

MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Year: 2021-2022 | Issue 11 | Date: February 4, 2022

LAPTOP UPDATE

Before the pandemic, we had historically asked students to leave their laptops at school during school vacation weeks. This allowed students to take a little break from screen-time and unplug. It also gave our technology department the opportunity to check machines for damage and to make repairs.

With the pandemic came uncertainty, and a need for school to be prepared to pivot to remote learning at any given time.

As we look ahead February and April vacations, it appears unlikely (at this point) that we will need to go remote. To that end, we will be asking students to leave their devices at school for the upcoming breaks.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear MAMS Families,

Happy February! Spring conferences are right around the corner. This week and next, teachers will be sending out sign-up forms in their team newsletters for parent-teacher conferences. For these content-based conferences, parents can opt to sign-up with as many of their child's core and exploratory teachers as they wish. Conferences will occur primarily via ZOOM, but families can request an in-person conference if preferred. Please reach out with any questions about conferences or sign-ups.

With gratitude,

[Megan Hayes Teague](#), Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

- Week of February 7: Report Cards Sent Home
- Tuesday, February 15 and Thursday, February 17: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Monday, February 21 through Friday, February 25: Winter Break 2
- Wednesday, March 2: National Assessment of Educational Progress (Grade 8)
- Friday, March 11: No School, Professional Development Day (PK-8 Teacher Comp.)

DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Because of the great value we place on focused, respectful and responsible behavior in our community, we have established a program to recognize our students. This year, we have added "kind" as a fourth core value to be recognized and celebrated. Each Friday, teams are asked to submit the name of one student whom they believe most exemplifies the team's definition of focused, respectful, responsible ***and kind*** behavior. Those students are called to the office, presented a certificate, and entered into a drawing for a gift certificate. Additionally, Ms. Phillips contacts the families to describe the behaviors that led teachers to their choice! Congratulations to the December Students of the Week.

Camden Dumont

Cali LeClair

Levi Lessard

Krystah Coen

Ollie Forcier

Oliver West

Gavin Wallace

Tyler Burnell

Rylan Curtis

MAMS ATHLETIC UPDATE



I am excited to announce that the Mt. Ararat Wrestling program will begin on February 7th! Wrestling is open to all students in Grades 6-8. Please make sure you sign up using the sign up link on the Athletics page on our school website. All students must have the medical questionnaire and parent consent form with them or on file to attend the first practice. If you participated in a fall or winter sport this year you do not need to bring the forms. If you have not played a sport here at the Middle School this year, you must fill out and bring both these forms to the first practice on February 7th. You can NOT attend practice until you turn in the completed forms. They can be found on the Athletic page on our website.

Please read the [LETTER](#) from Coach Taylor to learn about practice times and what is needed for practice.

YEARBOOK NEWS!

1) Interested in ordering a 2021-2022 yearbook? Order online today.

Visit: www.treering.com/validate Enter Code: 1014564198023651

Regular Price: \$20.85 (+ taxes)

When you order online you get access to create 2-custom pages for free. Take advantage of this great offer.

*If you'd prefer to order through the school directly, please contact Yearbook Advisor [Lisa Rioux](#)

2) The yearbook club is looking for student submissions for this year's cover. Theme for this year is: Things that Represent Maine. We will accept: drawings, paintings, mixed media, digitally created images*, or photographs*. Submissions are due March 2nd. The student who submits the selected cover will receive a free yearbook. For more specific details please check in the student announcements.

*Photographs need to be an image that you took OR one that you have permission to use (we would need this permission).

3) Please submit any photos you have of your child and/or other MAMS students for the yearbook. We're specifically looking for pics from fall and winter sports (Mt. Ararat Middle School only) and the band/chorus concert. Email pictures directly to mamyearbook@link75.org (photo in regular size). Thank you in advance.

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.

TEAM DAY ON MERRYMEETING!

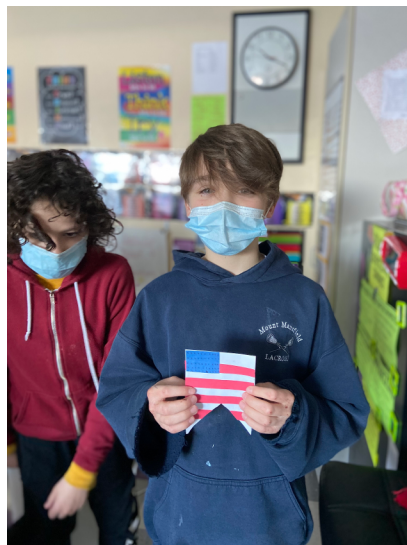
On January 26th, all teams at MAMS had their second "Team Day" of the year. During these days, team teachers, with the help of student leaders, design activities with the purpose of supporting social-emotional learning, building relationships, and giving back to the community. Team Merrymeeting worked with the organization *The Final Flag* (www.thefinalflag.org), a nonprofit that provides previously flown United States flags for all United States veterans being cremated. These students triangle-folded 687 American flags. One of our special education programs folded an additional 54 flags for a total of 741 flags for veterans. Team Merrymeeting also made cards for veterans and held a hat fundraiser, raising \$90 for the Midcoast Humane Society.



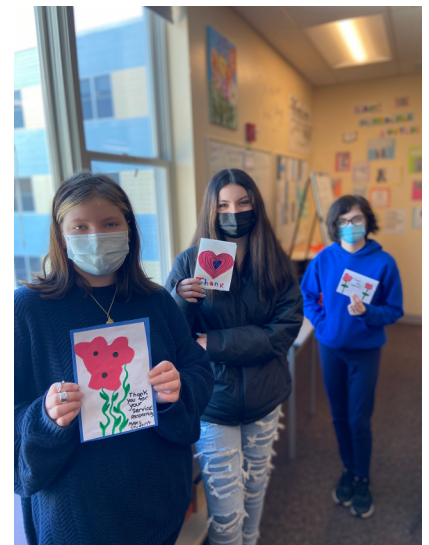
Abbie Minzer, Liliana Hoskins, and
Lauren Landry



Adelina Brown and Khloe Rhodes



Sawyer Casad and Aiden Blow



Calliope Greenleaf, Teagan Olyphant,
Brianna Harris