



**To: Parents/Guardians & Students**

**From: Donna F. Brunette, Principal**

**Date: June 26, 2016**

**RE: MTA Newsletter**

~ MTA Main Office Summer Hours: 8:00am – 12:00pm ~

Congratulations to the Class of 2016! On June 12th the graduates marched in our graduation ceremony that ended up being hosted inside due to the threat of high winds. I'm very proud of each graduate and wish each of them success, good health, and happiness as they explore work opportunities, enter the military, or continue to study in other educational settings.

The 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students brought the year to a close last week and report cards have been issued. Please review your child's quarter and final grades with him/her. Your child's quarter grades determine eligibility for extracurricular activities when we start the 2016-2017 school year; your child's final grades confirm successful completion of courses for the year. If you have concerns and need to reach out with questions or for support as you plan for next year, please note the "Summer Guidance Counseling Hours" listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

Sad News – It is with great sadness that I share this message. Cathy Hersey, a beloved school bus driver passed away on June 14, 2016 after a prolonged and courageous battle with cancer. Cathy drove bus 07-2 for most of this year. Cathy's family, friends and colleagues are in our thoughts during this difficult time. If your child needs support managing this sad news please let me know.

Summer meals are available for students. Please see the flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

As we close the year and prepare for the next, I want to remind students and parents to complete and turn in laptop take home forms for the 2016-2017 school year. Forms can be sent in to the main office and preferably before August 31, 2016. Our goal is to distribute laptops on the first day of school (mark your calendars – the first day will be September 6, 2016) so we have been asking students since Step Up Day in May to send in signed (purple) laptop forms so paperwork can be processed in advance of the new school year. The take home coverage fee, if you elect coverage, is not due when you submit the

paperwork; the letter on one side of the purple form notes that payment of the coverage fee should be completed prior to October 14, 2016.

Students are asked to take care of outstanding fees, return books, charging cords and so forth at the end of each year. If your son or daughter has fees noted in Infinite Campus for books or other items, please work with him/her to return items to school this summer. Outstanding fees can impact student access to a laptop on the first day of school; laptops are held if a student has outstanding fees. Students or parents can work with an administrator to create a plan for taking care of a fee prior to the first day of school to avoid the laptop being held. If you want to talk with someone about a fee, please contact the main office and your concern will be directed to the appropriate administrator. Please understand that the summer hours vary for people; individuals will respond when they are scheduled to be in the office.

Looking ahead to next year, the MTA school construction project and proficiency-based learning are at the top of our “to do” list. I will continue to provide updates on the building project and work happening at the high school and the district focused on developing a proficiency-based diploma system in my newsletters. Please review the articles in this newsletter for the most up-to-date information. I want to encourage you to attend meetings, ask questions, and share your thoughts as we plan for the future.

I hope you all enjoy the summer.

**Main Office - Summer Clerical Hours**

The main office at the high school will be open for business between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the summer. The office will be closed for July 4<sup>th</sup> and the first week in August for summer cleaning.

**Summer Guidance Hours**

A Guidance Counselor will staff the counseling office on the dates listed below (dates are also posted on our website). Please call the main office (729-2951 x 270), email your child’s counselor, or email Mary Kay Dyer ([dycerm@link75.org](mailto:dycerm@link75.org)) to set up an appointment.

Krista Chase		Deb Ludwig		Christy McAllaster	
June 28	7:30-3:00	June 22	7:30 - 2:30	June 22	7:30 - 2:30
June 29	7:30-3:00	June 23	7:30 - 2:30	June 29	7:30 - 2:30
June 30	7:30-3:00	June 24	7:30 – 2:30	July 6	7:30 - 2:30
August 3	7:30-3:00	July 6	7:30 - 2:30	July 13	7:30 - 2:30
August 4	7:30-3:00	July 7	7:30 - 2:30	July 20	7:30 - 2:30
August 15	12:00 - 4:30	August 26	7:30 - 2:30	July 27	7:30 - 2:30
August 16	12:00 - 4:30	August 29	7:30 - 2:30	August 3	7:30 - 2:30
August 17	12:00 - 4:30			August 10	7:30 - 2:30

**Student Recognitions**

Mt. Ararat Science Club team finished 11<sup>th</sup> in National Aquatic Robotics Competition. Congratulations to Matt Berger and Sula Demers who represented Mt. Ararat and the State of Maine as the “MTA Horseshoe Crabs” at the Seaperch National Aquatic Robotics Competition at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge on May 21. Among 75 high school teams, Matt and Sula’s robot and poster finished 22<sup>nd</sup> in the poster competition, 20<sup>th</sup> in the obstacle course, and 6<sup>th</sup> in the orbs competition for an

overall 11<sup>th</sup> place finish. This is the best Mt. Ararat and Maine has ever finished in the 6 year old competition. Well done!

Congratulations to the students selected to attend Boys American Legion State and Girls American Legion Auxiliary State: Lindsay Papa, Anita Woofenden, Mark Abreu, Orion Sargent, and Joe Beale. Each year members of the MTA Social Studies department nominate young men and women who have a demonstrated leadership and interest in social sciences for the opportunity to attend this premier program focused on teaching how government works while developing leadership skills.

Congratulations to all the student-athletes who participated in our spring sports programs. The following is a list of special awards presented on June 8, 2016:

#### Baseball

Coach's Awards: Freshman - Hunter Lohr; JV – Logan Conkling; Varsity – Harper Moutal Outstanding Senior Award – Wyatt Card

#### Softball

Coach's Awards: JV – Gabby Mason; Varsity – Alana Weaver

Outstanding Senior Award – Sara Lamb

Congratulations to the MTA Softball players and coaches! This skilled and competitive group of coaches and young women was the recipient of the Class A North Softball Sportsmanship banner for 2016!

#### Boys Tennis

Coach's Awards: Nick Mathieu

Outstanding Senior Award: Joey Reed

Congratulations to Nick Mathieu. Nick is the MPA Singles Tennis 2016 State Champion

#### Girls Tennis

Coach's Awards: Erin Venard

Outstanding Senior Award: Molly Huey

#### Boys Lacrosse

Coach's Awards: JV - Hayden Libby; Varsity – Owen Kelly

Outstanding Senior Award: Andrew Waltz

#### Girls Lacrosse

Coach's Awards: JV - Kathryn Hinderks; Varsity – Erin Tome

Outstanding Senior Award: Vanessa Balser

#### Boys Track

Coach's Awards: Justin Milne

Outstanding Senior Award: Eric French

#### Girls Track

Coach's Awards: Haley Frizzle

Outstanding Senior Award: Camille Woods

Colin A. Roy Award – Given to an accomplished male and female Senior that participated in a sport in EVERY season of his/her high school career. Congratulations to this year’s award winners: Evan Thibeault and Sarah Lamb

Go Eagles!

### **Important Calendar Dates**

- 6/28 MTA Construction – Building Committee Meeting – MTA Room 201 – 5:30pm
- 7/4 Holiday – Fourth of July
- 7/11 MTA Construction – PE/Athletics Subcommittee Meets – District Office – 5:00pm
- 7/12 MTA Construction – Naming Rights/Sponsorships Subcommittee – District Office – 8:00am
- 7/14 MSAD 75 School Board Meeting – MTA Room 201 - 6:30pm
- 7/18 MTA Construction – Sustainability/Facilities Subcommittee – District Office – 5:30pm
- 8/3 MTA Construction Project Public Forum – MTA Commons – 6:30pm
- 8/10 MTA Construction – Building Committee Meeting – MTA Room 201 - 5:30pm
- 8/15 First Day of Fall Athletic Practices (Please check back the athletics website for specific team/programs practice times and locations.)
- 8/30, 8/31 & 9/1 Professional Development Days
- 9/5 Holiday – Labor Day
- 9/6 First Day of the 2016-2017 School Year for Students

### **Proficiency-Based Steering Committee**

MSAD 75 has been working on plans to implement a proficiency-based diploma system centered on Maine statutory requirements with guidance from members of a district-level Proficiency-Based Steering Committee since 2014. The focus of the work has been developing our District’s understanding of what a proficiency-based system is and is not. Members of the Proficiency-Based Steering Committee have included parents, a student, teachers, administrators, community members, and representatives from post-secondary institutions. During the first year the committee developed a definition of proficiency-based learning and we are working to design a proficiency-based learning system based on the following tenets:

- All students will be better prepared for college, career, and civic readiness
- All students will connect to, engage in, and develop a passion for learning
- All students can learn and show what they know in a variety of ways and paces (multiple pathways)
- Students, teachers, and families have a clear understanding of where a student’s learning is, and where it is headed

In May of 2015 a community forum was hosted to share the work of the committee and ask for input from stakeholders. Based on the discussion at the public meeting, the Proficiency-Based Steering Committee has spent the last year collaborating on a “grading philosophy” with the goal of creating a vision that will guide decision making as we develop details for a grading system that aligns with a proficiency-based learning system. The proposed grading philosophy developed based on the committee members collaborative review of research includes the following six statements:

1. The purpose of grading is to accurately and consistently communicate learning progress and achievement to students, families, post-secondary institutions, and prospective employers.
2. Grades should show what students know and what they can do.

3. Grading should be understandable, based on concise and clearly articulated standards and performance criteria.
4. Academic performance should be reported separately from behaviors (i.e. attendance, on task behavior, time management, working with peers).
5. Grading practices should be consistent across teachers/grades/schools.
6. Learning happens over time, and should not be averaged into a grade.

On May 31, 2016 a public forum was held and community members took part in a conversation about the philosophy statements and feedback was collected. We had a good turnout for this event and the steering committee met on June 13, 2016 to discuss the feedback and finalize the grading philosophy statements. The MSAD 75 School Board will be considering adoption of the grading philosophy. If adopted, the next step would be to begin designing the details of the grading system to reflect the philosophy. Thank you to all who attended the forums. Your input is important as we begin to design practices aligned to the grading philosophy and plan to implement a proficiency-based diploma system.



### **MTA School Construction News**

The school construction project is beginning to take shape; the design process has begun. The architects with Portland Design Team (PDT) have been working closely with the Building Committee gathering feedback on various sketches. The Building Committee recently voted to have PDT focus on developing “Scheme #10”. Scheme #10 is referred to as the “Y scheme” based on the layout of the building that includes two wings that stretch out to form the letter shape. Scheme #10 can be seen in our main lobby or on our website when you link to the construction project icon. On August 3, 2016, the Building Committee is planning to host a public forum to share the design with the community and gather feedback regarding plans for the project. The Building Committee has also focused attention on costs associated with the project and has been gathering information from subcommittees such as physical education and athletics, sustainability and facilities, and others so we can determine what elements of the project would be considered for local funding or through fundraising efforts.

### **2017 News**

CLASS of 2017!!!! WE ARE SENIORS!! Parents & Students, please check your email & Class of 2017 Facebook page regularly!! We will be busy making plans this summer and look forward to you joining us to make this a memorable and fun senior year!!!

### **Class of 2019**

The Class of 2019 has partnered up with Compass Rose Events to work a company event for Hillandale Farms at Great Outdoors in Turner, ME. This will take place on **Saturday, August 6** and we are asking for adult and student volunteers to help make this a successful fundraiser, **over \$1400!** We have two shifts available, 10am-2pm and noon until approximately 10pm. Please contact Lynn Sirois at

[sirois1988@comcast.net](mailto:sirois1988@comcast.net) for more info or to sign up.

Save the Date! The 99 Restaurant in Topsham is having a 15 year anniversary party on **Wednesday, August 10th from 4pm to 9pm**. The Class of 2019 will be the recipient of a portion of the proceeds from that day. Tell all your friends, families and neighbors! The more customers we bring in that day, the more we will benefit. We will also have many raffles that day, something for everyone! Please plan to join us as we help The 99 celebrate! Please wear your MTA apparel or the school colors. If you can help with raffles, please contact Lynn Sirois at [sirois1988@comcast.net](mailto:sirois1988@comcast.net). This information and much more can be found on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/923058891062898/>



# FREE SUMMER MEALS & SUMMER FUN

For ALL Kids and Teens. Bring a Friend!

(And free meals to parents accompanying a child!)

Summer Food Site	Days/Hours	Starting Date	End Date
Mt. Ararat Middle School (Open Site) 66 Republic Ave., Topsham	Monday-Friday Breakfast: 9-10am Lunch: 12-1pm	6/21/16	8/26/16
Perryman Village (Open site) 1 Perryman Dr., Brunswick	Monday-Friday Lunch: 12-1pm	6/21/16	8/26/16
Family Focus/Hawthorne School (Enrolled Site) 46 Federal St., Brunswick	Monday-Friday Lunch: 12-1pm	6/20/16	8/26/16
Harriet Beecher Stowe/Rec Program (Enrolled) 44 McKeen St., Brunswick	Monday-Friday Lunch: 12-1pm	6/20/16	8/11/16
Achieve School (Enrolled site) 16 Burbank St., Brunswick	Monday-Friday Lunch: 11-12pm	6/27/16	8/19/16
Harpwell Community School (Open site) 308 Harpswell Island Rd., Harpswell	Monday-Thursday Lunch: 12-1pm	6/20/16	7/1/16
MTM Community Center (Open site) 18 School St., Lisbon	Mon., Tues., Thurs. only Lunch: 12-1pm	6/27/16	8/12/16
Lisbon Community School (Open site) 33 Mill St., Lisbon	Mon., Tues., Thurs. only Lunch: 12-1pm	6/27/16	8/12/16
Marcia Buker Elementary School (Open site) 28 High St., Richmond	Tues., Wed., Thurs. only Lunch: 12-1pm	6/28/16	7/28/16

Summer Meals help families save money while providing a fun, safe place for kids and teens age 18 and under to eat a fresh, healthy meal. In addition to FREE meals, many sites will have fun activities including nutrition classes, arts and crafts, outdoor games and raffle prizes! There are 9 sites in our area that are either open or enrolled (listed above). An open site is one that anyone under 18 years old can visit to receive a free meal—no questions asked. An enrolled site means that those who have registered for a summer camp at one of these locations and are eligible for free or reduced lunch during the school year may receive a free meal.

**Come check it out!**

Volunteer opportunities are also available!



The Summer Food Service Program & USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers. **Meals must be eaten on site.**



For more information contact: Savannah MacLean at [smaclean@mchpp.org](mailto:smaclean@mchpp.org)



