connection to other students in the district. She said, "I feel there has been a disconnect between Bethany and the other towns since the tornado. That was really hard for me because I lost my potato farm."

Many remember the tornado that impacted Connecticut in 2018, which again, disproportionately impacted Bethany, cutting power to most of the town and making roads impassable. At the time, considering the state of the majority of the district, Amity decided to resume school without sending buses to Bethany, and told students to get to school if possible. Another tornado impacted Bethany in 2020, but again, it missed both Woodbridge and Orange.

Considering they only make up less than 25% of the Amity student population, change for Bethany is not likely to come

Fed up with the lack of representation and consideration for weather conditions, Bethany has decided to leave the Amity Regional School district. Many feared a huge negative response from families, students and staff, but administration has noticed a positive change

in the climate--both socially and in terms of the weather without having to account for Bethany.

Lily Parady '24 is in favor of the secession of Bethany, saying, "The farms have been calling to me. I don't need to be sitting in a chair, I need to be sitting on my tractor."

Parady owns a John Deere 7930 tractor and has received multiple tickets for trying to park it in her spot. She, of course, did not display the Amity issued sticker. Parady feels that the farm means expression, something that ARHS and the entire district has been suppressing.

As noted earlier, students from Orange and Woodbridge are in favor of becoming OW, as they want Bethany to stop interfering with their instructional time.

J'or Maum '26, who lives in Orange, recounted his all-too-often experience during winter months. "I put all my clothes out the night before--flip flops, shorts and the Amity Baseball shirt I cut the sleeves out of, just to wake up and have school delayed two hours? I am so sick of getting to wake up late and still end school at 2:18!" Maum continued, "Bethany's winter weather is totally getting in the way of my Spanish speaking assessments. Why can't the Bethinians just get in their trucks and plow their way to school?"

For some, like graphics teacher Matt Stanley, the loss of Bethany won't change much. Stanley looked puzzled every time Bethany was mentioned in passing. When asked about his confusion, he said, "I don't even know where Bethany is. I tried to drive there once and just ended up in Naugatuck after passing four farms, six cows and 23 auto body shops."

They tried the 'burbs, but its back to rural roots for B-Towners.



Photo contributed by Lily Parady '24

Parady riding her tractor to school

# Shh... Spartan Secrets Spilled

by Mr. Spartan '24

Welcome to the clandestine world of BOW, where picket fences hide more than they reveal, and every manicured lawn holds secrets as lush as its greenery.

As the aroma of freshly baked apple pies wafts through the air, the residents of BOW emerge from their charming suburban homes, ready to embark on a day filled with hidden agendas and whispered conversations. But beware, dear readers, for behind every hockey game and Board of Education meeting lies a world of scandal waiting to be uncovered.

The weather is gradually becoming more bearable as spring approaches. However, as the temperatures rise, so does the pressure to find prom dates. Therefore, extravagant promposals will surely be underway. The Strident has confirmed one such audacious plan, which will permanently change the game—quite literally. A member of the soccer team, with a well-kept secret crush on the star quarterback, is set to make a bold move by repainting the turf field. This grand gesture is sure to cause a stir, not just among potential dates, but also within the ranks of the football team. The real question now is whether this proposal will end in a romantic victory or an athletic feud.

Speaking of feuds, the infamous A.K. and M.J. had a major blowout at a glamorous party Saturday night. Sparks were flying, and not the romantic kind! It seems like their friendship is on the rocks, and the drama is just getting started. Who will come out on top in this epic tale? My bets are on A.K and her swarm of followers.

Spotted: A new twist in the halls of our beloved school that's sure to send shockwaves through elite social ranks. An investigation has unearthed a scandal that's almost too wild to believe. It seems that Mr. Shamp, Mr. Lazzaro, and Mr. Dufner, our very own educators, might just be triple threats in more ways than one. Are they all the same person? It's a plot twist worthy of a soap opera, but here in our corridors, it's just another day. Keep your eyes peeled, your ears open, and your smartphones ready, because this is one story you'll want to follow.

All this gossip makes me think of a soap opera. Speaking of operas, oh how I love the theater. With the school's spring musical on the horizon, I can only imagine what is going on behind the scenes, and the whispers backstage are only getting louder. Everyone is wondering if the cast can survive the recent brawl between Bethany, Orange, and Woodbridge students.

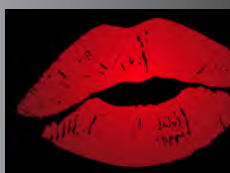
But my question is, will the cast survive their battle with mono? Plus, I heard through the grapevine that the director might be making a last-minute cast change.

Will our stars rise to the occasion, or will understudies step into the spotlight? One thing's for sure, this performance will be one for the books. Make sure to grab some popcorn my dear readers, it's sure to be a wild ride.

Speculation regarding my identity has run rampant. Am I a member of Student Government? A teacher? Or perhaps an outside hire? While I will gladly report on students' nefarious activity, these questions must remain unanswered. See you next time. You know you love me.

*Ellen Ko '24 and Emily Russo '24 assisted Mr. Spartan with this story.*

## XOXO, Mr. Spartan



# 'Mean Girls' Cast Says 24-Hour Rehearsals Are 'Not So Fetch'

by Hannah Guo '25

In an unprecedented move that has left the cast of the school play "Mean Girls" in shock, musical director Rob Kennedy has announced that rehearsals on weekends will now run 24 hours straight, leaving students bewildered and exhausted.

The decision, which came out of the blue during last weekend's rehearsal, left many cast members in shock.

"At first, I thought it was a joke," said Kasey Smith '24, who plays the lead role of Regina. "But then he handed out non-FDA approved energy drinks and told us to prepare for marathon rehearsals until opening night. It's like he's turned into our own personal Regina George."

Rumors from inside the school auditorium tell tales of sleep-deprived actors and actresses stumbling through choreography, lines, and song sequences in a haze of confusion and fatigue. Allegedly, the actress playing Karen, Kay Fitzpatrick '24, fainted twice during the 24-hour cycle.

"I don't think I've ever seen anything like this," said Fitzpatrick. "Each time I passed out, I still had to get up in my four-inch heels and dance."

As news of the marathon rehearsals spread throughout the cast, parents have voiced concerns over the well-being of their children. "My daughter came home looking like she'd been through a war zone," said one concerned parent, who wished to remain anonymous. "This is supposed to be a fun extracurricular activity, not a boot camp."

Gretchen Weiners '25 was noticeably distressed about the recent schedule change saying, "I don't think my father, the inventor of the Toaster Strudel, would be too pleased to hear about this."

Despite the exhaustion and confusion, the cast of "Mean Girls" remains determined to pull off a stellar performance. "We may be having hallucinations due to sleep deprivation, but we're not giving up," declared Gabi Restrepo '25. "Regina George wouldn't back down from a challenge, nor will we."

As the clock ticks on, only time will tell whether the cast's rigorous rehearsal schedule will pay off, or if it will go down in school history as one of the most outrageous stunts ever pulled.

One thing is for certain: this production of "Mean Girls" is shaping up to be anything but ordinary.



Photo contributed by Regina George '25  
Mean Girls cast at a marathon rehearsal.

# Inflated Parking Prices Cause Massive Student Uproar

by Avery Dillon '24

For many years, it has been a tradition at Amity Regional High School for juniors and seniors to pay to park in the back parking lots. In recent years, the price has stayed the same; however, the administration just announced that they would be raising the price of parking in the Amity parking lot to \$250 for the 2024-25 school year.

Many schools across the state of Connecticut do not require students to pay for parking so this caused an uproar in the student body.

Caroline Scott '24 said, "I am leaving for college next year and still think it is crazy they are going to make people pay that much money to park at a public school."

However, the students decided to protest this system of paying to park. Instead of waiting until next fall when the pricing will be raised, the students decided to take action now. They wanted to let administrators know that they would not tolerate having to pay more than double what they had been paying.

So, instead of parking in their spots this week, students decided to park everywhere else.

Cars were seen on the tennis courts, softball field, grass areas, sidewalks, and in teacher parking. Some students even pro-

tested by just leaving their cars in the middle of the street. In the middle of all the chaos, one junior wanted to park their car in the lower lot on the sidewalk in protest of this new policy.

Because this driver was inexperienced and only recently had received their license, they ended up completely missing the sidewalk and going right into the back entrance of the school. Extensive damage was sustained, though the student was unharmed.

Dana Pletter '24 said, "Honestly, it isn't even the worst parking job I have ever seen this year."

Léa Barber '24, who was there when the car crashed, said, "That kid is really just a bad driver. I don't know how you miss the parking spot, road, and sidewalk all in one try, but they managed to go right into the wall."

Not only was the school administration not happy about the cars all over the parking lot and in the grass, but they were definitely not happy about the hole in the wall of the school.

This parking situation caused chaos not only in the parking lot but also in the back entrance and caused the school to lose money because they needed to fix the back of the school after the distracted junior crashed their car into the school.

So, administrators learned their lesson: don't raise the price of parking.

# A Bit of Magic Appears at Amity with Quiddich Added as a Sport

by **Liliana Fleming '24**

Amity has many different sports, spanning many seasons and among both varsity and club levels. After the December edition of the Trident contained an Athlete Spotlight on Jack Fortin '22, a member of his college's intramural Quidditch, or Quadball team, many people have requested the implementation of Quidditch at Amity. Having heard the demands, the Athletic Department has decided to add a varsity Quidditch team starting in fall 2024.

For those who don't know, Quidditch is a sport that is commonly associated with the Harry Potter wizarding world, and now it is being brought to Amity! On the field, there are a total of seven players at a time. Positions include a keeper, three chasers, two beaters, and one seeker. Unfortunately, unlike the wizarding world, we are unable to fly around on broomsticks. Instead, all players are required to run around with broomsticks between their legs.

Anthony Stankye '24 is puzzled by the addition. An avid follower of the fictional game and its college intramural counterpart Quadball, Stankye has some logistical questions.

He said, "Wait. How are we doing teams? This school only has one house. I can't play beater with a Seeker who's a Gryffindor at heart. It's just wrong."

He continued, "Also, we are black and gold. Does that mean we are all Hufflepuffs?" His tone on this assertion was unclear. Is Stankye a Hufflepuff hater? He is also very concerned for the competitiveness of this team considering the addition will make Amity a pioneer in CIAC.

Maisy Enright '26 does not favor the addition as it means more activities she will have to choose between. She said, "I don't know. I can't be on the Quidditch team and be on the fencing team. It just won't work." As Enright decides this existential query, we re-

turn to more explanation of how this change will affect the larger student body.

As many of you may have seen from the movies, Quidditch fields, "pitches," are quite different from a normal athletic field. They contain goalposts, which look like suspended hula hoops.

However, normally they are very tall and since we are unable to fly, the goalposts will have to be a little bit shorter. Due to the differences in field and equipment, the school will be demolishing junior parking and replacing it with a state-of-the-art quidditch field. Construction of the field should be done by the end of the summer.

Jacob Ebert '24 has taken charge of this



Plans are underway for the new Quidditch Pitch.

addition to Amity athletics, as he has been playing quidditch for as long as he can remember.

He said, "I never received my Hogwarts letter at 11, so this is as close as I'll ever get to being a part of the wizarding world." He says he started quidditch on a broom he was meant to be cleaning the kitchen with. "It just clicked," he continued. "I couldn't fly, but somehow I knew I was meant to seek."

Ebert is a two-time Triwizard champion in his craft, meaning he is sure to bring athletic success to Amity.

Practices will be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's from 3 to 5. Stay tuned for more information on state-wide tryouts for the snitch, a neutral player with a knack for running away!

## The Amity Trident

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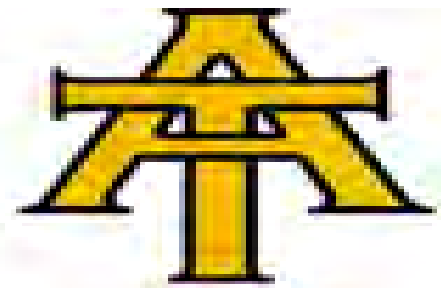
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# Science Research Takes 'Out of This World' Field Trip

by **Andie Napolitano '24**

Amity's Science Research Program (SRP) recently embarked on the field trip of a lifetime. As part of the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)'s High School Space Exploration Program, SRP students had the opportunity to travel to Mars over Amity's February break.

The High School Space Exploration Program (HSSEP) was established in 2020 to allow high school students interested in outer space exploration to gain early experience in the field. Each year, the program sends one school from each state to a planet of their choosing. Just before winter break, Amity received word that we were one of the 50 chosen schools, and would be participating in the February Mars expedition.

All SRP students were invited to participate in the program, however, some students could not attend due to conflicts over the February break. Suhail Irshad '24 says, "The Mars expedition sounded like a cool opportunity, but I couldn't miss my track meet."

SRP students spent the months of January and February preparing for their space expedition. They watched the critically acclaimed film 'E.T.' to learn how to communicate with the extra-terrestrials they could potentially encounter on Mars, and practiced moonwalking to Michael

Jackson songs. A main part of their training included getting used to the gravity difference on Mars. To help students prepare, Amity purchased an indoor skydiving machine, which now permanently resides



in the incredibly spacious SRP classroom.

After months of training, SRP students departed for NASA headquarters in Washington D.C. on Friday, February 16th. All rocket ships successfully

reached Mars the next day. While on Mars, students collected rock samples for future research projects, networked with extraterrestrials, and participated in a series of activities organized by NASA.

Eshal Anwer '25 says, "My favorite part of the trip was the relay race! I started floating away at one point, but luckily my teammates were there to grab me before I reached my inevitable demise. I was then able to win the race for my team!"

At the end of the trip, the students placed a flag with the Amity High School logo on the surface of Mars, becoming the first Connecticut high school to do so (pictured below). Grace Cavallaro '24 says triumphantly, "Greenwich may have made it to ISEF, but we beat them to Mars!"

SRP students returned to Earth in time to attend school on Wednesday. Manaal Akbar '25 says, "I had a great time on Mars, but coming back to school the next day was hard because I was a little jet-lagged."

After the expedition, students analyzed the rock samples that they collected and wrote detailed accounts of their experiences in their beloved journals.

Amity's SRP director Catherine Piscitelli expressed her gratitude for the experience, saying, "It was so exciting to be able to take students off-world this year. This opportunity only comes once in a lifetime!"

Thank you to NASA for giving Amity students an 'out of this world' experience on Mars!

# Fall of the Controversial eHallpass Felt as a Devastating Blow to the School Community

by CJ Brinton '24

The war over eHallpass has been a contentious one, but the students have finally won as Administration has succumbed to the teachers' and students' contempt for the "securely" app.

Last month, Principal Andre Hauser, Superintendent Dr. Jennifer P. Byars, and the three associate principals all met with Student Traffic Specialist Juan N. Genieer after receiving a record number of verbal complaints, emails, and posts on the Orange, Woodbridge, and Bethany moms Facebook pages.

After compiling the overwhelming evidence petitioning for the end of eHallpass, or securely or whatever the app-maker is calling it these days, school admin was still not convinced.

Then, a very brave soul, who wishes to remain anonymous, brought forth something that the administration could not undermine: the Apple App Store reviews. No matter the hundreds of students complaining that the app doesn't load on the WiFi, the one-star review detailing an arbitrary student's story (from another school) of explosive diarrhea threatened quite enough.

Further alarming were the five-star reviews suggesting the implementation of authoritarian tendencies and "Big Brother" which Amity is apparently against. Students initially rejoiced, but after the prior year's Swipe system, students such as Deborah Luo '24 were left wondering, "How will I ever be able to leave class now?"

Well, admin has provided the exclusive to the Trident,

which we can now share with you. Instead of being able to constantly track the few students who were actually supposed to be in the hallway with an app that requires students to use modern technology, Admin is reverting to a more simplistic approach. Passes will be located in every classroom, and their shape will assist any staff member that unfortunately finds themselves on hall duty or even just in the hallway to decipher where a student should be (but probably will not be) going to.

Admin has put a lot of thought into this, with the help of those on the Principal's Committee. Passes to the Health Office will, of course, be the easily identifiable IV pole. No one would mistake a student walking alongside an IV pole for going to see their counselor!

Admin wanted to be practical about their choice for a bathroom pass. The obvious choice should have been a roll of paper towels, and despite a large supply; the verdict still stands: Amity students will never see paper towels in the bathroom again. To go to the bathroom, students must wear a plunger hat.

Lily Parady '24 was excited about this addition and said, "The hat is such a helpful alternative, in that it is both a fashion statement and an aid to the spread of lice in this school. The rise in cases of lice has really brought a sense of community that we lost with E-hall pass."

For the first rollout, admin is only implementing three types of passes, bathroom, nurse, and counseling. Students seeking to see whomever actually works down there have to carry an abnormally large pacifier. This is to help identify that these students are probably suppressing whatever emo-



Tommy Francese '27 tries out the new bathroom pass on a recent Wednesday.

tions they are experiencing.

Student traffic specialist Juan N. Genieer was adamant that this system would not only be more efficient, but that it would be received with a serious response, and that no humiliation for any student would ensue. It should be noted that Genieer did extensive research at the Juvenile Residence Center in Bridgeport for this project.

## Mascot Change Sparks Quite the Buzz

by Bridget Lowder '24

While the spartan has been the Amity district mascot for a long time, the administration believes that it is time for a change. Recently, the district has suggested changing the mascot to a bumblebee. While some may find this news to be un-bee-lievable, the change has come about due to the spartan being deemed too violent.

Who would want a warrior mascot when you can just as easily root for an insect?

is necessary to re-allocate some of the funding that is set aside for the junior and senior proms. It is necessary to ascertain that Amity stands behind a mascot that truly embodies the district's core values.

While the announcement of this change may shock some Amity students and staff, the cheerful bumblebee is the perfect choice for a school community whose name means friendship.

One reason it was picked is because many students resonate with the Muhammad Ali quote "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

A survey conducted in AP Seminar discovered that an even larger part of the Amity community know these Katy Perry lyrics by heart: "Now I'm floatin' like a butterfly; Stinging like a bee, I earned my stripes; I went from zero, to my own hero."

The high school is even holding try-outs for anyone who wishes to be the new school mascot. While this may seem like a pretty sweet opportunity (almost as sweet as honey!), there are some details everyone should know about before trying out.

The bumblebee epitomizes the idea of hard work and dedication so all who want to try out for the position have to come to school at 5:00 a.m. for two weeks straight

and show off their gardening and floristry skills. There will be two rounds of cuts and we will have our new mascot determined by the middle of the spring sports season.

We know everyone will love the new symbol for our high school!

"Bee" sure to try out if you are interested in looking super cool in a bee suit and definitely check out the mascot at all Amity spring sporting events starting in April. Bees over spartans any day!



The bumblebee, Amity's new mascot, poses in front of the school.

The spartan mascot costume has recently been burned by student government members in light of this turn of events. One member mourned the loss of this costume, revealing that "the spartan mascot costume cost nearly \$1,000 to buy and we had only used it for a few months!"

While the new, state-of-the-art bee costume may have also been a somewhat extravagant purchase, the administration knows that students will understand why it

## Students Protest the New AP Testing Ban

by Soumya Wijesekera '25

In a recent turn of events, Amity's administration has opted to discontinue AP testing at the high school level. The administrative staff has reported that they believe this will help to improve student health and reduce academic competition among the student body.

However, this change has not come without protest. Students have already started looking for ways to substitute the numerous health benefits they gain during AP testing week. For example, students usually gain many hours of sleep during AP week and restore their Circadian rhythm, as this week is known to be a prime time for sleep and relaxation.

Without the sleep benefits that come with preparing for AP exams, Amity students have proven to be sluggish and tired. As a substitute, students have worked to convert the auxiliary gym into a nap time room so that they can rest.

Ethan Enos '26, who would have taken the United States History exam relinquished, "I am so upset and disheartened that Amity would remove our beloved AP exams! How else am I supposed to score a '5' and then brag about being better than everyone else? Now a five will return to meaning a fail!"

Similarly, students have reported missing the rush that they get from sitting at a desk for multiple hours on end for the singular test that their entire course builds up to. They miss the mere thought of everything they've done in a year being condensed and tested on just a few hours and a few questions.

The select few students with the privilege of having multiple consecutive AP tests on the same day report that they will have to look elsewhere to recreate this experience. What will we do with our money if we can't give it to the College Board?

Enos expanded on this point, saying, "Spending at least three hours taking a timed test is one of my favorite activities. What am I supposed to do with all of this extra knowledge? I might as well flush it down the toilet if I cannot expunge it on test day."

Speaking of moving large quantities of liquid, Devin Maroney '24, a three-time AP test taker, said, "I am just beside myself. Normally I soak through at least six review packets and also the actual test with my tears. What will absorb them now?"

All in all, Amity's administration will continue to prepare for and deal with the uproar that this ban has inflicted upon all of the students at Amity Regional High School.

