

THE AMITY TRIDENT

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Amity Regional High School

Woodbridge, CT 06525

October 20, 2017

Unified Classroom: Successes and Drawbacks

by Niha Irshad '19

Amity Regional High School called for a professional development day on Friday, September 29, resulting in an early dismissal for students. This professional development day was to get an understanding of where teachers are in the process of setting up their Unified Classroom pages. Amity adopted Unified Classroom, a program created by Powerschool, this past summer to allow students to access their assignments and grades through their teachers' webpages.

In the past, teachers used a wide array of other platforms to post their daily assignments and upcoming assessments such as Google Classroom, Edmodo, and Canvas. However, the administration felt it was necessary for the entire community to implement one uniform program where all information would be centralized. The meeting was intended to get an idea of how teachers and their students were adjusting to the new program.

Math teacher John Adams said, "I previously used WordPress so posting information on Unified Classroom was similar, and so I found it to be a fairly smooth transition."

Many have noted that a success of Unified Classroom is the usage of one general learning

management system for students to easily access their information at any time. However, there have also been drawbacks.

AP Government and Politics teacher Seth Davis mentioned, "[Unified Classroom] does not work properly yet, so we just have to wait for it to work."

This is the first year that Amity has utilized this program, and so there are some issues regarding the speed at which these pages can be accessed as well as the complications of logging into the program.

Will Cadelina '19 noted, "The website often lags and I feel like the layout of the site can be a little complicated, but I think a benefit is having all of your class pages on one site."

Because Unified Classroom is still unfamiliar to Amity, it is difficult to say whether this program is best suitable for the student body. However, several students have commented on the fact that they cannot determine whether Unified Classroom is really effective because they are not completely sure as to how it works.

The administration, students, and teachers need to get adjusted to this new system, and it definitely takes time to do so. With this new program providing information to over an entire school of students and several faculty members, time is needed to make it accessible and

Amity Hosts Annual Club Day

by Patrick Winkel '18

A student's educational experience is more than just textbooks and tests. Amity Regional High School exemplified this on Wednesday, September 27 with the annual Club Day.

During lunches, students mingled, enjoyed music, and surveyed the 82 represented clubs to find ones that matched their interests.

"I love Club Day! My favorite part is the freedom that we have to explore all the clubs that our school has to offer," said Mauricio Cortes '20. "I didn't really join that many clubs last year, but now I signed up for more and want to be a part of it."

Almost every aspect of Amity's Club Day was coordinated by club members themselves. They organized the location of each club, set up their booths, and pitched their ideas to those interested in joining.

Associate Principal Jason Tracy believes that the hands-off approach is a reason why the event was such a success. "Club Day has always been student-run, but this year the students took the next step and initiative to make it more organized," Tracy said.

He felt that a very important addition to the organization aspect was the assignment of numbers to each booth. These numbers made it easy for all student

to find where different clubs were located.

The administration has always encouraged both new and returning students to take part in school activities outside the classroom. Principal Anna Mahon feels clubs are a great way of doing so.

"Joining clubs is a great way to join the Amity community," Mahon said. She believes that it is a key part

in particular, to branch out and join things that interest them," said Link Crew member Alexa Smith '18.

Even though Club Day is targeted at underclassmen looking to join new clubs, Claire DeGennaro '19 said she believes it's important for all students to experience it. "It's a great opportunity for every student. Every grade. Every age," she said.

The large variety of topics to choose from made it so that there was something for every student. Clubs ranged from Model UN to Robotics and even Wiffle Ball. One aspect that makes Amity unique is that if there is not a club that interests a student, they can always start their own. All students at Amity have the ability to create a club. Michaela Kerin '18 went through that process a year ago.

"It all starts with an idea," Kerin said. From there, all a student needs to do is get approval from the administration and find a teacher adviser. If teachers are interested in the idea, they will have no problem helping out.

Some changes had to be made to the school day as a result of the Club Day event. Lunch was split into two sessions instead of the usual three. Teachers had to modify their lesson plans. Students who ran booths as well as members of Link Crew were allowed to leave period four early so that they could set up their tables and prepare for the mass of students.



Students enjoy Club Day. Photo by Sophie Baum.

in achieving the goals set in the Amity Mission statement: helping all students become "contributing members of a just society."

This opinion relates to the school's theme for the year "Go the Distance" which is held by students and faculty.

"It is important to join clubs to pursue what you love," said Howard Ding '18.

One of the day's focus points was to get freshmen acclimated with clubs and make them comfortable with the idea of being involved. To achieve this, the Amity Link Crew was present.

"Link Crew's job was to encourage everyone, freshmen

Debate Begins Regular Season with Novice Scrimmage

by Erin McCormack '19

The Amity Debate Team started off this year's season with the Novice Scrimmage tournament on September 23 at Greenwich High School. This informal tournament was a way for new debaters to

learn about the high school debate format and get a sense of what an official tournament looks like before having to dive right into a typical three round, full-day, tournament.

There were a total of 8 debaters (4 teams) from Amity that attended this event, as well as varsity

members that were brought along to help case-build and judge novice rounds. The resolution for this tournament was: "Every citizen should complete one year of national service." Each team had to debate one round affirming the resolution, and another round negating it.

For most of the Amity debaters that participated in the Novice Scrimmage, it was their first time in a high school CDA tournament. Ariba Chaudhry '20, a debater who participated in this event, said that the tournament was "a great practice experience." Kevin Lu '21, another debater,

said he "got a 'gist' of the debate community and format" through his experience.

The judging for the Novice Scrimmage was done by varsity debaters, making this tournament

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Amity District and State Face Budget Challenges

by Ryan Anastasio '19

After months of discussion and debate at the state capitol, the Connecticut State Legislature and Governor Malloy have not agreed on a state budget. The legislative session started in January and ended in June without a definitive agreement on the final budget. The Governor's Budget plan includes major educational cuts to towns such as Woodbridge, Orange, and Bethany. Malloy plans to invest more in cities like New Haven and Hartford. He even suggested funding a 200 million dollar renovation project to the XL Center in Hartford.

The current state legislature is unique to others in the past as there are more Republicans in the legislature this year. Currently, the State Senate has 18 republicans and 18 democrats. The State House of Representatives has 79 Democrats and 72 Republicans. The Republicans have made substantial gains in the past few years. They have gone from 37 Republican members of the state house in 2008 to 79 today.

In September, state Republicans passed a state budget in the House and the Senate. Some Democrats in the House and Senate joined the Republicans in voting for the budget. The Republican budget limited cuts to towns, but did not bail out the city of Hartford and made substantial cuts to the State University system which con-

cerned some legislators. The Governor vetoed the budget and now legislators are again trying to create a budget that the Governor will sign.

Not having a state budget has affected towns and schools. Many schools that were expecting checks have not received them and they are trying to find out how they will make up for the lost revenue. If Malloy's budget is passed, many towns will lose millions of dollars in state funding, including all three towns in the Amity district.

Superintendents across the state are concerned they will not be able to make up for the cuts. Amity Superintendent Dr. Charles Dumais said, "Amity is unique because it is a regional school."

Unlike other schools, Amity is composed of three towns. Generally, the towns will receive money from the state and from property taxes in the town, and then they will approve a certain amount of money to Amity.

Dr. Dumais said that since the school's budget is set ahead of time and the towns have already approved money to the school, the governor's proposal and current lack of state budget will not affect us short term. Dr. Dumais said the biggest issue for him and other superintendents across the state is "not knowing about millions of dollars in funding". If a budget cuts aid to towns like the Malloy is proposing, it will affect planning for next year's budget. Dr. Dumais stated that if the

governor's budget passes, it will have a "dramatic impact" on the school in the next year. "The only way you can make large cuts like that is through staff cuts," said Dr. Dumais. However, he stated, "I don't think you can cut five million dollars worth of staff easily".

The school would not be able to cut required programs for graduation but might have to make cuts to extracurriculars such as clubs and athletics if the funding is lost. Regarding the Republican budget proposed, Dr. Dumais stated, "The Republican package makes sense financially." However, he said, "some of the language is not helpful for schools."

The superintendent suggested the state follow Amity's budget plan, and create specific budgets five years ahead. Some students are concerned about what could happen to Amity if cuts like the Governor is proposing to go into place.

Senior Patrick Burland said, "Dannel Malloy's budget proposal is disastrous for Amity students and the state as a whole. The Governor should sign the budget that was passed with bipartisan support."

Burland was referring to the Republican budget that passed the legislature that the Governor vetoed. Currently, party leaders and the Governor are still working on an agreement but it is unclear when a budget will be agreed upon.

Freshmen Representatives Chosen for Student Government

by Danielle Grosso '19

On Monday October 2, the 2017-18 set of freshman representatives were inaugurated into Student Government. These freshmen stood in front of the lecture hall, facing all the other members of student government, and repeated an oath.

After completion of the oath, the freshmen were officially inaugurated.

Senior Christina Lee, Vice President of the Student Government, describes seeing the new freshmen getting sworn in as "refreshing to see a lot of friendly new faces!"

She said, "The freshmen definitely looked like they were ready to take an active role as a member of student government."

Further, Ally Cooper '21, talked about her high hopes for this coming year in student government.

She said, "I hope to raise a lot of funds for my class and be successful in getting my friends and my class to show up to things."

In order to become a freshman representative of student government, freshmen had to go through a thorough application process in which they were evaluated on their abilities to act as an accurate portrayal of their grade.

Cooper described wanting to join student government because she wanted, "to be able to have a voice in the school and to help make things more fun and enjoyable for students."

Applications were completed online through a

Google form on the Amity High School Student Government website. The student government only allows 25 representatives per class

Because more than twenty-five freshmen applied, there was an election conducted to the whole class of 2021 in which the freshmen class voted on which twenty-five students they thought would best represent their class.

This election process was stipulated in the Student Government Constitution as the way to whittle down the number of representatives to an appropriate number.

After the election, the final list of freshmen was determined, and those freshmen were invited to come to the student government meeting in order to be inaugurated.

After the inauguration, it was time to get started. The freshmen began by hosting their very first class council meeting to start setting up some council leadership.

Christina Lee was in attendance to help them organize their first meeting. She was particularly impressed by the passion displayed by the students.

She said, "I think they all want to play an active role regardless of their position and want to work with other students at the school. I'm really looking forward to seeing their growth and success over the year."

However, Lee acknowledges that the freshmen will likely face many struggles throughout the year. She advises them to "stay organized, to collaborate with their peers, and most importantly to have fun."

High School Debaters Compete at National Tournament: Yale Invitational

by Kayla Morgan '20

The 25th Annual Yale Debate Invitational is an intense three day competition. During this competition, students participate in six different formats of debate: the Varsity and JV Lincoln Douglas Debate, Policy Debate, Student Congress, Public Forum Debate, Parliamentary Debate, and Speech Events. This year, Amity was well represented with eight total varsity debaters.

One pair Ananya Kachru '18 and Mounish Anumolu '19 advanced to quarter-finals. This was comprised of the top eight teams in the entire tournament where a total of eighty teams from coast to coast as well as international pairs were represented.

Ananya Kachru, captain of the Debate Team, said "It is a really empowering experience

because an individual debater can represent anything from the people impacted by the International Criminal Court to those involved in the Dakota Access Pipeline debacle, all within a single day."

The first day was comprised of five rounds. If teams broke into the top sixteen, they would compete the following day.

Competitor and Debate Team captain Sam Farbman '19 said, "It was a really long day, but I had a pretty good time with Andrew, my main man (and partner)."

The Amity Debate Team practices at least once every week on Thursday where they work on skill building like speech tactics and current event discussions. Captains' practices are also offered for students to work on more specific aspects of debate like speech quality and rapid case building.

This may seem like a lot, but all of this practice paid off last year when the team broke their own record of the number of debaters that qualified for state finals.

At competitions this big, some people might get very nervous but Sophia Wang, a sophomore at Amity and an active member of the Debate Team, said that since "the whole team is really supportive, there isn't pressure; we all just try our best."

Recently, the debate program has expanded to Amity Middle School Bethany and Orange. In addition to this, the high school debate team continues to grow.

They plan on sending over 20 debaters to their first season competition this October at Seymour High School. As the debate season continues, the team's goal is to once again break the record set last year for qualifying debaters to state finals.

Debate Begins Regular Season with Novice Scrimmage

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different from most of the seasons where typically, judges are actually the parents of the debaters who are competing.

Jack Tajmajer '20 said that being a judge "gave me the opportunity to help new debaters improve using tips I wish I had when I was a beginner."

Due to the informal nature of this event, there were no trophies awarded to top teams. However, the debaters received their

ballots after the tournament, which included tips and suggestions for the future.

Overall, the Novice Scrimmage helped to introduce new debaters to CDA tournaments and has helped them evaluate their future plans.

"This experience has made me more interested in debate," said Arnab Paliwal '21.

"I plan to participate for all four years of high school."

The Importance of a Moment of Silence

by Courtney Lepore '18

I am a patriotic American. I take great pride in the fact that I am a citizen of the United States and would go great lengths to ensure the safety of my family, friends, and fellow Americans. This is why I am enlisted in the U.S. Army.

On a day-to-day basis I think of those who have selflessly given their lives in a manner that many people would not dare to take upon themselves. Taking into consideration their morals and abilities, they took the oath to protect the country they love. They earn the title of a true hero. However, we--as a school--only receive 2-3 seconds a day to recognize this sacrifice.

As someone who has enlisted in the Army, as well as watched many of my close friends become successful in all branches of the military, I have learned and heard of many stories that are distressing and truly show the fight servicemembers have to go through each day, whether on the job or not. I am appalled at how although these brave men and women put their lives on the line daily, they

are not gaining the recognition that they deserve to be getting within our country as a whole, but more specifically the communities that they grew up in.

Throughout the year that I have been at Amity High School, I have noticed that within the morning announcements one student will say, "Please remain standing for a moment of silence..." and this statement is immediately followed by, "You may now be seated." I do not believe that the length that is given to the moment of silence is enough time for students and staff to be able to designate a thought or prayer.

The length of time dedicated to the moment of silence should be long enough to allow students and faculty to think of what they desire. For some people like myself, it may be to think of those who have or will put their lives on the line in the past, present, and future.

For others, it may be substantial time to say a prayer, think of a loved one we have lost, or even just to have a peaceful moment in a potentially stressful day. There should be at least a full minute provided for the reflection of each individual's

choosing.

Secondly, as a school community, we need to come together to ensure that all students and faculty are fully engaged during the moment of silence. Often times during the moment of silence I look around and see my fellow classmates on their phones or talking with their friends. In addition to this, many teachers sit at their computers attempting to take attendance or finishing an urgent email.

We have, as a community, forgotten the purpose and importance of the moment of silence. The importance of standing and participating in the moment of silence is to offer a gesture of respect.

Out of respect we should stand silently and attentively to ensure that everyone in the room is able to gain something from the experience.

We all should take it upon ourselves to remain silent, so others can make use of the time, even if we personally do not take full advantage of it.

All in all, I think that having a longer moment of silence within our daily morning routine would allow a majority of people to be able to start their day in a more positive manner.

Pep Rally: Exciting or Waste of Time?

by Andrew Johnson '18

Last period on a Friday can be a bit of an anxious time for students. Our thoughts are on nothing else but freedom. The clock is ticking, and our eyes are always on it - which is why when the PA system buzzed to life at 1:53 last Friday, we were all taken aback. No one knew what to expect, but as the students piled into the Main Gym one after the other, it was clear we were in for a show.

While the idea for this Pep Rally is quite noble, introducing the student body to their fall captains in an attempt to drum up school spirit in a time where it is rapidly fading, the Pep Rally might not have been the best way to go about it.

The administration allotted 25 minutes for the entire endeavor. But once everyone got seated in the gym and they had prepared their presentation completely, they had already drained 10 minutes.

The other problem with the rather rushed meeting was that the very base that they were trying to reach - those without pep who don't extend themselves beyond the normal school hours - are the very ones that had discretely exited the building at 1:53.

Despite all that, I do think that the pep rally was a good idea to try and get the students excited about fall sports. But there are better ways about approaching the activity.

Maybe, instead of the end of the day, take 30 minutes in the middle of the day

to bring the students together. That way those with early dismissal will still be there, and those looking to escape won't be able to find their ways back into the school.

However, a way other than trying to fit the entire school population inside the cramped gym is go one class at a time. This eats up more time from our schedule, yes, but it lets you reach the students more individually and maybe allow the rally to be more interactive, thus engaging the students rather than preaching to them and hoping some are listening.

That being said, this was the first time ever doing something like this, and we've got two more to make it even better than the first. So I can't wait to see what they come up with!

THE TRIDENT

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In the first game of last season, Paul Buda took over for injured QB Liam Butler '17. James Laubstein '20 is the current QB.

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



College: A New America

by David Chen '18

Here at Amity, seniors are rushing to meet college application deadlines. All the while, they are being bombarded by schoolwork and extracurricular activities.

Ranging from essays to last minute tests, teachers are attempting to squeeze in assessments prior to the end of the marking period. This directly clashes with the November 1st application deadline, a common date

for both early decision and early action. I find that this span of time to be the most stressful of a high schooler's educational experience due to the various responsibilities being juggled.

I believe that both administrators and teachers should recognize the importance of this crucial period. While it is important to adhere to the curriculum, it would be beneficial to many students if the workload were toned down until after the college frenzy.

The remaining days left

to seniors become divided between schoolwork and the application process.

Should I study for my test or should I fill out a supplemental essay? Do I have time to write this Trident article?

Instead, many students realize the urgency of these matters and choose to sacrifice sleep to fulfill both. This leaves for a drowsy school-day to follow. Eventually, this toll of sleep deprivation builds up, leading to a gradual decay in a student's ability to learn, study, and

perform their duties.

Ultimately, this leads to corners being cut and grades dropping. In a time when current grades could serve as a deciding factor in the college admission process, maintaining them are a must.

While the preservation of good grades is pivotal, it becomes increasingly hard as the work piles on. It is arguable that the workload taken on by seniors is a direct reflection of the classes they chose to take.

Although given the

chance to opt for an easier year, seniors deliberately choose to challenge themselves. So, should the blame be put on the teacher or the student? Regardless, seniors need to remain in school and are expected to continue learning.

However, I find that the college process should be accompanied by a slight decrease in the intensity of schoolwork. It would lead to higher grades and better attitudes toward school, a change beneficial to both parties.

Audition Requirements for CEMA Need Revision

by Kevin Yanagisawa '18

When a musician, whether they play an instrument or use their voice, wants to play in front of judges for the chance to join an orchestra or band, they should be able to. There should not be requirements to try out, besides showing up and playing to the best of your ability (and also paying audition fees).

At Amity Regional High School, we do have an additional requirement when

auditioning for Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) Southern Regionals: you must be part of the band, orchestra, or choir. I will agree that they try and expand the limit of people who can audition by allowing students who participate in Music In Motion to audition for Southern Regionals, but I still do not think this is enough freedom for participating in the event. I think that everyone should be eligible to audition for Southern Regionals.

I know that a problem

for students, including myself, is the time commitment linked to playing in the band, orchestra, or choir, or, when they already participating in other activities. Band, orchestra, and choir are all full year classes, so if you wanted to participate in Southern Regionals, you would have to use a class period for one of these full year classes.

Some students might not be as interested in music as they are in another elective, but since the school requires one of the previously

listed classes to participate, they might choose band, orchestra, or choir instead. In addition to joining a class that they do not have an urge to join, there are many commitments that come with them: band has football games and you also have to participate in Music In Motion. Orchestra has various late night practices in preparation for school concerts.

In reality, what does the school get out of requiring students to do one of these other activities before auditioning for Southern Re-

gionals? All the school does is take the money needed for the audition, register the student, then have one of the teachers meet the student at the auditioning location. The auditioner has to practice the music they are auditioning with, get themselves to the auditioning location, and also find where their auditioning room is located. The school should not require students to participate in band, orchestra, choir, or Music In Motion before being eligible to audition for Southern Regionals.

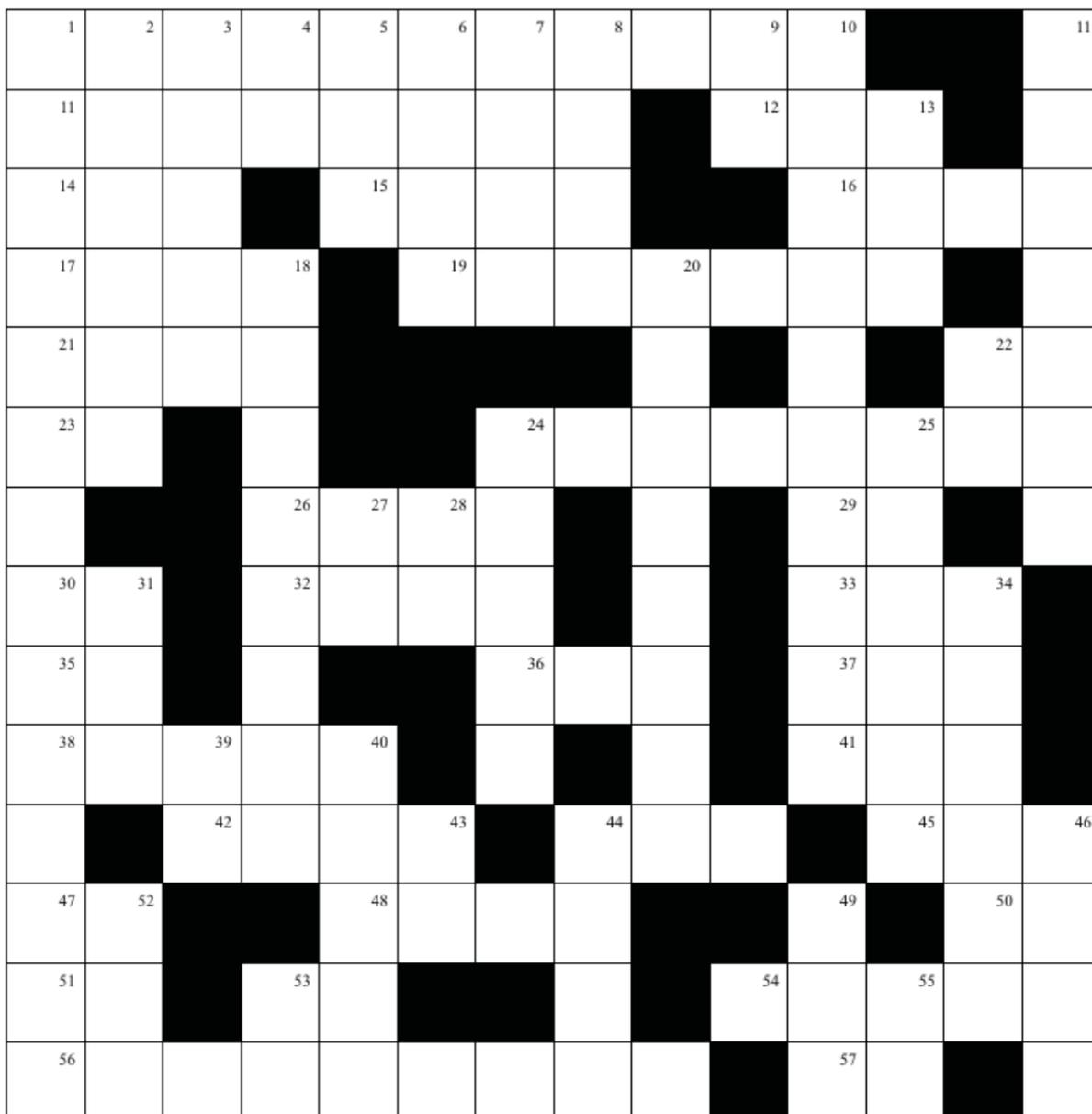
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Triplets plus one
11. You need good balance to ride one of these, often seen in a circus
12. Girl antonym
14. Possessive of an object
15. North Carolina university; also ____ Musk
16. Dinner en Español
17. One of Egypt's rivers
19. Terrorist ____ plague our world
21. Age group of 13-19
22. Oui homophone
23. Early Decision
24. Jewish holiday typically in April
26. Similar to "Bummer!"
29. Not yes
30. Shout-out abbreviation
32. Woody's owner
33. Baby goat
35. Great Britain is no longer in the ____
36. Trigonometric function
37. Arts program Amity students attend in second half of day
38. Homophone of Nice, city in France
41. Not no
42. Seeds and flowers used in foods; fibers used in clothing, paper, plastics, etc.
44. Card game with Spanish word as title
45. Female pronoun
47. Often seen in parenthesis to explain something in other words
48. Post-World War II baby ____
50. Another way to apply early to a college
51. __ Exams are in May
53. Seniors at Amity don't take ____
54. <3
56. World Lit teacher
57. __ 212 is a language classroom

DOWN

2. 1. Ms. Kimball's "favorite" word
2. ____ shoelaces can lead to tripping
3. Some people say that the snack ____ is the best part of the supermarket
4. Nation's capital
5. Type of grainy bread
6. Large University of California school
7. Students in Statistics learn to make Scatter____s
8. Ash Wednesday marks the onset of this religious observance
9. Tuberculosis
10. Stuffed toy made from socks
11. Link Crew ____
13. 41-Across
18. Where one enters
20. John Wilkes Booth of Abraham Lincoln
22. 22-Across
24. Most popular class at Amity is AP ____
25. "Use your inside ____!"
27. Article used before a vowel
28. ____ Bank
31. 22-Down homophone
34. One of Rudolph's co-workers
39. Similar to meh and bleh in sound and meaning
40. ____s is the rival of The Trident
43. Red teletubby
44. Rhymes with humph
46. (Il/elle) Mange in English
49. Opposite of him
52. Scott Pruitt directs this agency
53. Common lunch sandwich with jelly (___J)
55. Signifying morning



If you correctly complete this crossword puzzle, email a picture to amitytrident-newspaper@gmail.com, and the first person to send us a correct puzzle will receive a prize (likely a gift card).

Blue Check Deli: A New Tune Begins with the Amity's Favorite Spot

by Emily Zielinski '21

The Blue Check Deli at 382 Amity Road is a local favorite of the Amity community. The deli serves a variety of delicious sandwiches, soups, and snacks, including coleslaw, nuts and sweets. You can choose an item from the long menu or from the fridges near the back of the deli. One thing that makes Blue Check stand out from other delis is the way they serve. After you order your food, the owners give you a playing card and will then call your card when the order is ready.

Many people from all different culinary backgrounds have loved their meals. They make a lot of delicious food combinations that sound and most importantly taste good. There surely is something for everyone.

One popular sandwich is the



Blue Check Deli.

Photo courtesy of Facebook.

Squash Parmesan. Although these combinations may not sound appealing, the tangy sauce gives the squash a memorable flavor. Another favorite menu item is the Italian Sandwich. The classic meats like prosciutto and salami give a spicy but tasty flavor to the sandwich.

If you do not enjoy sandwiches, there are plenty of other foods to eat.

"I like the Caesar salad after volleyball practice. Sometimes in the mornings, I eat a bagel with cream cheese from the deli. I find it very filling and really good," said Zoe DiZenzo '21. The deli provides hearty breakfasts for rushed mornings and healthy lunches after a long practice.

Seniors may have the most benefits from the deli. Since they can drive, an after school sandwich or salad is a great alternative to eating junk food at home. After a long day at school, Andrew Johnson '18 enjoys going to Blue Check for a Blue Bird sandwich; "It's close, convenient, and is always high quality." Also, the deli has a sitting area with a few benches to enjoy a meal with family and friends. Since the deli is in close proximity with the high school, a short drive after school to Blue Check will provide a fun trip with your friends and a great lunch.

The only issue people have with the deli is their parking.

"I like that the deli is on a busy road because they get more customers. The only issue for me is their parking," says Arity Morrison '21.

The parking lot is small but if

you overlook these details, the Blue Check Deli is a great place to eat after school. The overall environment is relaxing yet fun. The workers there are also really kind and funny. They always have bright smiles on their faces and are happy to be working. When people walk into the deli, they forget their troubles and chat with the kind employees.

"The workers are super nice and are quick with making the food," says Alexandra Funk-DaVia '21. Their fast and efficient way of business is essential for success.

So next time you are looking for an after school hangout with your friends or just a fun time out to eat, the Blue Check Deli is a great choice!

A New Tune Begins with the Amity Songwriting Club

by Ella Marin '20

The Amity Songwriting Club held its first meeting on Friday, October 6. The club was started this year by sophomore Talya Braverman in order to provide students with an outlet to pursue songwriting. Spanish teacher Andrea Regan, the club's advisor, shared that she was passionately dedicated to songwriting when she was a teen.

The first meeting began with each member stating their name and class, in addition to their musical background and what they wanted to achieve by being in the club. There was a wide variety of grade levels present. Many of the members have past singing abilities, but there are also many who were passionate about musical instruments. The past experience in songwriting ranged as well, from no experience to highly practiced songwriters. Overall, the members were really enthusiastic and excited about the new club and the amazing opportunity to be creative and take their songwriting to a new level.

Aoi Tischer '20, a participant at the first meeting, remarked, "The club has a very positive environment and Talya makes everyone feel welcome and encourages everyone

to do their best."

Tischer has both theater and singing experience and is very interested in the art of songwriting. She says she will likely return to the club's next meeting and talked about the group as well.

"Everyone is passionate about their music," said Tischer, "and I

said, "I also think that there are a lot of people out there who are interested in songwriting but it can be very intimidating and so I wanted to create the club to give kids the opportunity to try this thing that they may have been a little scared of doing before."

She hopes to make songwriting

less intimidating and less of a challenge.

Braverman has many goals for the club's future, including providing inspiration and models for her budding songwriters.

She said, "I really want to use examples from pop culture and established, successful songwriters to help guide people in their own work."

Further, she talked about

her goal for having her club be a collaborative environment.

She feels as though trying to write a song independently can be extremely difficult, explaining, "I want people to come out of it learning stuff not just from the exercises we did but from each other as well and I also want to create a setting where we can workshop songs so students can bring in their pieces and have other students comment on them."

The Amity Songwriting Club is off to an amazing start, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for them.



Poster used by the Amity Songwriting Club for Club Day.

Photo by Talya Braverman '20.

am excited to learn about writing music."

Talya Braverman '20 described her purpose for starting her club and said, "I wanted to provide a safe space for people to write songs. I especially wanted to be able to build that community of songwriters in the school because I think that when you have found other people that enjoy that same sort of thing as you, you feel more encouraged to do it."

Braverman thinks that within our Amity community alone, there are many songwriters out there, they just don't know it yet. She

We've Got a Lion Heart

by Elana Bershtein '19

This past weekend, the Amity Girls Swimming and Diving Team participated in the annual Lion Heart lapathon. The Lion Heart Foundation raises money for Yale New Haven's Smilow Cancer Hospital to further cancer research. Founded by two-time cancer survivor Kathleen Van Rijn, the foundation has raised over \$825,000. All money donated goes directly to research grants without overhead.

Martha Phelan, sister of Van Rijn and coach of the North Haven Girls and Boys Swimming and Diving Team, has introduced it to the Connecticut swim community. This has ultimately been successful as several swimming and diving teams in the Southern Connecticut Conference as well as private clubs now participate in fundraisers for the foundation.

The Amity Girls Swimming and Diving Team has participated in this fundraiser for the past two years. The event took place at Hamden Hall's Beckerman Athletic Center in which Amity was joined by the North Haven and Hamden teams.

Van Rijn kicked off the event by describing the foundation and its goals, including her personal struggles with cancer. This was followed by a diving exhibition, in which divers from all three teams performed a series of dives. Next, swimmers swam in three sessions, each for thirty minutes straight.

Carly Silver '20 was amazed by the foundation's goals and achieve-

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Decorations surrounding the pool deck of the Hamden Hall athletic center.

Photo by Elana Bershtein '19.

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The team's fitting motto is "I'll lean on you, you'll lean on me and

we'll be okay," a lyric from a song by Dave Matthews Band, which is exactly what occurred at the event.

Molly Cox '19 swam 96 laps within her thirty minute session. Throughout the event, the spirit of the teams was very prominent and energizing. Participants were constantly dancing, singing, and cheering on their teammates.

Chris Delda '19 commented on the success of the event. She says, "I have participated in the Lion Heart lapathon since I was in sixth grade with my private club team and am so grateful to have been a part of it since. Each year the event gets even more successful and it's truly amazing to witness the enthusiasm of the teams.

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AMITY HIGH SCHOOL:

Amity Regional High School could not function without the phenomenal efforts of its amazing teachers. However, there are many others who are essential to the everyday functions of the school. To understand their roles in the Amity community, *The Trident* talked to a few of the many individuals who work behind-the-scenes. Here are their stories.

What Is Your Job, and How Long Have You Been at Amity?

Margaret Ardwin: I've been working here for five years. I am currently a science tutor but before that I was a substitute teacher. The previous science tutor left for another teaching job, so I had to fill in right after.

Jenna DeRosa: I am one of the three school psychologists, and this is my second year at the high school, but I spent seven years at Amity Middle School-Bethany. It's a big change of scenery. I also coach girls lacrosse.

Kim Doran: I've been working here eleven years, but I was a paraprofessional, then I worked in the library, and now I've been in the Main Office for four years. And I liked each of them for different reasons. Liked being a para because I liked being with the students. Liked working in the library because it was a more relaxed atmosphere so I got to know the kids on a different level more than in a class-

room. And I like working in the main office because you deal with everything--you deal with administration, with the teachers, with the parents, students. So it's a very busy environment.

Gary Goodhue: I am a custodian at Amity Regional High School.

Sandie Hill: I am a counseling secretary. I have been here since 2001, so for 16 years.

Deborah Hull: This is my fourth year at Amity as a school psychologist.

Andrey Marukovich: I'm a custodian, and I've been working here for five years.

Angelo Moscato: I'm the security guard on duty for the afternoon activities, and I've been here since 2015.

Donna Salemme: I am a counseling office secretary, and I've been here 17 years.

What Does a Typical Day Look Like for You?

Margaret Ardwin: Panicked students come in, and sometimes students are assigned to come see me. Some of them are reluctant or shy to come, especially at the beginning of the year.

Jenna DeRosa: There's no typical day in this job. We have a range of meetings: special ed parent meetings, staff meetings. We counsel students, test students, and do crisis management.

Kim Doran: I work 7:30 to 3:30, and the minute I walk in at 7:30, I am busy. A lot of computer work, emailing back and forth with staff, people outside of school, a lot of interaction with students and with parents. Take phone calls from the parents, do anything the administrators need done. Talking to administrators, teachers, students, and parents. It's busy! There's not much down time.

Gary Goodhue: My typical work days consist of cleaning the field house, cleaning the bathrooms, and then

cleaning where I am needed. I help around the cafeteria, but I generally just clean.

Sandie Hill: A typical work day consists of sending out notices for Special Ed meetings. I handle the tail-end of registration. I answer the phone a lot. I line up teachers to come to meetings. I deal with the kids, print out schedules if they need them. We do graduation verifications. We've done a lot of those every day. I copy files if people request files, that sort of thing. It's a busy day. I work from 7:30 to 3:30.

Deborah Hull: We test for learning disabilities, and we try to help students learn in the best way possible. I'm also the club advisor for Cultivating Consciousness, which is a new club. Mrs. Derosa helps with the Umtr Club, and Mrs. Decesare does Infinite Possibilities.

Andrey Marukovich: I work 2:30 PM to 11 PM everyday. But almost every day goes overtime, so I often

work until 12PM or 1 AM. We all have our own areas to clean, and we switch every year. The math wing is my favorite wing. It's usually pretty clean. I think that when students like their teacher and pay attention, there's not a lot of mess because they're busy in class.

Angelo Moscato: I'm the security guard for the afternoon activities: sports, cultural activities, adult education. The majority of the tasks are for public safety, not all like the stuff on T.V.

Donna Salemme: A typical work day consists of doing transcripts for the students, I'm the keeper of that. I answer the phones, make appointments for Mrs. LaPlante, I'm her secretary. I take care of the counselors. I deal with the students that come in, any questions they have. I upload transcripts for the seniors. I am the coordinator for the underclassmen awards and senior scholarships. And I help set up Naviance.

What Is Your Favorite Thing About Amity?

Margaret Ardwin: My colleagues here and the whole science department—they are really supportive and I love working with teenagers...no matter their level.

Jenna DeRosa: It's interesting because the school consists of students from three different towns with different cultures. But everyone comes together. It's a big high school, but it feels so small. Even when I was here, nobody perceived it as a big school because everyone is so meshed into their own clan.

Gary Goodhue: My favorite thing about Amity would have to be the people. The people here are all extremely kind and I have no problem talking

with any of them. One thing I notice about Amity is that everybody here seems to get along. The kids respect each other and their teachers fairly well, and I never see anyone without a friend. I think that the quality of the school is very high. There are not any serious issues with the school, and I know that the school is extremely nice compared to some of the other schools in the state. My daughter works at a school in New Haven while my step-son works at a school in Hamden. I've been to both school and heard about them from my kids, and I can honestly say that Amity is very nice. If there was one thing I'd change here, it'd be communication. I feel like when anyone in the school needs something

set up, they don't always put it on the computer for us to do. A lot of times, there are things happening on the weekends, and if it's not on the computer, we don't know what to do.

Sandie Hill: My favorite thing about Amity is how everybody works together. If you have a problem with something, you can go to any administrator and they'll help straighten it out. If you see a kid in trouble, anybody can bring a student to any counselor, and the counselors will help them out. And if I see a kid crying in the hallway, I bring them in here. It's all about making sure they're okay. That's the main thing, making sure that everybody is okay.

Deborah Hull: I love the students, that's been my favorite part of working at all schools. The students here are open, honest, and hardworking, and I love having conversations with the students. I also love seeing the transitions and changes in confidence students have.

Andrey Marukovich: I like kids, and I like the communication with people here. I don't talk to students often, though because it's hard to communicate.

Donna Salemme: My favorite thing about Amity is probably the people here, and working with the counselors. We have a nice-knit group of people, like a family.



BEHIND-THE-SCENES

What Do You Like to Do in Your Free Time?

Margaret Ardwin: In my free time, I like to garden (I used to be a botanist), bird-watch, and restore antique houses. My husband and I bought a house from the 1780s and we built it up. I have a grand-dog named Portia--named after Shakespeare that I enjoy looking after too.

Jenna DeRosa: I don't have lots of free time because I have two kids: a 6 year-old and a 10 year-old. They're at that age when it's a marathon of activities, but it's so fun.

Kim Doran: In my free time, I like to be with my kids. They're 22 and 26. When you get to their ages, you probably won't see your parents as much, so it's nice to spend time with them.

Gary Goodhue: I like to spend my free time with my grandkids. I don't have any other work or pressing issues to deal with, so I like to be with them.

Sandie Hill: In my free time I like to walk, read a lot,

spend time with my dog. I don't get to see him too much during the day. Also, one thing that the Amity community doesn't know about me is that I work a second job at an assisted living facility. I'm a receptionist there, and I really love being with the older people. It's fun, listening to their stories.

Deborah Hull: In my free time, I like to read books. I don't have a favorite, but I'm partial to the Harry Potter series. I love being transported into a different world with books.

Andrey Marukovich: I'm always working! Though I still get 6 to 7 hours of sleep every night.

Angelo Moscato: Outside of school, I love the outdoors. I love boating and hiking. And I also like traveling.

Donna Salemme: In my free time, I like being with family, my children. My husband and I go restaurant-hunting and just family stuff. We go dancing, too!

How Did You Come to Amity?

Margaret Ardwin: I came to Amity because my kids went through the school and my granddaughter will start soon, as well.

Jenna DeRosa: I came to school here, I'm from the district! I worked at the middle school in Bethany for seven years.

Kim Doran: I worked in another school district part-time before coming to Amity. I was looking for a full time position and they were hiring.

Gary Goodhue: I became a custodian at Amity after a friend recommended me to sub here. Originally I worked at a manufacturing company, however I had retired and wasn't working anywhere. That was when my friend recommended that

I sub here as a custodian. I genuinely enjoy the job, so I've stuck with it.

Sandie Hill: I got involved with the counseling department at Amity because I was an aide in Special Ed for nine years at Amity Middle School Bethany, and I really liked working with the kids. This job became open, and I already had a background in Special Ed anyway, so I came over here.

Deborah Hull: I came to Amity, in part thanks to Mrs. DeRosa. We went to graduate school together. I was working at a another high school, but the district was changing, and I was moved to work at an elementary school. But I wanted to work in a high school and help students figure out who they are.

Andrey Marukovich: I came here from Russia—well Belarus—18 years ago, but I love the United States and now I'm a U.S. citizen. All my relatives are here.

Angelo Moscato: I retired from the West Haven Police Department and I knew other Amity security guards—some of them are also West Haven Police Officers—who told me there was an opening. So, in 2015, I applied! I used to do some crime prevention and safety for the schools when part of West Haven Police Department, so in a way it's similar.

Donna Salemme: I got involved working with the counseling department here at Amity because I had a job up at the main office, and then I was transferred down here.

Left Column of Pictures from Top to Bottom:
Andrey Marukovich, Margaret Ardwin, Angelo Moscato

Right Column of Pictures from Top to Bottom:
Sandie Hill, Gary Goodhue, Kim Doran, Donna Salemme, Jenna DeRosa (Left) and Deborah Hull (Right)

Centerspread Editor:
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Centerspread Editor-in-Chief and Layout:
 Sophie Baum '18
Photographers:
 Howard Ding '18, Ali Hagani '18, Sophie Baum '18



Do You Feel Part of the Amity Community? If So, In What Ways?



Margaret Ardwin: I feel like I'm a part of the community because of my colleagues and other people in the school. The students are inclusive, too. I just like walking in the building in the morning.



Kim Doran: I do, and I don't live in this district, but I definitely feel a part of the community within the school. Because you just get to involved. If you think about it-you're here more than you are in your home. We see everyone here more than we see our families, so you just become part of the community.



Angelo Moscato: I do feel like a part of the community because I live in Orange, so I have some friends and neighbors who have gone here or are here now. And many students stop by if they're waiting for the late bus or need to use the phone.

Gary Goodhue: I truly do feel like a part of the Amity community. I feel like everyone here is kind and that they honestly respect me.

Donna Salemme: I do. I feel part of the Amity community with everybody, with the students.



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Music in Motion 2017: Grammy Night

by Neha Sudhir '19

On the evenings of Friday, October 27, and Saturday, October 28, the John J. Brady Center at Amity Regional High School will be abuzz with excitement for "Music in Motion 2017: Grammy Night." With performances covering a variety of pieces by artists such as Pharrell Williams and Bruno Mars it is sure to be exciting.

This is one of the biggest annual events for the Amity Music Department. After months of preparation the music department this event is sure to be a uniquely spectacular event featuring various aspects of Amity's exceptionally talented music department.

The tradition of Music in Motion started after the school attempted to form a competitive marching band in 2009. The marching band continued for the next two years before making the

switch to Music in Motion.

"We wanted to create a different show that we could do onstage and show our

According to Dolan, the idea behind Music in Motion comes from a Tony Award winning show known

include members of the band, jazz band, and color guard. This practice remains unprecedented by other high schools

creative team meets to discuss ideas for a performance's theme and sketches out the show. This includes deciding the details of lighting ideas, movement, and music choice.

Over the years, Music in Motion has grown into one of the music department's biggest events of the year. The event has evolved a great deal as new media effects are incorporated into the show every year.

Not only do students prepare in class, but they also spend time after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from sometimes as late as 9:00.

Another member of the band, Marcelle Gagnon '19 added, "So far, it's going pretty well, but it's hard work. The late night practices are tedious, but I love the songs and I think this is going to be a really cool show."

This event is one of many that has helped the Amity community develop such a strong art program. The preparation that has gone into this show bodes for yet another spectacular performance!



A Past Music in Motion Percussion Performance.
Photo Courtesy of Paul Bogush's Youtube Channel.

community a different type of musical performance," said Phil Dolan, the band teacher. Dolan organizes the event along with Danny Staffieri, the main choreographer of the show.

as "Blast." Elements of the former marching band were combined with new ideas to create a unique stage show incorporating marching, music, movement, and visual pageantry. The performers

in Connecticut.

Dolan emphasized just how much work goes into planning the event. "The pre-production process starts ten months in advance," he said. Throughout this time, a

ACT Takes on The Laramie Project - Again

by Ella Marin '20

The Laramie Project is a play by Moisés Kaufman about the 1998 murder of a gay student, Matthew Shepard, at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming.

The murder was a hate crime and brought attention to the lack of hate crime laws in many states. This play mainly consists of interviews between citizens of the town and company news reports.

After the play was released, ABC set out to prove that the murder was not a hate crime six years after the murder. After interviewing the killers, both of whom were given life sentences, ABC then concluded that the murder was possibly driven by drugs. They believed that Shepard may have used methamphetamine, and that the killer, Aaron McKinney, was simply a drug dealer.

Kaufman was horrified by the news story and believed it was terrible journalism. He set out to write an epilogue to his play, titled *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*. Kaufman and his colleagues went back to Laramie and reinterviewed many of the people they had interviewed a decade ago as well as new sources.

The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later helps restore the fact that drugs did not play a

role in this murder, and that it was solely a hate crime.

Ten years ago, Amity Creative Theater put on *The Laramie Project* as their fall play. Now, Amity Creative Theater will come back to put on the show *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*. Similar to the original production, only six girls and six boys were cast to play many roles.

Talya Braverman '20 described the audition, saying, "It's really not that scary, you're in the auditorium with [Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Furst] who are both very nice people."

When questioned about how she feels about being casted, Braverman responded, "I'm really excited to play many different roles because I think that that's a new challenge that I've never really had to face."

Braverman shared her feelings on theme of the play and what impact it will have on the Amity community.

She held that the message is, "extremely...relevant and (she)I really hope[s] that when the school sees the performance they take the message away with them. The message can have a really large impact if you really sink your teeth into the play as you watch it."

Amity is in for a treat with this year's fall performance of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*.

A Well-Sculpted Day at New York's PepsiCo

by Kelsey Morgan '18

On October 2nd, with the second month of school already underway, scores of Amity's Art History, Drawing and Painting, and Studio Art students began their week by visiting the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens in New York City.

The sculpture gardens, which surround the PepsiCo headquarters, consist of pieces created by distinguished modern sculptors. Donald M. Kendall, chief executive of PepsiCo founded the gardens in 1970 with the intent to "create an atmosphere of stability, creativity and experimentation," while wanting to construct one of the most prominent modern



sculpture gardens in the world at the same time.

The students roamed the 168-acre garden, admiring works created by sculptors such as Miro, Rodin, and Calder. Even with as many as 45 sculptures to look at, there were some clear favorites

among the students.

One popular work was *Eve*, by Auguste Rodin. Courtney

Greifenberger '18 commented, "It was really neat to see this sculpture by Rodin in person, especially since I am familiar with his other works."

While some walked around to enjoy the artwork,

tiful sculptures and hidden nature paths."

The beautiful weather and



Sculptures at the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens.

Photos by Ali Ashworth '18.

others simply wandered the paths to relish the beautifully tended landscape and warm weather. Some even brought notebooks and pencils to sketch the works.

Nevia Selmon '18 remarked, "I was immersed in a sense of serenity. I followed a winding path that led to beau-

tiful sculptures and hidden nature paths." The beautiful weather and tranquil environment did not make it difficult for the art students to enjoy their day. Compared to the demands of a normal school day, it was relaxing but still educational.

Selmon summed the experience as "an escape from the stress of reality and the hectic year into a world of peaceful bliss."

Duality School of Music's First Week Is a Success

by Sydney Reiner '20

The Duality School of Music is a new after-school program designed to teach students how to succeed in the music industry by emphasizing both artistic and business aspects. The program was founded by Jeff Gitelman, a singer-songwriter, producer/engineer, educator, as well as Amity alumnus, who has worked and performed with many influential artists, including Alicia Keys, Stevie Wonder, J. Cole, and Chance the Rapper.

Gitelman said in a video introduction to the program, "I created Duality to demystify the music business for young people. My mission is to provide skills and opportunity for young adults to succeed, adapt and thrive in today's ever-evolving music climate."

Gitelman has experienced the versatility of the music business and wants to use his insight to teach students how to adapt to those changes. He believes that there is tremendous talent in the New Haven area and wants to share his knowledge with passionate students.

As the website states, "[Duality School of Music] grows the next generation of musicians by empowering talented young people with the

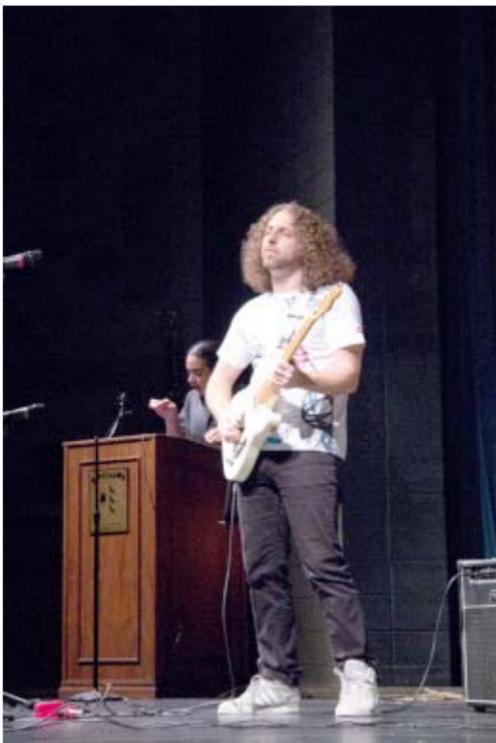
right skills to thrive within the music industry through new teaching and learning methods."

lected from communities all around New Haven County, including Amity, and the program has already been very well received among the students involved.

Amity participant Quinn Meehan '18 said, "Duality brings together students that would never think to collaborate, and teaches critical skills that no other music program does. Jeff is an amazing teacher and mentor and really cares about his students' and their music careers." At the end of the intensive six weeks, the students will create an original sound recording for their final project using the new information they have learned.

Even the higher ups at Amity have only praise for Gitelman's school. Anna Mahon, principal of Amity High School, writes: "With his [Gitelman's] enthusiasm, expertise, and vision, we can help our students fill the world with music."

The Duality School of Music is supported by organizations in the BOW area, such as Jamie Hulley and Fender, which generously donated 10 guitars to the program. With moral support from the community, and financial backing from these generous organizations, the school hopes to continue its work far beyond its initial semester.



Gitelman performing on the first day of school.

Photo by Howard Ding '18.

The Duality School of Music focuses on preparing young people who are interested in pursuing a career in music to enter the ever evolving industry. The program combines traditional music, new technologies, and collaboration with other artists to teach students.

The program takes place once a week at Amity High School and commenced on October 10. Students were se-

Amity Musicians Perform with Haitian Youth

by Mason Zhang '21 and Allison Su '21

On October 4th, at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in New Haven, the Haitian Youth Choir and Chamber Ensemble, Yale Bands, and Neighborhood Music School Youth Orchestra teamed up to perform a concert showcasing Haiti's rich cultural and musical traditions. Young Haitian musicians from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, made up an ensemble of thirty boys and girls.

Accompanied by musicians from Neighborhood Music School, which includes many Amity students, as well as musicians from Yale, played numerous Haitian folk and religious pieces. Educ'Arte, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping fund the tours of young musicians in Haiti, sponsored this recital. The production was conducted by which was Thomas Duffy, director of bands at Yale, and Jean-Bernard Desinat.

Harris Andersen '18 and first violinist of the Youth Orchestra stated that there were "no verbal connections at all, since we spoke different lan-

guages, but it was really fun and interesting...it's cool to see music from different countries and cultures."

"Mesi Bondye," a Haitian sacred song, in addition to Bach Organ Chorales BWV 1112, 1095, and 1107 were among the songs performed. These grand compositions helped exemplify the vivacity of Haitian music and the skills of the

Bach Organ Chorales.

Thomas Duffy explained in an interview in the Yale Daily News, "This



National Youth Choir of Haiti.

Photo from Harris Andersen's '18 YouTube channel.

combined concert is an extension of the work that was begun in January when musicians...joined with these Haitian musicians to present a concert in Port-au-Prince commemorating the victims of the earthquake that devastated Haiti in 2007."

These concerts are an escape for the young Haitian musicians from the devastation brought by Hurricane Maria and their reality. Several Amity students participated in this event by playing in the NMS Youth Orchestra. Through this even Amity musicians were able to showcase their skills and create memories with these young, classical Haitian musicians.

Amity's Artist-of-the-Month: Jared Beltz '19

by Tara Mohseni '19

This month's featured artist is Jared Beltz '19. He has been drawing since he was 11 yet he has never taken an art class.

Beltz said, "When I started drawing it was mostly sketches of things. It was just simple sketches."

When asked about his style, it was clear that Beltz is interested in one main form of art: portraits. Beltz also developed much of his style on his own time by taking advantage of various resources.

He said, "The first portrait I did was when I was in 6th grade. It was a portrait drawing of an actor with pencil. Between 8th and 9th grade I started to use charcoal along with graphite pencils. I expanded my ability by referencing other drawings that I saw and videos on YouTube on how to do certain things like shading."

Beltz stated he is not in-

fluenced much by specific artists, although he appreciates works of art by Andy Warhol and other modern and contemporary artists. However,

asked about this particular point, however, Beltz replied, "I don't really use it as an escape but for me, it is a hobby. Every time I draw, it is me

drawings in a short period of time."

A lot of the time, painters from different eras in history influence artists today. When

being a little bit more modern time wise due to this lacking in the the early eras of art."

His last two works of arts are of US Olympic Skiing Gold Medalist, Ted Ligety, and Beltz's favorite musical and lyrical artist, Logic. Both of these drawings are, in his opinion, his best.

Beltz said, "I drew Ted Ligety because he is someone I look up to even though I'm not as big of a racer. I look up to the fact that he does what he loves and is passionate about it. In addition, I have been a fan of Logic for the past 3 years. I can't say I relate to his lyrics but something about the way he raps and the meaning and story behind it gravitates me toward him. I drew them because of the influence they have on my life and I wanted to encompass that in my drawings."

Beltz is a self-made artist. His works of art demonstrate that anyone has the capacity to draw without classes and experience.



this is usually not reflected in his drawings.

Later, I asked Beltz what he uses for techniques and tools now. He uses minimal tools for his artwork and said, "I use regular graphite pencils, black and white charcoal, and blenders for shading."

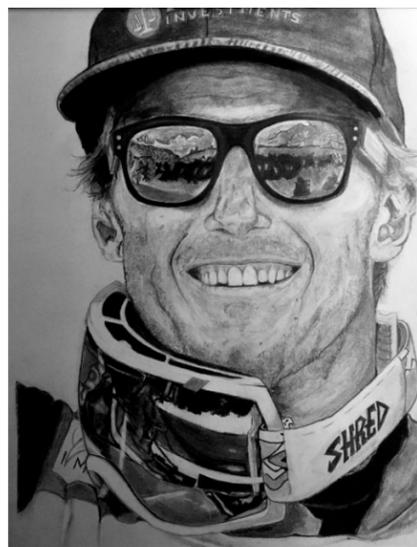
For many people, drawing can be type of escape. When

expanding my ability. I don't produce drawings frequently, but when I have time, it is definitely something I will do. I am predominantly into the idea of perfectionism so I spend

a lot of time on one single drawing rather than many

Beltz's works. Left: Logic; Below: Ted Ligety.

Photos by Jared Beltz '19.



I asked Beltz about this, he said, "I am more into modern, contemporary, and abstract art

Girls Volleyball Wins Six Straight Games

by Arnav Paliwal '21 and Kabir Khwaja '21

With fall sports well under way, Amity teams are putting forth their best effort. The Amity Girls Volleyball

with 4 more games in the season, things could change dramatically. Despite starting the season with a loss against Staples High, the team managed come back strong and win their next five games. The next game, Amity lost its streak against rival

become an exciting one. The varsity team includes members from all grades - six seniors, six juniors, five sophomores, and one freshman. This diversity of ages ensures that the team will continue to be strong even past this year.



Amity players celebrate in a huddle. Photo Courtesy New Haven Register.

Team is no exception. With an 11-2 record thus far this season and a current 6-game winning streak, they are one of Amity's hottest teams. 13 games into the season, Amity varsity volleyball is seeded as the 16th best team in Connecticut. However,

Cheshire. But as demonstrated earlier in the season, a loss or two doesn't stop the team from progressing. Recently, they pulled out ahead of Wilbur Cross 3-1, keeping alive what is now a six game winning streak. Without a doubt, this season is shaping out to

since the last season, going from a 7-14 win-loss ratio to a current 11-3 one. This major improvement in performance signals a turn for the better. By working to maintain their high level of performance, they are set to make great things happen.

Currently, Amity stands at the top of the Southern Connecticut Husatonic League Table. Their 6 game stretch suggests they are on track to make remarkable achievements. Overall, the team drastically improved

Football Looks to Improve After a Disappointing First Half

by Jared Beltz '19

The Amity football program tallied another loss last Friday night against Notre Dame of West Haven, falling 23-41 to the Green Knights. While tacking another loss to their already 1-3 record, the game did serve as a building point for the team. The Spartans started their season with an impressive 24-14 win against Harding High School

about the work ethic and attitude exhibited by this year's team.

"Our team has improved tremendously since last year," he says. "Our attitude and work ethic is a huge reason for it. We spent a lot of



Ryan Sabo '18 runs the ball in Amity's victory against Harding High. Photo Courtesy Orange Live.

the pre-season in the weight room and on the field preparing ourselves." Although the record



Matthew Weidenfeller '18 faces off against a Harding High defender. Photo Courtesy Orange Live.

might not show it yet, the Spartan's time and effort put into may still pay off. The Spartans are a talented team.

of Bridgeport. Next came a loss to Fairfield Prep 7-3, a nail-bitingly close defeat against Hillhouse 22-17, and a disappointing 27-0 loss against Wilbur Cross.

While the season hasn't been too successful for the team, college-kicker hopeful Jordan Conn '18 commented

Conn began his football career as a sophomore, showing promise as a very good punter and kicker. Alongside Conn is defensive back Chris Butler '18, who made a return this season for the first time since freshman year. He was ranked as high third in the nation for total interceptions after the first three games played. However, an injury sustained in the fourth game of that season took him off the roster for a long time. Ryan Sabo '18 and Luke Smith '18 are two more key players. Smith has totaled 162 receiving yards this season, and averages around 32 receiving yards per game..

While the talent exists, the team hasn't had a good start to the year, but hopes to do better in the future. As Conn puts it, "It's not the way we had hoped to start, but we are all confident of a stronger finish in the second half of the season."

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Girls Field Hockey Proves a Tough Team to Beat

by Nick Riccardi '20

Amity Girls Field Hockey is off to a bright start. Their current record is 7 wins and 5 losses, with 2 of those wins from out-of-conference games. Two exceptional games this season include a 6-0 win at Shelton on September 18 and a 4-0 win on October 2 at home against the same team. Another win took place at North Haven

with the Spartans scoring 6 goals to North Haven's 2. This game showcased Amity's wide variety of skill.

Top scorer Tess Csejka '20 managed to get a hat trick, scoring three goals in just one game. The other three points were scored by Erica Crane, Daria Torrenti, and captain McKenzie Sullivan '18. Backed by a strong defense, the Spartans took home the victory.

However, after some

players graduated, they left noticeable holes on Amity's roster. Younger, talented players are working to make up for the absences of the team's past stars.

Under the four captains Eliza Crane '18, McKenzie Sullivan '18, Lauren Chaffkin '18 and Alexa Smith '18, the team knows it needs to put in hard work to keep up its performance.

On October 16, Amity fell short in a crushing 0-4 defeat to rival Cheshire, which sits at an impressive undefeated 10-0 record.

With some important games coming up in the next few weeks, the team needs to continue to work together, perform well in games, and develop underclassmen talent.

They look to move on from the Cheshire loss and capitalize on upcoming opportunities. The team had a game at Lauralton Hall on October 18. On the schedule is a game with North Haven on October 20, one at Lyman Hall on October 23, and a contest against Mercy on October 25.



Amity defenders work together to guard their goal.
Photo Courtesy of Orange Live



Field Hockey Photo Gallery



Top Left: Eliza Crane celebrates; Top Right: Amity faces off in a one-on-one against Cheshire; Bottom Left: Alexa Smith guards the goal; Bottom Right: Amity in action near the goal.

Photos Courtesy of Orange Live.

Boscarino Becomes First Female Amity Football Player

by Evan Arovos '20

Amity Football is an athletic cornerstone of Amity Regional High School. When one pictures the team, a very particular image is

Daelyn's intention isn't to prove a point or break any barriers. She simply loves the game, and works on improving on a daily basis. "It's definitely empowering to be the first and only girl to play," she says, "and still be-



Above: Daelyn Boscarino '21 blocks another player in a freshman game.

Below: Daelyn Boscarino '21.
Photo by Sophie Baum '18.

bound to come to one's mind: large, aggressive, loud boys. As of the start of the 2017 season, this common perception is outdated.

Underneath the helmet of player #14 is in fact a girl: Daelyn Boscarino '21. Already in her third year of the sport, she decided to give football a try when her brother signed up. On the field, Boscarino is visible running routes and trying to get open for a pass. She dashes back and forth with impressive agility. Although she may be the only female on the field,



ing able to keep up with the guys' jokes."

Although only a freshman, Boscarino is making friends with players of all ages. She reflected, "We're all really tight,

and it's really like a family."

Never tiring from athletics, Boscarino can be found on the softball field in the spring and the basketball court this upcoming winter. There, she won't be known for being the first female player, but will look to excel in other ways.

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