

THE AMITY TRIDENT

LXXV-No. 2

Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

February 12, 2021

Faculty Awaits COVID-19 Vaccine

by Aadya Wijesekera '23

Throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, our state has worked tirelessly to stop the spread of this virus and keep everyone safe. Starting at the end of 2020, Connecticut began to distribute vaccinations according to their plan, starting with phase 1a. This included healthcare personnel, long-term care facility residents, and medical first responders. The state is currently in phase 1b, which includes individuals 75 years old and older and residents and staff of congregate settings.

Amity Regional High School's teachers and administrators qualify to be vaccinated through phase 1b. However, the process of delivering vaccines to teachers has been delayed by a few weeks.

Although they had hoped for earlier distribution of the vaccine,

teachers and administrators are looking forward to getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

Principal Anna Mahon said, "I was hopeful that educators would have already had access to the vaccine by this point but am still hoping educators will be a part of the next group to get vaccinated."

She said she is hopeful that the vaccine will aid in lessening the transmission of the virus nationally, in our state, and at the local level to help create a more normal school experience.

Furthermore, many people are anticipating how sports and extracurricular activities may be affected by the distribution of the vaccine. Physical Education teacher Elizabeth Grace noted, "I would really love to see athletics being back to where there are fans and kids are playing. I

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Link Crew Gingerbread House Contest Brings Holiday Spirit



Photo contributed by Wendy Carrafiello

Freshman submission from the gingerbread house competition.

by Alice Xu '24

As a way of encouraging involvement from the freshman class and inspiring holiday cheer, Link Crew created a gingerbread house making contest for their freshmen members. With the kits provided to the contestants and registration to enter completely free, it was an opportunity for all to have some excitement at home while simultaneously allow-

ing them to participate with fellow classmates in a fun school event.

The contest seems to have done just that, with both participants and Link Crew leaders alike joining in on the fun of the season. Link Crew Advisor Wendy Carrafiello notes, "Link Leaders enjoyed making the videos to advertise the challenge that were

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National Honor Society Prepares for Spring Events



Photo contributed by Melita Collins '21

Melita Collins '21 in the NHS tour video.

by Emily Paolozzi '21

With spring quickly approaching, Amity's National Honor Society (NHS) is gearing up for several events, both virtual and in-person.

NHS's virtual Eighth Grade Orientation was held via Zoom on Tuesday, February 2nd. This included a question-and-answer portion held out in breakout rooms. One of three volunteer

student members in charge of this parent-student discussion was Claudia Lihar '21. She said, "All of the school's department chairs were there to answer all of the parents questions about ... club opportunities for freshmen, link crew, and resources freshmen can use if they're struggling with work."

As an additional resource for Amity's incoming class of stu-

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Faculty Awaits COVID-19 Vaccine

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think that sports, drama, and music are all such important parts of our students' high school experience."

Similarly, the Science Research teacher Catherine Piscitelli said, "I am looking forward to the time when we are all vaccinated and can be back together in a normal school

model. I would love to see all of my seniors graduate in person this June."

Some teachers were able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on their own, though. Social Studies teacher Richard Bourdeau got his first dosage of the vaccine when the location at which a family member was being vaccinated had extra dosages.

He said, "I feel

very lucky I was able to get it as early as I did," especially in the context of the current delay in general distribution to teachers and administrators.

Although it will take some time for the Amity student population to get vaccinated, the vaccination of teachers and administrators will be a big step towards a return to normalcy.

National Honor Society

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dents, current eighth graders received a video tour of Amity, put together by NHS's video crew. Led by Melita Collins '21, several pairs of student members pre-recorded themselves virtually guiding new students and parents through each hallway of the building.

In addition to a night dedicated to Amity's soon-to-be freshmen, upcoming plans include a Resume Workshop in April.

"The idea is that we want to help current juniors that are interested [in] how to craft a resume to best showcase everything they've done," said NHS president Wendy Zhang '21. Although

the plan of action for this event is not yet finalized, Zhang believes this, too, will be held over Zoom.

Other NHS happenings include those to come out on the Society's Instagram account, run by Jenny Liu '21. Liu has been orchestrating interviews and surveys of students and teachers, with questions for seniors concerning their "specific plans," she said, such as intended majors, post-high school plans, and senior trips.

Inquiries for teachers include requests for their stories of any "cool talents" they may have, Liu added. These Student and Teacher Spotlight features are expected to roll out within a month to three months from now.

Lastly, NHS subcommittees have been working diligently on promotional posters to go up around the high school sometime this February. Many of the posters are to remind students of COVID-19 procedures.

"One poster emphasizes if you are exhibiting any symptoms of the virus you shouldn't be coming to school," said Samantha Hass '21.

With several subgroups in charge of constructing posters and projects, "[Members] have been feeling very involved," said Natalie Huber '21. As the spring season approaches, NHS continues to guarantee that every member has a job during this busy time of the year.

Link Crew Gingerbread Contest

continued from page 1

shown in Spartan Seminar and, by the smiles in their submission photos, 9th graders had fun creating their gingerbread scenes.

"We were happy to be able to provide a safe and fun Link Crew activity in place of our traditional mid-winter Cocoa and Cram exam prep session," Carrafiello added.

The competition was limited to 25 people who registered by January 19, 2021. After being given all the necessary supplies to be picked up on January 20-22 from the high school, contenders had until January 31 at 10 p.m. to submit their final creations.

The winners, chosen by Link

Crew members, include "Most School Spirit": Craig Mann; "Best Holiday": Forest Van de Flor and Grace Cavallaro (tie); "Best Attention to Detail": Rose Megyola; and "Best Overall": Jack Morrison and Jiayue Sun (tie).

When asked why the Link Crew decided to hold a gingerbread house making contest this year, Link Crew Leader Ashely Dorais '22 said, "One of the main reasons we chose this festive gingerbread house making competition as an event this year is because it is a really fun way to get the freshmen class into the holiday spirit and let them express their creative side while decorating."

Link Crew has

also been working diligently to connect with freshmen while still staying socially distanced.

"Another benefit is that it is a safe activity that does not require a large gathering to be executed," Dorais said. "Therefore, we can all remain socially distan[ced] while creating an experience that will make their first year at Amity more enjoyable."

With school looking so different this year, it can be difficult to feel connected, especially for freshmen who have not yet had a true high school experience. This contest works to eliminate barriers and foster a sense of community, allowing freshmen to feel welcome at Amity.

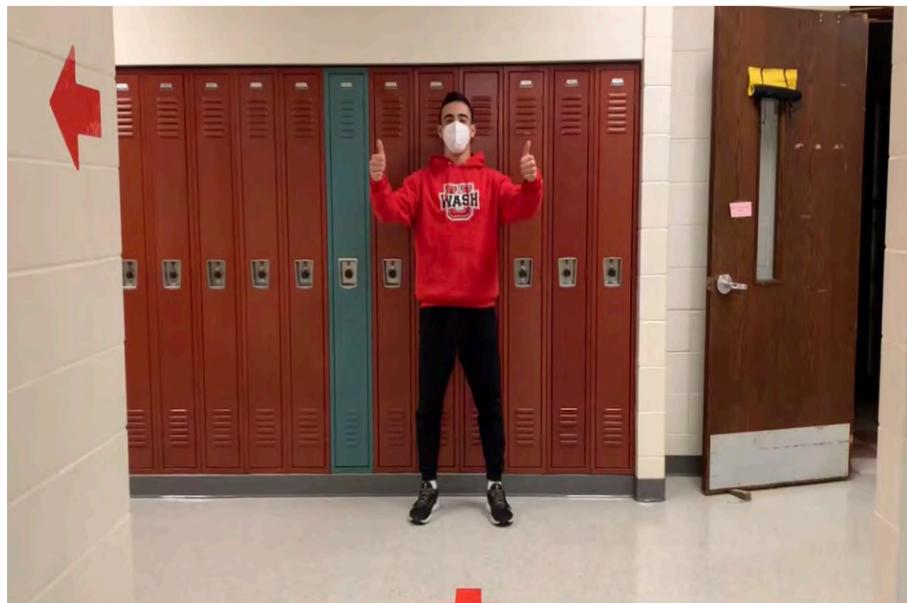


Photo contributed by Melita Collins '21

Jacob Silbert '21 in the NHS tour video.

One Book One Amity Trivia Night A Virtual Challenge for Students and Teachers

by Nicole Grosso '22

ing this school year, the One Book One Amity (OBOA) club has been working hard to keep a sense of unity and normalcy in the school community. After brainstorming ideas for something that could achieve this goal, the club decided to host a trivia night for students and teachers alike.

OBOA's second Trivia Night was held on Monday, December 21, 2020, just before holiday recess. Like most other events this year, Trivia Night was held virtually but that did not stop plenty of students and teachers from joining the challenge.

Participants could sign up in teams of two to six people or could choose to enroll

With all of the uncertainty surround-

individually and be randomly assigned to a team. The event was free of charge, as the goal was not to raise money, but rather, to bring people in the community together for some fun.

To make sure the event ran smoothly, OBOA invited host Heather Persson, a former Amity student who runs events in her free time. Persson provided the questions, which were located in various Google forms, for the event. The form link was placed in the chat and participants were sent into breakout rooms with their groups to discuss the questions.

Only one person from each group had to submit the form before the breakout rooms closed. Between the rounds, when points were being counted up, players stayed engaged by participating in quick games. This

included "name that tune" and "name that celebrity."

Vicki Hulse, a school librarian and one of the advisors of the OBOA club, said that originally, she was a bit concerned with how the technology would cooperate. However, OBOA's Trivia Night ran smoothly.

"It was pretty seamless!" Hulse said.

Emily Zielinski '21 was one of the students who participated in Trivia Night. Zielinski agreed with Hulse, saying, "In a time where many school events are getting cancelled, it was nice to have something fun to do with friends and teachers to lighten the mood a bit."

With the second Trivia Night successfully completed, Amity looks forward to future OBOA events that will continue to bring the community together.

Online Learning: The Pros and the Cons

by Brodey Lu '22

The time is 6:40 a.m. Your body still aches from sports practices and your eyelids are heavy. Instead of going back to bed, you must now begrudgingly drag yourself into the frigid depths of an early New England morning. Only one purpose exists: catch the school bus on time.

For most students, online learning has been a much appreciated respite from this often uncomfortable daily routine. However, the online learning discussion delves far deeper than whether people enjoy walking up to the bus stop. Online learning has been a complex split of parts that are appreciated and parts that still feel lacking.

Personally, the virtual shift has made learning both easier and more diffi-

cult for me. In terms of organization, keeping everything in Google Drive and tracking all assignments with Google Classroom calendar has been a much appreciated convenience. However, at the same time, digital organization is a steady buildup of pictures that need to be taken for every written assignment. These take a lot more storage, and scanning what seems like 10+ documents every day feels repetitive, not to mention inefficient.

The online approach also makes it more difficult to do certain graded discussions and speaking assignments, especially for world language and English classes. Engaging in class is harder when you are separated by a screen. All in all, many aspects of online assignments have felt like improvements from the past, but there are some things still missing.

While the academic logistics have been relatively straightforward to figure out, recreating a school environment online has been much more complex. A big part of what is lacking is social interactions. One major cause of this is not being able to see half of the school in person. Additionally, the minor conversations and little moments that people have between classes are valuable social exchanges that have been scarce during hybrid and remote learning days.

At this point, it's best to continue persevering in the hybrid model and following safety guidelines. Though it may not be comfortable or convenient, keeping the community safe is the most important way to maintain a connected school environment as we slowly but surely approach more normal times.

What the New Administration Means for Vaccine Distribution

by Hyunjin Kim '21

The Biden administration has taken charge by federally mandating masks on federal properties for government workers and contractors. The new federal mandate will also apply to various modes of public transportations such as airplanes, ships, trains, and many more.

Such actions are drastic contrasts to the incompetent laissez faire approach of the Trump administration. Gone are the days when the President refuses to wear a mask in public. Gone are the days the President is a public danger.

Of course, there are criticisms on both sides of the aisle. The executive order only limits the mask mandate to public transportation and federal properties for government workers and contractors. The Biden administration could have taken a larger step.

The Trump administration does deserve an applause for their unprecedented efforts at successfully clearing two vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer for the Emergency Use Authorization. The usual 10-15 years of arduous processing was completed just under one year with the help of Operation Warp Speed. In the end, however, the hyper partisan division of the country, with even the politicization of mask wearing in public left by the previous administration, leaves us with vaccine distribution as a single source of inspira-

tion and hope for the end of this pandemic. With ensuing transmission and spread of the new UK variant, there is an increasing desire to distribute the vaccines as soon as possible and reach herd immunity. Health experts have deemed the vaccine still effective against the new strain.

The Biden administration declared a bold goal of administering 100 million doses of the vaccine by the end of the first 100 days. Taking into account that Biden inherited a disastrous vaccine distribution system that only prioritized shipping vaccines to states with no logical plans, Biden has a long road ahead of himself in reaching his goal.

The lack of a federally coordinated vaccine distribution system has left many states and localities to coordinate their own response to the federal distribution of the vaccines, and in certain instances, communications between the White House and states have left governors and local governments befuddled.

A concentrated federal response will aid in responding vigorously to this pandemic that has already taken the lives of 400,000 Americans with 24 million infections. There will be hurdles to Biden's goal of 100 million inoculations, but this President is finally the right step towards a more prominent approach to ending the catastrophic incompetence and mismanagement that previously took place in the White House.

the TRIDENT

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We Live in a Profoundly Broken Country

by Jack Ranani '21

Dating back to the 2016 Iowa caucus, Donald Trump sought to divide our country and undermine our democratic institutions by consistently alleging voter fraud. It should come as no surprise, then, that he made the same claims after he lost re-election. The toxic media ecosystem around the President did the work from there. Media networks such as Fox News, Newsmax, and One America News sowed doubt in people's minds. Facebook's polarizing algorithm guided people toward misleading and sensational articles to keep their eyeballs glued to their screen. Parler's unpoliced, extremist users started planning direct action. QAnon continued to feed its fol-

lows baseless conspiracy theories on 4chan. The result was quite predictable. A large, angry, and misinformed group of protestors gathered in Washington, D.C. to "stop the steal." Whipped up into a frenzy in front of the White House by incendiary speakers such as Rudy Giuliani, Kimberly Guilfoyle, Representative Mo Brooks, and of course the President himself, they marched up to the Capitol. Met with little resistance from woefully unprepared law enforcement, they were able to climb up toward the doors, desecrating the Capitol building with Trump 2020 and Confederate flags. It was a remarkable show of power and agency. "This is our house," the triumphant insurrectionists shouted as they marched through the legislature. The insurrection rep-

resents the most recent progression of the Fascist movement in the United States. Denial of elections and suppression of democratic institutions are the cornerstones of Fascism, and by objecting to the election results, Senators Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz positioned themselves as the heirs apparent to this alarming movement. In a world dominated by social media and sensationalism, our ideas are poisoned by disinformation. To combat this, we must be vigilant against those who attempt to argue with false facts and alternate realities, yet compassionate to those with whom we disagree. Will we allow the movement we saw rear its head on January 6th to continue to hold political power? Or will we be courageous, seek out truth, and unite the country?

Biden's Climate Plans Are Promising

by Abby Ball '22

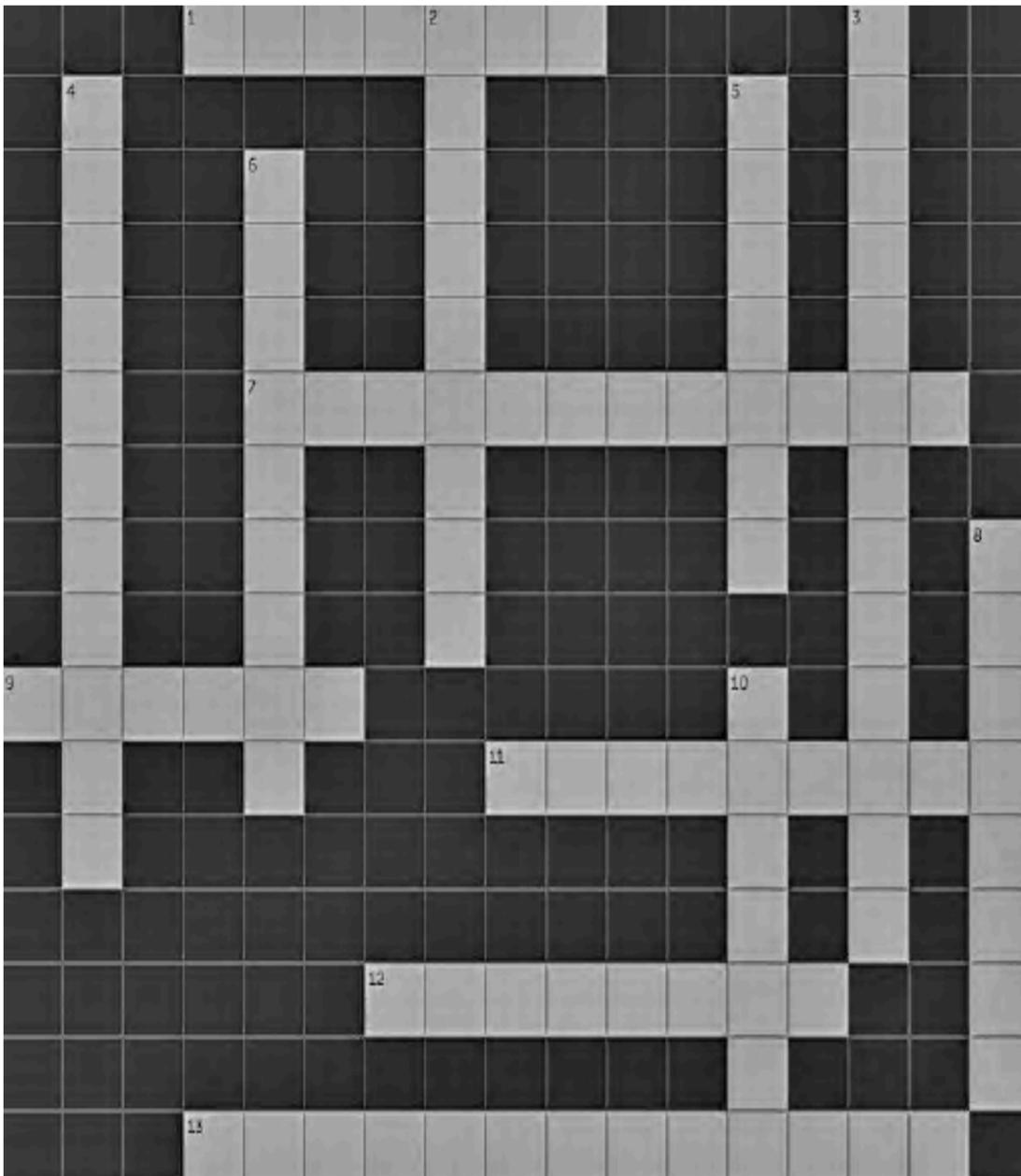
In the next four years, I hope and expect to see a significant improvement in combating climate change. President Joe Biden has already proposed one of the most cost heavy and radical climate initiatives to date, which is quite encouraging. Reversing climate change is growing more difficult by the day, but many of Biden's focuses, like environmental justice, could be vital in mitigating its effects. Donald Trump's environmental policies and actions were a disgrace to this nation. He deliberately took measures to injure the environment, like pulling out of the Paris agreement and opening public lands to oil and gas drilling.

His damage to our ecosystems, world relations, and health safety will last for years to come. As a result, Joe Biden has a lot to make up for, and arguably, climate is where he can make the most impactful difference. The future of the planet depends on countries like America taking action, and I think that under Biden, we have a real chance at stepping up and instigating worldwide change. In his first day of office, Biden proved that he will put the climate crisis at the forefront of his agenda when he rejoined the Paris accord, canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, and directed agencies to go over and reverse over 100 Trump environmental actions. Personally, I think the administration's choice to tackle these three issues first was a smart decision. These actions will have

an immediate positive effect on the climate. Biden promises "Science, not fiction" through decision-making based on scientific facts instead of money or support from harmful corporations. I hope that others in positions of power, like Senate and House members, can also acknowledge the gravity of climate change and put Americans' health above all else. Biden could accomplish and pass much more if everyone could accept that climate change is real and a threat. I am confident that he and his administration will lead us down the path towards environmental justice, a cleaner and safer planet, and a more unified people under the truth. We have to work together to ensure a better and more sustainable future, and Joe Biden's plan is the best way to get us there.

February Crossword Puzzle

by Emily Gu '24



Across

- 1. This sport is deemed one of the safest sports despite its appearance. It requires two players to duel to a certain amount of points.
- 7. To be in unison with another person, a group of people, or a moving object.
- 9. It's one of the underrated boat sports of the Olympics. This sport also tests a person's teamwork and coordination skills.
- 11. This Olympic event requires a bike, guts, a cool head, and the determination to race to the finish line!
- 12. This sport has been absent from the summer Olympics since Beijing 2008, but will be reintroduced in the Tokyo 2020 (2021) games!
- 13. Despite being a well-known spring sport in the Amity community, this sport is somewhat underrated at the Olympics, according to several news sources.

Down

- 2. There is a lot of checking and fast-paced movement in this winter sport! You should wear a helmet even if you are just refereeing a game!
- 3. A sport where athletes do spins, jumps, and complicated footwork in a dance-like routine on ice!
- 4. To play badminton, you need a net, a racquet, two or four players, and a _____.
- 5. This is the oldest sport in the Olympics!
- 6. This close contact sport is one of Amity's winter sports!
- 8. A sport that looks easy, but requires a TON of focus, super fast reflexes, and the dexterity to hit the ball over a tiny net and make it bounce on the opposite side.
- 10. This sport is not really well-known. However, it is dubbed the fastest ball sport by the Guinness World Records!

How to Maintain Your New Year's Resolutions

by Abby Ball '22

New Year's Resolutions are notoriously hard to keep. Every year, it seems like at least one of your resolutions doesn't go to plan or eventually fizzles out. A lot of the time, we make resolutions that are very unrealistic and difficult to undertake and then beat ourselves up over not being able to accomplish them. This effect makes us feel like we failed, when in reality, the failure lies in resolutions themselves.

The concept of coming up with goals each new year is an inspiring and positive idea, but only when done with careful planning and consideration. Aditi Chalasani '22 enforces this by commenting, "I think New Year's Resolutions can be good within reason since it should always be one's goal to better themselves, but it is not good if the goal is too extreme."

It is important to make resolutions that work for you and ones that are not too disruptive to your life.

One helpful guideline to follow for your goals is the acronym SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.



Photo by Sam Cantalupo '22

Cantalupo's film camera

SPECIFIC - The more specific you make your resolution (for example, how long it will take you or when you will do it), the easier it will be to accomplish. For instance, Sam Cantalupo '22 stated, "One of my New Year's resolutions is to take a picture on my film camera or phone every day. I will take my camera everywhere I go and capture a moment I find memorable."

Establishing these specific steps will ultimately help Sam to see her whole plan

more clearly and accomplish her goal.

MEASURABLE - It is important not to get frustrated with yourself over your resolutions or lose hope. One effective way to stay optimistic is by tracking or measuring your progress since then you can look back on your logs and see your growth. This can be affirming and also motivate you to continue maintaining your resolution.

ACHIEVABLE - To reiterate, resolutions are, in theory, a great way to change or improve your life, but not if you make ones that are overly ambitious. If you want to achieve your goal, it is vital that you make it realistic. Resolutions should not be daunting, anxiety-inducing tasks, but rather productive ones that you have the time and effort for. If a resolution becomes all-consuming and starts to uproot other areas of your life, it is not worth it.

RELEVANT - Sometimes, people make resolutions based on what other people or society thinks they should change about themselves. However, resolutions are much more likely to work if you make them personal. That way, you will be motivated to work towards something you really care about. Determining what resolutions will truly be good for you is essential in maintaining them. Make resolutions that matter to you and don't revolve around others' opinions!

TIME-BOUND - It is best to take your time and be patient with attaining your resolutions. One way to do this is by breaking your goal up into smaller chunks over a long period of time, which will make it less overwhelming. Additionally, because resolutions are connected to habits, they usually take time to build.

Megan Wu '22 said, "Maintaining New Year's resolutions can be hard, but my biggest tip would be to focus on one goal each month. Once you have that goal set for the month and follow through with it, it will most likely become a habit."

Everyone has their own strategies, but taking resolutions slowly, like one month at a time, can help any person establish good habits. Resolutions are about making gradual progress, not finding immediate results.

Both forming and maintaining healthy and worthwhile resolutions is very difficult, but if you try your best to maintain your goals with a positive attitude, you will get somewhere. What matters most is not the results of the resolution, but the time, effort, and thought you put into them.

Overall, New Year's resolutions are a real challenge, so I hope that each of these tips can help you maintain them or make new ones!

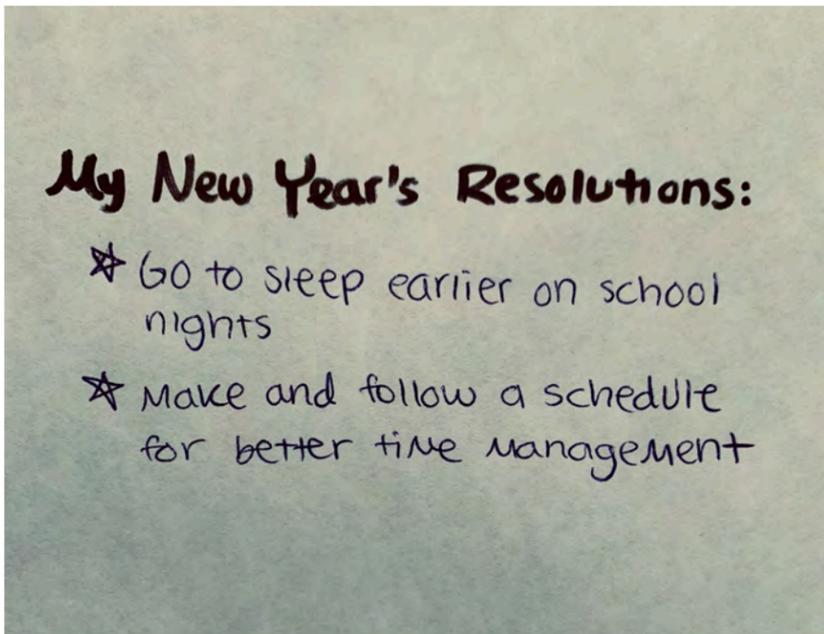


Photo by Aditi Chalasani '22

Aditi Chalasani's New Year's Resolutions

A Hot Cocoa Recipe to Warm Up Winter

by Amal Abbasi '22

If you're like me, you probably love to drink a nice, warm cup of hot chocolate during the harsh, windy winter days. If so, I've got you covered with a great recipe from Joshua Weissman, a 21-year-old food vlogger who recently gained a lot of new subscribers since the pandemic started.

This recipe is among three posted in a video to his YouTube channel, for which he has over 3.5 million subscribers. This specific video is his third most-watched video, clocking in at 6.3 million views and counting.

For the ingredients, all you need is 2 tablespoons of unsweetened cocoa powder, 1.5 tablespoons of brown sugar, 1 tablespoon of heavy cream, 1 cup of milk, 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla extract, and a pinch of salt. If you don't use dairy, a dairy alternative can be used instead. However, make sure you use high-quality vanilla extract and unsweetened cocoa powder, as they are two of the key ingredients in this drink. Avoid using artificial vanilla flavoring as well.

Once you have all your ingredients, pour your milk in a medium saucepan on medium-high heat. Make sure your pot is hot, but not to the point where your milk sticks to the bottom of the pot when you pour it in.

Next, add in your cream, vanilla extract, brown sugar, and cocoa powder. Then, mix well using a whisk. It might take a few minutes for the cocoa powder to become completely incorporated, but this is normal.

After all the ingredients are incorporated, add in a very small amount of salt and stir again. Make sure the amount of salt added is no more than 1/8 of a teaspoon.

At this point, you can taste your hot cocoa and adjust accordingly. For example, if it tastes a bit bitter, add more sugar. Once it's mixed well, transfer

your hot cocoa to your mug of choice and top with marshmallows, whipped cream, or shaved chocolate. Personally, I topped it with some marshmallows and shaved chocolate.

Moreover, your hot cocoa can become cold quickly after transferring it into your mug. For this, I would suggest pre-heating your mug by microwaving it for 30 seconds on low power. You can also re-heat your hot cocoa in the microwave.

Be advised that this should be done at small intervals, with 60 seconds as the maximum length for each interval. Many times, hot cocoa can spill out of the mug you are using, so I would recommend microwaving it at 60 seconds at medium-low power.

I love this recipe because you can taste the chocolate, but it's not too creamy. The small amount of cream is just right for this drink. Since I don't drink animal milk, I used oat milk, which worked just as well. Also, if you want to adjust the sweetness of this hot cocoa, you can adjust the amount of brown sugar used. I personally used a little bit less than the amount in the recipe.

Another thing I love about this recipe is how easy it is to follow. Most, if not all of the ingredients, are a kitchen staple, so if you are looking for something hot to drink this winter, this recipe would be great for you! In fact, other members of the Amity community also love to drink hot chocolate based on these directions!

Preethila Zaman '22 said, this hot cocoa can "give me the more chocolatey taste... and sweetness control without requiring too much work."

Even though she would usually go for the instant mix when craving a cup of hot chocolate, this recipe is worth it.

So, what are you waiting for? Try this recipe for yourself, your family, or friends! I'll guarantee they'll thank you immensely after finishing it quicker than you'd expect! ;)



Photo by Amal Abbasi '22

Hot cocoa topped with chocolate and marshmallows



Photo by Amal Abbasi '22

Hot cocoa topped with crushed peppermint, Oreos, and mini marshmallows

See the backpage for more Feature stories . . .

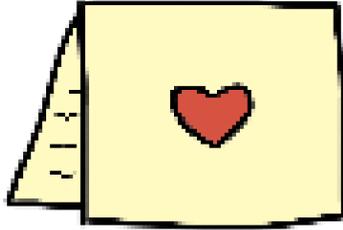
LINES C

To Mrs. Clark,
Thank you for every-
thing. We love you!
From Megan and Adithi

Melita,
Is your p-value
greater than 0.05
because I must
fail to reject you.
From Sri

To Adithi:
Rose are red-
Adithi starts with A,
Don't be a fool,
will you be my bae?
From Daniela

To Daniela:
I could live in a world
without physics but I
can't live in a world with-
out you.
From Aviva



To Anastasia and Abby:
Taja, no one does morbid
jokes like you.
Abby, no one does
dramaticized emails like you.
Happy Valentine's Day.
I hope dying on zoom during
Gov never stops.
From Megan

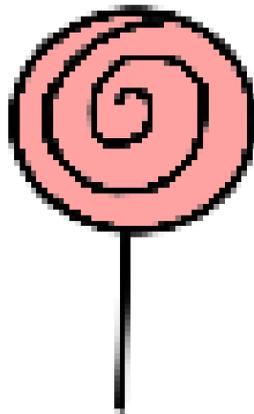
Thank you, Student Government,
for all the work you do for
our school. We were touched by
your school counselor week ap-
preciation gifts.
We appreciate your thoughtful
and kind gesture!
From Counseling Dept.

To the kindest person in
the world, aka Sheehan,
Will you be my Valentine?
From Your Secret Admirer

To Aviva:
Are you gravity?
Because I'm falling for
you :)
From Adithi

To Oliver Kusiak, Tim Antalik,
Ben Cewe, and Luke Chang:
Happy Valentine's Day, I love you
guys. From Sam Bae

To Mrs. Bonaldo:
To quote Johnny Mercer:
"You're much too marvel-
ous for words!" Thank you
for everything, my friend.
The world needs more
people like you.
From Mrs. Smolinski



Dear Megan,
Happy Valentine's Day. Also
imagine Abby skating on a half
frozen pond, falling in, and
drowning to death.
From Anastasia

To Emma and Lanie:
Rose are red,
Violets are blue,
Naming the colors of flowers are easy,
And making plans should be too.
From Megan



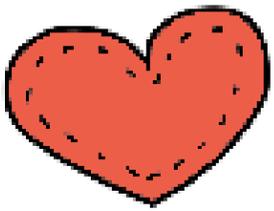
OF LOVE

To Mrs. Browett:
Are you Carnegie?
Because you STEEL our hearts!
Your Period 4 Students



Sri,
I have enjoyed these past
d/dx[4x] years of high
school with you.
From Melita

To Daniela and Julianna:
I thawed it would be fun to throw
you a few snow puns for
Valentine's Day.
PS: Trix are for kids, but trixing
Julianna into a near death experi-
ence was fun...? It doesn't make
sense but that's okay.
From Megan



To Sheehan:
Your smile brightens my day. I
don't know what I'd do
without you.
With love, your lover
From An Anonymous Person

To Aviva:
Rose are red-
Martin's a diva,
I know we take physics,
but we've got chemistry, Aviva
From Daniela

Megan - Happy Valentine's Day
you sweet, hilarious munchkin.
Anastasia - Happy Valentine's
Day, you scare me.
From Abby



To Mrs. Wallin:
Thank you for being the
most amazing physics
teacher we could ever ask
for. You don't know how
much more enjoyable the
class is because of you!
From Megan and
Anastasia



To Daniela:
Did you eat lucky
charms this morning?
Because you're looking
magically delicious :)
From Adithi

To Karishma and Nuka:
Are you the sun?
Because you are
blinding me with your
beauty.

To My ADT Fam:
Happy Valentine's Day!
I may not be with you
in person but I sure
hope I'm in your hearts
during practice.
From Megan

To "A" School Teachers:
Thank you for all you do
for us.
From Emily Sax

To Adithi:
Torque that
more like
work that
From Aviva

Young Adult Book Club

Reading Its Way through the Pandemic

by Grace Cavallaro '24

The main character creeps his way toward the door. The readers imagine what could possibly be behind that door, leaving them on the edge of their seats. Just as the big moment arrives, the character gets distracted, and the reader will never find out what's behind that door. Did the reader deserve to find out what was behind the door, or did not knowing make it a better story?

These are the types of debates that go on during the Amity Young Adult Book Club meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. Each monthly meeting begins with a discussion about the past month's read. The members discuss anything and everything about the book.

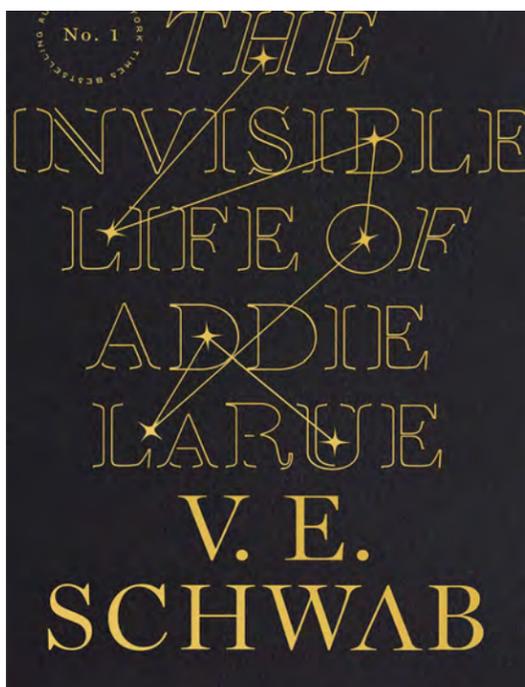


Photo from amazon.com

A recent book choice from the Young Adult Book Club

Club leader Alexandra Marinescu '21, describes the discussions, saying, "We talk about

what we loved, what we hated; what made us keep turning pages, or what made us throw the book across the room in frustration."

Each member seems to enjoy these book discussions. As Brigitte Gagnon '21, fellow club leader, put it, "We definitely get into it and our debates can get heated! It's all really fun though, and I love discussing the books with everyone and hearing their opinions."

Abigail Ball '22, a member of the book club, added, "It's interesting to hear other people's interpretations of the text or whether they like how the author wrote the book."

A consistent item on the agenda of these book club meetings is to decide the next month's book. The book discussed at the February meeting was *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab. The club members democratically decide on the book of the month by pitching ideas and voting.

While there are usually plenty of books to choose from, Marinescu always has her "book book" ready just in case. Marinescu describes this as "a list of books from every genre and author under the sun that I thought looked mildly interesting."

However, she adds that she doesn't need to pull this out very often, as members usually come eager to bring up book suggestions of their own.

Overall, members love the meetings and are united by their communal love of reading. Virginia Luciano '24 says, "I like this club because I love reading a lot and it gives me a chance to get new book recommendations, as well as listen and discuss with others on what their opinions are."

"I also enjoy this club because the environment is comforting and the people are all very nice," she added.

Ball agrees. "It is a great community to catch up with once a month, and of course it's always fun reading and talking about books with other book nerds!"

Jennifer Bonaldo, an English teacher at Amity and the club's advisor, also gets excited about the monthly meetings.

"I love being the advisor to the Young Adult Book Club because I love to read and talk about books in casual ways outside the structure of an English class," Bonaldo said.

"I love this group of kids because they are so passionate about what we read. We gush over characters, argue about plot lines, laugh at each other, and generally just have a good time."

Although Amity's Young Adult Book Club has been around for a few years, its leaders are still trying to expand their club's platform, as students have more time for reading during the pandemic.

Brigitte Gagnon '21 explains, "I think now more than ever people need clubs and hobbies to take their mind off things, and it can be fun to meet new people with the same passions as you."

Alex Marinescu '21, another leader, gives similar advice. "Because we're all quarantining and staying away from people, it's hard to get that interaction you need. Sometimes a weekly or monthly meeting to look forward to can make all the difference," she explains.

If you're interested in reading or eager to get involved in a new group, consider joining the Young Adult Book Club. This may be the perfect opportunity to share and discuss your favorite book with a group that loves to read as much as you do.

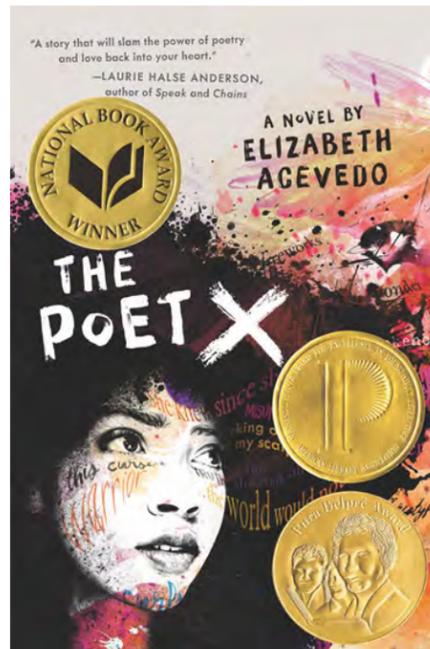


Photo from amazon.com

A recent book choice from the Young Adult Book Club

National Art Honor Society Continues Creating in 2021

by Nina Carmeli '23

The Amity National Art Honor Society has had a difficult time starting up during this unprecedented year of learning, but it remains optimistic. Under normal circumstances, the NAHS would have been displaying and creating art for the community to view as well as planning fundraisers to raise money for the club.

This year may look significantly different, but members of the NAHS are determined to do their best to work through setbacks and restrictions that COVID-19 has caused. The National Art Honors

Society is searching for creative ways to display their artwork to the public, something that has become increasingly difficult during the pandemic.

Member Alex Marinescu '21 said, "Usually we'd have several exhibitions around the community, including the town libraries and high school, but this year we've had to adapt."

The NAHS has continued its efforts to publicize its work by showcasing in digital ways.

Marinescu continued, saying, "We've been looking into submitting pieces to Student Happenings newsletters in addition to displaying in new

locations that are accepting work. Although it's not the same, it is still a great learning opportunity."

Digital methods will hopefully give



the NAHS more outreach during a time when many stay home rather than explore art exhibits. Currently, the National Art Honor Society is collaborating with the LEO Club.

NAHS advisor Jessica Zamachaj stated, "We

are trying to partner up with the LEO club to do philanthropy type work."

Marinescu added, "We are attempting to help make holiday cards for schools and nursing homes."

The NAHS has made it evident that they are willing to go the extra mile to create art in any shape or form.

"The members are eager to find ways to reach out and help," said Zamachaj, "but we are struggling to find the connections. We ask any group or club in the school to ask us to join them on a project."

For fundraising, the NAHS is doing its best to continue as usual.

Marinescu was excited to report, "We're also looking into what to do about some of our planned fundraisers, like our yearly Empty Bowls event."

"Although some of our events have been canceled, like everyone else, we're trying to make the most of our current situation," she continued. "Though it is different this year, we still managed to sell the calendars, and the entire society is still working hard to produce art and create."

Members keep up with monthly meetings and do their best to contribute to NAHS, creating some normalcy with the power of art through these tumultuous times.

Student Artist Highlight: Chloe Adzigan

by Sena Ho '23

Amidst the pandemic, artists have to overcome new boundaries and explore new frontiers on their journeys to improve their artwork. One such student artist is Chloe Adzigan '23.

Beginning at a young age, Adzigan's interest in art sparked from her grandmother's paintings around her house. Her grandmother was

tion about shading or outlining she will give me input, which makes my art so much better!"

The supportive nature of Amity art teachers builds a healthy relationship between them and their students. It as well as creates a safe space for students to grow and improve throughout high-school.

When asked if she wanted to pursue art in the future, she responded by saying, "My dream col-

time to drawing or painting in the evening.

Through experimentation with form and structure, Adzigan created a piece which "resembled a mysterious cloud." Her choice of contrast between the white ink and the black paper helps the piece stand out.

Also, the swirling action simultaneously feels energetic and chaotic. Yet somehow, the drawing is contained nicely within the boundaries of the paper. It stops short at the edge and represents her idea of "controlled chaos."

In her art class, Adzigan was given a project to draw something from real life. Thus, the frog drawing was born. When choosing this specific reference, she "figured the graphite would complement the frog statue nicely."

While creating the piece, she paid close attention to detail and emphasized shading in specific areas.

Although these difficult times have prevented people from seeing and socializing with the people we love, it did not limit our creativity and ability to produce wonderful artwork. Whether you love to draw, act, sing, or write, quarantine helped inspire everyone to see the world in a different light.

If our community can continue artistic pursuit though this global pandemic, we can certainly get through anything.



Photo contributed by Chloe Adzigan '23

An artistic representation of controlled chaos

a former art teacher at Hamden High School. Adzigan felt inspired by how beautiful art was and found the process of "making something pretty," she said.

In addition, she added, "I drew great inspiration from cartoons because they made things look so fun and [she] wanted to do something with that."

Specifically, she fell in love with Disney movies such as "Coco" which encouraged her to look deeper into the art of animation.

What started off as a fun hobby developed into a sincere passion for art-making. Before taking art courses at Amity, she never took any outside classes. Adzigan said her interactions with her art teachers have been overwhelmingly positive.

She shed light on their optimistic behavior and ability to connect with their students, saying, "I've taken Ceramics and Drawing and Painting II and both of my teachers were super supportive. If you ever needed help, they'd help you [...]."

"If I ever have a ques-

lege is RISD and I want to become an animator for Pixar or Disney."

Ever since quarantine struck, she has committed more of her time towards creating art. The shortened school days allow her to finish her homework early and dedicate



Photo contributed by Chloe Adzigan '23

Graphite drawing of a frog

Movie Review

Wonder Woman 1984

by Amir Jarad '22

Wonder Woman 1984 is a bright, flashy film in contrast to the dark style that Warner Bros.' DC movies are known for. Fans will love this thrilling tale of a goddess coming to earth to save the day.

The candy-colored style of the film attempts to recreate an 80s aesthetic, and I think this stylis-

means perfect. It is a unique theme that isn't portrayed too much in superhero films. The humility of Diana shows that there is a human part to the goddess.

The CGI in the last fight scene could use some work. Also, the plot made several leaps that came off as unrealistic, even for a superhero film.

The flow of the film as a whole seems awkward because of the inability to form continuity between



Photo from forbes.com

Wonder Woman 1984

tic choice was executed very well. Gal Gadot, who plays Wonder Woman and her alter ego Diana, did an impressive job of showing off Wonder Woman's grace and elegance. Overall, the acting was perfect with the cast falling into their roles perfectly.

The film did a lot right in my opinion, but is still deserving of some criticism. In my opinion, director Patty Jenkins has an opportunity to use the timespan between World War I and the 1980's to create a much more compelling story by using the time jump to add more character development, but she wastes this opportunity. We see no real development of Diana in the time jump except for missing Steve, her lover from the first film played by Chris Pine.

However, I liked how Jenkins used the ability of wishing to show how Diana also makes mistakes too and is by no

different events. For example, the introduction of the film can be taken out completely and doesn't affect the plot.

Another issue with the film is the lack of character development for everyone except Diana. The film adds unnecessary, undeveloped characters that take up screen time. The whole addition of the character Barbara wasn't necessary because she almost is useless except for the fight scene in the climax. Barbara's descent into evil doesn't seem natural. The development of her character was clearly forced.

This film was a bold take on the humility that we all share. No one is perfect is shown time and time again. Even with its flaws, I would recommend this film to anyone wanting to get a glimpse of the 80s.

It's a great film to watch with friends or family with a satisfying end.

Field of Dreams: Heartwarming Baseball Film

by Ben Martin '21

With opening day for the MLB a few months away and the start of spring sports just around the corner, people are ready for baseball. If you want to get a head start on the 2021 season, watching the classic baseball film *Field of Dreams* is the perfect way to do so.

This film was released in 1989, and has been touching the hearts of baseball fans across the nation by depicting the game we all love as a mechanism to heal family problems.

Field of Dreams' main character Ray Kinsella (played by Kevin Costner) has to complete various tasks given to him by a mysterious voice in his cornfield throughout the movie.

Some of these tasks include plowing under his major crop and replacing it with a baseball field, kidnapping talented author Terrance Mann and taking him to a baseball game, as well as bringing a minor league baseball star named Archie Graham to the field so that he too can live out his dream of playing baseball.

These tasks are described to Ray in ambiguous phrases like "if you build it he will come," "ease his pain," and the iconic saying, "go the distance."

After Ray has completed his tasks, he asks, "What's in it for me?" Soon after, he sees a young catcher from the past named John Kinsella, his own father as a young man. The movie ends with Ray and his father finally creating a good memory and making up for their past.

The final line of the movie is "Hey, Dad, wanna have a catch?"

Since Ray's father is dead at the time Ray has his vision, this movie is even more powerful if you have gone through the pain of losing someone close to you. I personally lost my grandmother, who was a baseball fan, just before this school year, and I find this aspect of the movie comforting.

In addition to the heavy undertone of *Field of Dreams*, the movie depicts how baseball touches people's hearts in a variety of ways.

When Terrance Mann delivers his famous speech about baseball, he says, "America has been rolled by like an army of steamrollers. It has been erased like a blackboard, rebuilt and erased again but baseball has marked the times."

In addition to Terrance Mann, many other people in the movie have a love for the game. One of these characters is Archibald "Moonlight" Graham, a young minor-league baseball player who was called up to play for the then New York Giants. He got in the game and played a half inning in right field, but never got to hit.

He describes to Ray when he says, "That's what I wish for. Chance to squint at a sky so blue that it hurts your eyes just to look at it. To feel the tingling in your arm as you connect with the ball."

"To run the bases — stretch a double into a triple, and flop face-first into third, wrap your arms around the bag. And is there enough magic out there in the moonlight to make this dream come true?"

As we begin to head into the warmer weather looking for relief from the pandemic, we can all dare to hope, just as Moonlight Graham does.



Photo from amazon.com
Field of Dreams movie

Basketball Team Prepares for Unusual Season

Players Adapt to COVID protocols

by Laurence Lambiase '21

Typically, the Amity Boys Basketball team would be midway through the season right now. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, players have to adapt to vast, unexpected changes.

Instead of a normal 20-game schedule, the team will play only 10 games. As for the playoff bracket, it still will not be a normal SCC tournament schedule. The SCC plans to divide the playoff bracket into two sides: top seeds and bottom seeds.

Senior Sebastian Holt stated, "It may be different because they are separating the top and bottom seeds, but it is the best that they [SCC] can do to keep us safe while giving an opportunity."

The team knows that games against Wilbur Cross, Jonathan Law, and Fairfield Prep will be exciting because of how

competitive they often get.

Basketball won't be the same this season, but team members are thankful for the opportunity to play.

"I noticed that football got cancelled due to COVID, so I figured it would lead over to basketball as well," said Martin Zhang '22.

Holt thought that the team wouldn't play both because of football's cancellation and because at the time, "[Coronavirus] numbers were stacking up."

However, just because playing seemed uncertain back then, it never stopped the basketball team from working hard to prepare for an unique season.

Zhang added, "We would have to practice with masks [to get used to it], and conditioning, lots of conditioning and running."

The main point of practicing with masks

wasn't only to prevent the spread of the virus, but also to get used to playing with this new mandatory addition.

This year's captains have not been selected as of yet. Holt commented on the leadership of the team, saying, "Many of our players, sophomore to seniors, have really been paying attention, and everyone from those grades have been watching the underclassmen really hard."

Despite the new safety precautions and changes to the season, the future of the basketball team looks very bright, and Amity could be in store for an exciting season.

Although they will play fewer games, wear masks, and have no fans in the stands, the players will strive to "go after it," as Amity Baseball coach Salvatore Cappola would say.

As Holt and Zhang always say, "Go Spartans!"



Amity Boys Basketball Playing a Rival Team

Photo contributed by Martin Zhang '22

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Student Athlete Profile: Swimmer Arsenio Bustos

by Justin Roche '21

Picture this: in one of ten lanes, you're swimming as fast as you can to beat some of the best swimmers in the world as the water splashes in your face with every stroke. Every ambitious swimmer dreams of competing against the best of the best. And for Arsenio Bustos '21, that dream has become a reality.

The 6'3", 175-pound senior first dove into the world of swimming in a unique way. Bustos explained how when he was three years old and his parents were not looking, he almost drowned after he jumped into a pool on a family vacation without his water wings on.

Once he returned home, he was placed in swim lessons. Two years later, he started competitive swimming.

It was there where Bustos first developed his love and passion for the competitive swimming world.

"I like the fact that you feel super light in the water," he said. "[Swimming is] so much more complex, and there is so much beneath the surface."

Falling in love with competitive swimming at five years old not

only made him a better swimmer, but it also took over his life.

"Swimming is my entire life; that's basically all I do," he said with a smile. From the several hours of practice in the pool each day to the training in the weight room, swimming has become a huge part of who Bustos is.

"He has an insane work ethic and prioritizes swimming above all," says Woodbridge Aquatic Club teammate Olivia Fryer '21. "It was really amazing to see him grow and build the mindset for success that he has."

Bustos recently became the fastest swimmer in the 18-and-under category in the country for the 100-meter butterfly event, making him the fastest swimmer on the National Junior Swim Team. The Amity senior is also ranked fifth best in the world for that age group and 42nd best in the world over all ages this year.

Being one of the top recruits in the country also set the star swimmer up for success when it came time to choose where he would attend college. Bustos recently signed his letter of intent to swim for North Carolina State University, one of the best Division 1 swim teams in the country.

Bustos happily explained how, when he first stepped onto North Carolina State's campus, he felt a feeling he never felt before. He felt like he had already been there; he felt like he was home.

Besides being ranked as one of the best in the nation and committing to college, Bustos claims his favorite moment was during his race in Richmond, Virginia for the U.S. Open.

He explained how while racing against a swimmer who had won gold at the Rio Olympics back in 2016, he actually ended up beating the Olympian in the 100 meter butterfly. This moment, Bustos added, solidified the fact that he is just as skilled as the other top competitors throughout the country.

However, his career is just getting started. His overall goal is to make the Olympic swimming team in June of 2021. The swimmer's goal is to break a world record in competitive swimming at some point.

"What I find coolest about this whole process... is the further I get into it, the closer I get to it actually unfolding," Bustos explained.

For this star swimmer, the possibilities are truly endless.

CIAC Gives Approval for Some Winter Sports

by Ryan Lima '22

On January 14th, the state of Connecticut approved a 33-page plan drafted by the CIAC to allow for the continuation of some winter sports. However, athletes participating should not expect a normal season, as some regulations have come with the approved plan.

Firstly, and possibly most importantly to athletes, the CIAC will not be holding its winter state championships. The CIAC Executive Director Glenn Lungarini explained the decision in a news conference on January 14th.

"If we were to maintain a CIAC winter championship, then there's a hard stop date to regular-season games that would be a limiting factor at the end of the season," he said.

Director Lungarini also mentioned that wrestling, competitive cheer, and competitive dance could not hold their seasons. Those sports will just hold small group training and non-contact training events, while indoor track will only be allowed to hold practices.

Despite the cancellation of his season, junior indoor track athlete Brodey Lu '22 was content and said, "Having no meets is obviously not ideal, but the chance to start practicing with teammates again and continue improving for future seasons is still a tremendous opportunity."

Unlike the indoor track team, gymnastics athletes will still have their season. Riley Palazzo '21 described her thoughts about the CIAC's decision.

"I can't say I fully agree with it... But that doesn't mean I don't support it. I really think a lot of students have been stuck in a sort of rut with this seemingly endless quarantine and sports being possible now will hopefully give everyone some sense of normalcy and fun," she remarked.

Ice hockey will continue with few major changes. Dylan Gherlone '21, the captain of the boys' ice hockey team, is in agreement with the CIAC's decision to continue winter sports.

"These kids deserve to play and I think the CIAC and the Health Department did a good job of making that happen," he said. "Even though the season is cut a little short, I still get to have my senior season. I have to give the CIAC credit because I am sure it was not easy making this season work but they were able to."

Mya Manzione '21, a member of the Girls Basketball team, said she did not anticipate that winter sports would continue, but she is excited to finally get back on the court.

"I thought it was very surprising when I heard that our season was still on and we are able to play pretty much normally, besides the masks," she said.

"I don't really see anything wrong with it as long as everyone wears a mask and follows the rules; everything should go smoothly.... I can't wait to start playing games again."

The CIAC has set the end date for winter sports for March 28th, with spring sports set to commence the day after on March 29th if everything goes smoothly. Hopefully, it will.



Photo contributed by Arsenio Bustos '21

Arsenio Bustos '21 at the 2020 Speedo Winter Junior Championship

*Love Sports? Write for The Trident!
Contact Sports Editor Ben Martin
for information.*



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Amity Students Experience Hybrid and Remote Learning

by Andie Napolitano '24 and Ava Wooldridge '24

The 2020-2021 school year has been one like no other. Amity students have had to adapt to new learning models and switch between them throughout the year. They have had to make the difficult decision of following the hybrid or full-remote learning models. These new models have advantages and disadvantages that greatly affect the students partaking in them.

Grace Cavallaro '24, who has engaged in both learning models before, acknowledged the benefits and difficulties of partaking in hybrid learning by saying, "The best part of hybrid is you get a balance of both online school and in-person school. I get to have more time to do my work when I am remote, but I can socialize and see my friends and teachers when I go into school."

She also discussed her experience with full-remote learning, saying, "While I was full-remote, I did face distractions. During most study halls, I tended to spend a lot of time looking at my phone and it was much easier to get caught up procrastinating."

Students like Cavallaro encounter struggles with both learning models. Online school provides a learning environment with more time but can also lead to increased distractions, such as electronics. Virtual learning can sidetrack students from focusing on their work and getting it done on time.

During remote learning, it is easier for students to go on their phones instead of paying attention in class or finishing up homework. In-person, students are generally more focused and cannot get away with looking at their phones as easily.

Claudia Lihar '21 said, "For remotizing learning, it can be tricky to focus in class sometimes, especially when you're sitting in the same spot all day, but I appreciate how teachers are trying their best to also accommodate and give us as many resources as possible."

Likewise, there are also other benefits to online learning. Frankie Cavallaro '23, another student who has switched between hybrid and full-remote learning, explains, "While

learning from home, I was able to make the most of my time in between classes. I could finish up notes or homework from the period before or go get something to eat."

Full-remote learning can increase productivity for students throughout the school day (if students are not distracted by electronics) and allow for more free time after school to engage in recreational and extracurricular activities. There is also the added benefit of the occasional snack throughout the day that students at school do not have access to during the pandemic.

Jillian Barnes '24 has also experienced both full-remote and hybrid learning. "I liked following the hybrid model better than full-remote," she said. "When in hybrid, I was able to see friends at school, play sports, and be more involved in the school community. Being full-remote can be safer, but it also made me feel disconnected."

Hybrid learning provides more opportunities for students to connect with peers, teachers, and faculty in-person, an opportunity that full-remote learners lack. An in-person connection with the school and community helps increase involvement in some of the programs and opportunities that Amity offers, such as athletics.

Full-remote students are unable to participate in sports teams, which motivates athletes to follow the hybrid learning model and serves as a disadvantage for athletes unable to go to school in-person. Both types of learners, however, are welcome to participate in Amity's extracurriculars.

It is clear that each learning model comes with significant advantages and disadvantages for students. Those following the hybrid model tend to be more focused and more involved in school sports as opposed to full-remote students.

However, each individual has a different comfort level. Full-remote learners have the benefit of learning from a less populated environment but deal with the struggle of having fewer social interactions with their peers and teachers. Each student should weigh the positive and negative aspects of both learning models and make the decision that is best for themselves and the Amity community.

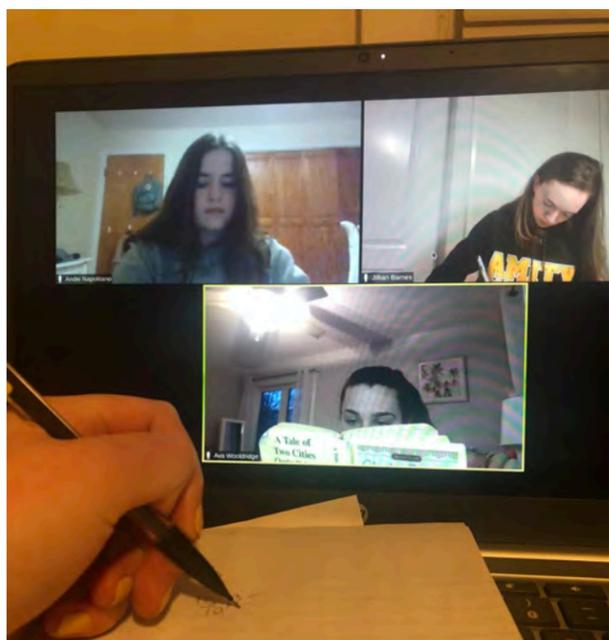


Photo by Andie Napolitano '24

A group of students completing work remotely

Mrs. Romero: The Math Department's Pride and Joy-celyn

by Melita Collins '21



Photo by Joycelyn Romero

With the second semester quickly beginning, students and staff alike are looking forward to the start of spring. Activities are starting to pick up again, and the Valentine's Day spirit can be felt all around the Amity community. Out of the oodles of Amity's beloved staff members, Joycelyn Romero has definitely become a regular.

A well-known name at Amity Regional High School, Romero is best known for her rigorous Honors PreCalculus class along with her involvement in afters school activities such as One Book, One Amity; Amity Math Team; and Diversity in Action.

In addition to her role within the school community, Romero also fulfills the position of adjunct professor at Gateway Community College, where she teaches Pre-Algebra, Algebra II, Precalculus, and Statistics for math lovers all around the Greater New Haven area.

It is no surprise that Romero has a passion for math. In fact, when asked about her favorite subject during high school, she answered that, without a doubt, it was mathematics.

With this passion, she began her post-high school education pursuing a bachelor's degree in Mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in

Cambridge, Massachusetts. Following her B.S. in Mathematics, she received her M.S and teaching certificate at Southern Connecticut State University. Along with this, she stated that her passion in mathematics actually came from one of her advisors, Marie Mastandrea.

Inside the school community, Romero is well loved for her charisma. Sophomore Anushka Acharya stated, "Mrs. Romero pushes me to reach my full potential while illuminating the classroom with her light, joy, and love for her students."

Romero remains equally active outside of the classroom. Her favorite activities include hiking, afternoon tea time in Manhattan, and girls weekends in Vermont. Recently, she has also started doing the New York Times crossword puzzles each morning.

When asked about teaching this year and the difficulties she has faced, Romero said, "It can be challenging at times, especially keeping students engaged and ensuring they truly understand the content." Yet, it is evident that even in her struggles, she is still able to shine through as a teacher.

Although teaching has been a challenge in light of COVID-19, Romero's students have not been discouraged. When asked about her experience with Romero this year, senior PreCalculus student Julia Scuccuglia stated, "Mrs. Romero's passion for the subject makes the class fun and engaging. Although this year has been challenging, Romero is always there for her students, whether academically or emotionally. I am truly grateful to have her as my teacher, and I will miss her bursts of energy whenever we get a problem correct."

As we move through the third quarter of our school year and quickly transition into spring, the Amity community will continue to express its gratitude for Romero. Her involvement and love for teaching can be seen everyday and students look forward to each class with her.

A COVID Valentine

by Natalie Wang '21

