

MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

Year: 2021-2022 | Issue 8 | Date: December 3, 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear MAMS Families,

It's hard to believe that it's already December! I want to take a moment to wish our entire community the very best for the upcoming holiday season. You can expect the next newsletter to arrive on Friday, January 7--however if any questions or concerns arise before then, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Happy Holidays,

[Megan Hayes Teague](#)



PARENT & PRINCIPAL COFFEE

We are continuing to offer quarterly Parent-Principal Coffees as a way to meet with families in our MAMS community and gather feedback about what is going well and what could be going better. Some sessions may have a focus or a theme, while others will be more open to topics that attendees are interested in discussing. Our second Parent-Principal Coffee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12 at 5:30 pm via [ZOOM](#). Our focus will be garnering feedback on our "Team Day" (Nov. 12) and our focus on strengthening our connections and improving our sense of community. We have another "Team Day" scheduled for late January.

HONOR ROLL

As a part of our ongoing efforts to improve our grading and reporting procedures, the MSAD 75 Board of Directors recently approved the following adjustments to our honor roll definitions:

Honor Roll:

A student will be assigned to the honor roll provided that their quarterly G.P.A. is a 3.0 or higher with Work Habit averages at a 3.0 or higher AND all but one of their Learning Goal scores at a "B" or higher (with no "D's").

High Honor Roll:

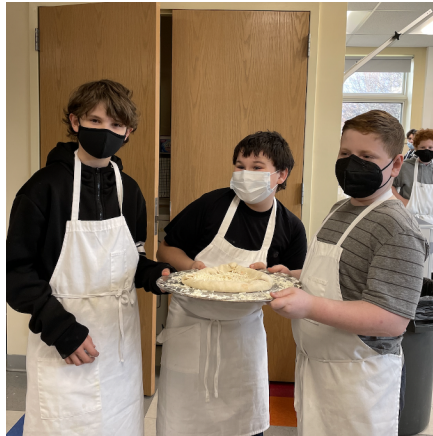
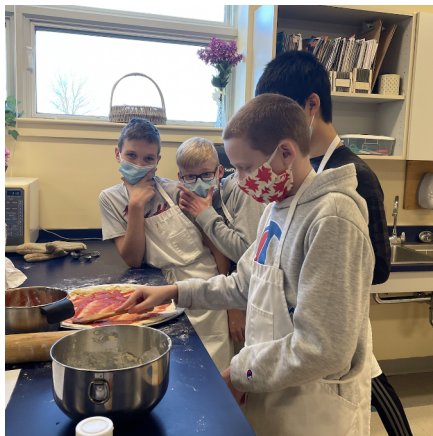
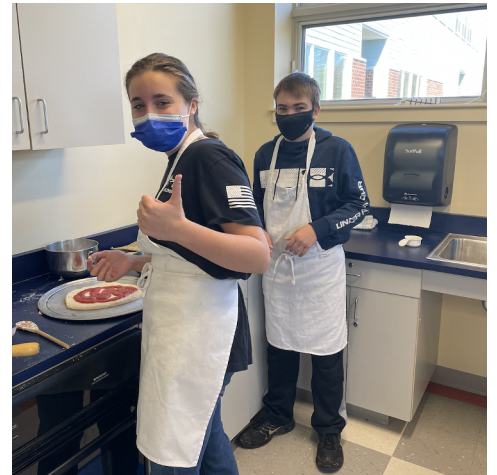
A student will be assigned to the high honor roll provided that their quarterly G.P.A. is a 3.5 or higher with Work Habit averages at a 3.0 or higher AND all of their Learning Goal scores at a "B" or higher.

These changes will go into effect for the running of the second quarter honor roll in late January.

HEALTH CLASS UPDATE

Students in Mrs. St. John's health classes just completed a 1-day cooking lab. 6th graders made soft pretzels, 7th graders made homemade pizza, and 8th graders had the opportunity to cook chicken stir-fry. Students worked together to carefully read and follow the directions of a recipe, clean up their kitchen stations, and enjoy eating their tasty recipes! It was a fun learning opportunity for all! Recipes are posted on Google classroom so students can try out the recipe at home if they wish. We are already looking forward to our next cooking lab!

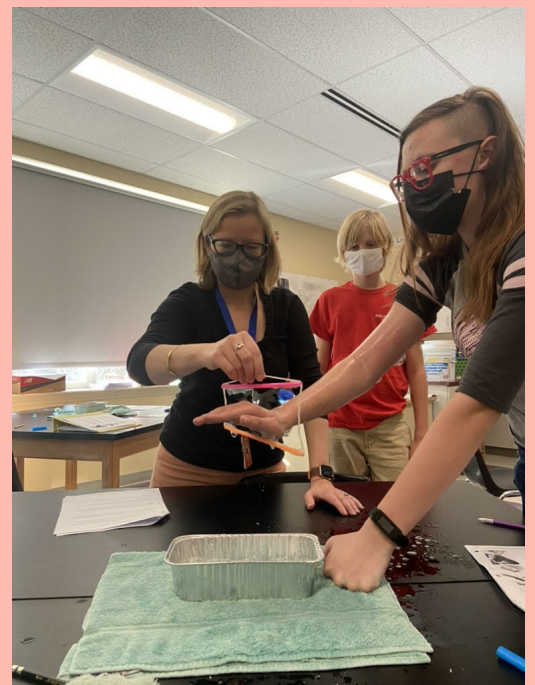
7th Graders Pictured: Morgan Conant, Riley Harmon, Ian Curran, Malakai Dyer, Elliott Merrill, Sam Chi, Bradley Jasper, Bryan Ayer, Jack Sullivan, Wren Strickland, Caitlin Henson, and Abby Burkhardt



MAINE BIOSCIENCES DAY

Through the week of November 15th, science students on Teams Merrymeeting and Androscoggin participated in Maine Biosciences Day. MAMS has been involved in this program in the past, but this year, the program was delivered virtually instead of in-person. Students learned about bioscience careers in Maine from three video presenters: Karlee Markovich, the animal facility manager at MDI Biological Laboratory, Erin Bouttenot, the indoor air quality technical manager from Northeast Laboratory Services, and Dr. Norman Moore, the global director of scientific affairs at Abbot. Depending on time, some students were also able to participate in a Q&A session with these scientists via ZOOM. Students then participated in hands-on lab activities to learn about biological membranes and how substances such as soap or rubbing alcohol can inactivate viruses.

Pictured: Cassidy Hawkins, Merlin Schlawin-Whittlesey, Ms. Hayes Teague



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CATHERINE SCHOFIELD

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

Working as a deckhand/waterfront crew at a summer resort. There were many unglamorous parts to the job like washing down boats and pumping gas, but there were a few times I got to help moor some million dollar yachts.

What do you love about middle school?

I love working with 6th graders. They are at a great age to start to take more ownership in their own learning and have so much enthusiasm to get to know new people and try new things. I also love the teachers on my team who go above and beyond for the students and each other.

You can find the full interview along with past interviews on the MAMS Website under [Staff Spotlight](#).



NOVEMBER 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 November Students of the Week.

Gavin Wallace

Hail3y Pollack

Elliott Merrill

Cambell Lamoreaux

Cassidy Cornish

Landen Springer

Jacob Mangoba

Rachel Baker

Julianna Allen

Elise Nielsen

Tanner Leary

Isaac Wright

Be kind.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday, December 10: Midterm Second Quarter
- December 23 through January 2: Winter Break
- Monday, January 3: Students Return from Winter Break
- Wednesday, January 12: Parent & Principal Coffee, 5:30pm
- Monday, January 17: No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

WINTER CONCERT

MAMS Band and Chorus will have their first concert in two years on Thursday, December 16th at 7pm! They're excited to perform for their family and friends in the Orion PAC. There will be a lot of collaborative work between grade levels for this concert, which is always enjoyable. If your child is participating in this concert, please be aware that attire is 'all black' and students should arrive by 6:30pm. Don't forget your mask!

ATHLETICS

Now that our basketball season is in full swing, we would like to put out a couple of reminders about students attending the games. We love to have our students in the stands cheering on our teams, however, they can not stay after school and wait for the games to start. There is no supervision for them. All students must go home and then return with an adult. They can not be dropped off and picked up later, an adult must stay with them. We also ask that all students stay in the gym to watch the game. They cannot be going to other parts of the buildings. Any student here before the start of the first game or unsupervised during the game will have to call home and be picked up. Please feel free to email [Michele Crawford](#) with any questions.

NURSE'S UPDATES



Our Dental Clinic for cleanings and sealants has been canceled for this year. Brighter Smiles is unable to provide the service due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. If you sent in a payment, I'll be returning it to you.

Those interested in having their 5-11 year old child vaccinated for Covid-19, Midcoast Hospital has appointments available. To schedule an appointment go to:

www.midcoasthealth.com/vaccine.

VARICELLA (CHICKENPOX) REQUIREMENT

The State of Maine issued a new school immunization requirement for varicella (chickenpox) on September 25, 2021. State law now requires that students in grades kindergarten through 12 have two doses of the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine for school entry.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that children should receive the first dose of chickenpox vaccine at 12 through 15 months old and a second dose at 4 through 6 years old. If your child has not had two doses of chickenpox vaccine, they must do ONE of the following:

- Receive two doses of chickenpox vaccine (or one dose if your child has already had one dose),
- Present the school with laboratory evidence demonstrating immunity or reliable documented history of immunity provided by your child's physician or other primary care provider OR,
- Submit a medical exemption from your child's primary care provider.

If you have any questions, please contact [Naomi Mullane](#) at 729-2950.

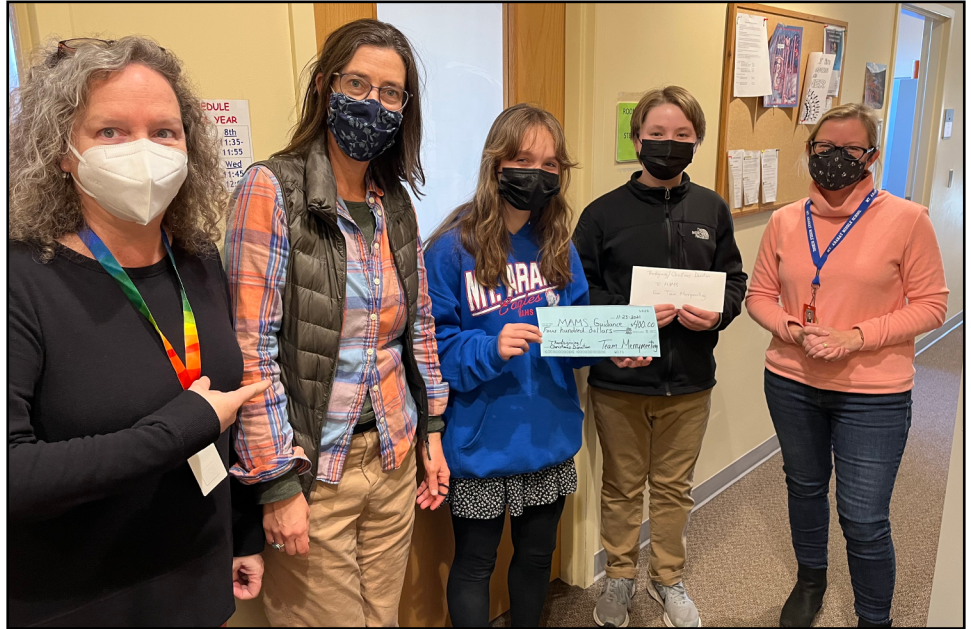
ATTENDANCE

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 MERRYMEETING WALK-A-THON



Team Merrymeeting 7th graders surprised MAMS Guidance Counselors, Mary Ellen Lagasse and Maura Bannon and Principal Megan Hayes Teague with a \$400 donation towards helping Mt. Ararat Middle School families in need this holiday season. Team Merrymeeting decided they would give 10% of their fundraising from their Walk-A-Thon fundraiser a few weeks back to this cause. Team Merrymeeting worked hard to raise about \$4000 dollars in their fundraiser. The Merrymeeting House of Representatives President Will Agius, and Vice President Madelyn Sweet gladly presented the funds to the guidance department.

LEARNING COMMONS UPDATE



THE 2021-2022 MSAD75/MSBA
BATTLE OF THE BOOKS
FEBRUARY 17, 2022
MAMS LEARNING COMMONS

Hold the date for BOB! The 4th annual MSAD 75/MSBA Battle of the Books (BOB), will be held on Thursday, February 17. Teams of MAMS students will compete with teams from district elementary schools to test their knowledge of Maine Student Book Award books in a friendly Kahoot! competition. Students are welcome to join the BOB book club after school on Thursdays to prep for the competition! See the daily news or contact the Learning Commons for more information.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAININGS

When a teen
reaches out
to you,
Be ready!



Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Only one out of every three teens report that they have received help from an adult when they feel sad or hopeless. Join us for this **FREE ONLINE** training for parents, youth-serving or other concerned adults.

- Learn to recognize the signs of a teen who is experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge, or who is in crisis.
- Learn how best to respond and connect teens to help.

For more information call **373-6970** or email jgodo@midcoasthealth.com.

Offering 2 virtual sessions: *Space limited, registration required.*

December 16, 2021, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Register at: <https://www.namimaine.org/youthprograms/p/ymhfa12162021>

January 10, 2022, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Register at: <https://www.namimaine.org/youthprograms/p/ymhfa01102022>

“This training changed my thinking and my dialogue. It has helped me have meaningful conversations with more confidence, allowing me to connect with students and offer help when it’s needed most.”

– *Training Participant*



In partnership with: Sagadahoc County Sherriff, Bath Police Department, Topsham Police Department, and Brunswick Police Department.