

# MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Year: 2021-2022 | Issue 5 | Date: October 22, 2021

## GRADING & REPORTING

The first quarter comes to a close on Friday, October 29. You can expect report cards to go home with students during the week of November 8. Accompanying those report cards will be NWEA progress reports (for all grades), along with the results from the CogAT testing (grade six only).

Our goal with grading and reporting is to clearly communicate your child's academic progress during their middle school years. Report cards are one snapshot. You can always check the Infinite Campus Parent Portal or reach out to your child's teacher for progress updates throughout the year.



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear MAMS Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I am trying out a new format for our MAMS Updates. Please let me know if you have suggestions or feedback! A big thanks to the parents who attended last week's Parent-Principal Coffee. I will be looking for more ways to engage families in the coming months.

With gratitude,

Megan Hayes Teague, Principal

## MAMS IN THE NEWS: W.I.N.G. FOOD PANTRY

W.I.N.G., the food pantry at Mt. Ararat Middle School was recently featured in the news. You can read about the food pantry in the Times Record or view a recent news segment on Channel 13. W.I.N.G. is open on Mondays from 10am to 1pm and Fridays from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for drive-up service. Any family with children under 18 can access the pantry for fresh food, shelf-stable items, or hygiene products. For more information, please call 729-2950 x7202.



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JOYCE ROGERS

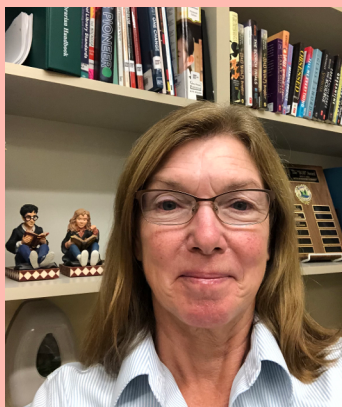
### What is the strangest job you've ever had?

The strangest job that I have had was when I was in high school. After school I would walk to a beauty salon (what they were called back then) in downtown Brunswick and my job was to comb out wigs and serve coffee to the customers.

### What do you love about middle school?

One of the things I love about middle school is the humor and character of middle schoolers. They can be so funny, unpredictable, emotional, and thoughtful. I also love the camaraderie of the staff and how we respect and support each other throughout the day.

You can find the full interview along with past interviews on the MAMS Website under Staff Spotlight.



## MAMS ATHLETIC UPDATE



As the fall season winds down I want to thank all our coaches, student athletes and their families for making it such a wonderful return to athletics after a two year hiatus. It was wonderful to see our fields full of athletes and spectators. Seeing our students walk through our halls on game day proudly wearing their team shirts was a welcome site this fall.

As we transition to our winter season, I'd like to provide an update on what's to come. Our Basketball season will begin November 8th and continue through the end of January. We have 4 teams, 7th Grade Girls and Boys and 8th Grade Girls and Boys. Tryouts will be the week of November 8. Each team will have 2 tryout days. Tryouts will happen on Monday the 8th, Tuesday the 9th, Wednesday the 10th and Friday the 12th. Specifics regarding the tryout schedule will be available Tuesday November 2. Practices will begin the week after with the first game scheduled for Monday November 22. For planning purposes, The Cumberland County Conference games are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays most weeks. Please keep in mind that postponements could affect the days we play.

Wrestling season has traditionally begun in February so more on that as we get closer. Please feel free to email me with any questions.

Michele Crawford, MAMS Athletic Director

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, October 29: End of Quarter One
- Tuesday, November 2: No School, Professional Dev. Day
- Friday, November 5: Picture Retake Day
- Week of November 8: Report Cards Sent Home
- Thursday, November 11: No School, Veteran's Day

## ATTENDANCE

This is just a reminder to let families know that the school must track student attendance and mark a student's absence either excused or unexcused. If your child will not be available for learning for one of the state excused reasons, please call the Main Office at 729-2950. If we do not receive a call from you, you will receive an automated call to let you know that we have marked your child absent. We do need you to call us back to inform us of the reason for your child's absence. Without this information, we must mark your child's absence unexcused. We thank you so much for your help in keeping our attendance records accurate!

## RISK OF SELF-HARM?

If you and/or your child become aware of a student that may be at risk of self-harm when school is not in session, please DO NOT attempt to contact school personnel during this time. Staff are not working at their desks and may not be checking email or voicemail during these times. Therefore, vital safety information could easily be missed and students could be placed at greater risk. Instead, please utilize [THIS](#) step-by-step guide for how a parent could respond to such a concern outside of school hours. This guide is placed prominently on our MAMS webpage, and was created in collaboration with local police, mental health providers, and the local Crisis Response Center.

## ORDER YOUR MAMS YEARBOOK!

Purchase by October 31<sup>st</sup> to get 5% OFF

### Customize Your 2 Free Pages

- Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.
- Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.
- The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

### To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook

Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

1 Go to [www.treering.com/validate](http://www.treering.com/validate)

2 Enter your school's passcode:  
**1014564198023651**

Regular Price: **\$20.85**

\*Does not include sales tax, if applicable

**TreeRing**

It's never too early to think about purchasing a school yearbook for your MAMS student. Through Treering, you will receive a 5% discount through the month of October. The benefit to ordering online is that your student will receive 2-free pages that you (or they) can customize! Please follow the instructions below in order to place your order today!

\*To order directly through the school (cash or check) please email Yearbook Advisor Lisa Rioux for more information.

## STAFFING UPDATES

Mt. Ararat Middle School is very excited to welcome Tati Lera as our new 7th Grade World Language and 8th Grade Spanish Teacher. Tati comes to us from Brunswick Junior High School, where she has taught 7th and 8th Grade Spanish for the past sixteen years.

We want to say a big thank you to Rachel Miller, who has helped us keep the program going as a long-term substitute during the first quarter. A note for parents in Ms. Miller's classes:

As we continue to explore Spanish speaking culture and traditions, we would like to watch Disney's animated film Coco. The backdrop is about a very popular and joyful fiesta (el dia de los Muertos- Day of the Day) that celebrates a family's loved ones and their memories by honoring them with a family reunion type gathering, making special foods, creating a place of honor in their homes with photos and marigold flowers and other mementos. We will be supplementing what we can watch of the movie with handouts that have vocabulary and activities in them to help them learn new things while watching the movie. This will be one of our last class activities together before the new Spanish teacher starts. Please email with any questions.

Rachel Miller