



To: Parents and Students
From: Donna F. Brunette, Principal
Date: 8/21/2016
RE: Back to School

Welcome back. I hope you have all enjoyed the summer. The weather has been amazing and now it is time to begin to plan for a new school year. It is nice to see the student-athletes and coaches out on the fields, teachers moving about the building, and other students and families who have stopped in to confirm schedules or confirm details for the start of the year.

There will be some new faces at the high school. Given a few retirements and others leaving for personal or professional reasons we have hired a Science teacher (Paul Sasso), a Math teacher (Rob Messier), an English teacher (Eric Bosarge), a Health and Physical Education teacher (Julie Petrie), a Special Education teacher (Kay Kessler). There are still a few hires in the works but we are excited to welcome these teachers to MTA.

The first day of school for all students is September 6, 2016. Please take a few minutes to review the information in this newsletter. If you have questions regarding the start up that you do not see referenced, please call the school.

Tips to Help Get Your Year Off to a Good Start

1. **Begin Adjusting Your Schedule** – Summer schedules can be drastically different from the typical school routine. Adjusting your sleep and wake times a little bit each day can make the transition back to the school schedule much easier.
2. **Review Your Schedule** – Students can login to Infinite Campus and review your schedule before the first day. The schedule you had on Step Up Day may have changed a bit during the summer as teachers were hired and the master schedule was finalized. If you have questions about your schedule you should contact your school counselor.
3. **Plan to Manage Your Time** – Consider your personal commitments and create a plan for use of time that takes into account your academics, extra-curricular activities, family, friends, work, and sleep. Also note that planning to use time during the school day wisely will limit the amount of work you need to take home.
4. **Set Goals** – What are your goals for this year? Is there a club or an athletic team you would like to join? Where do you want to be next year or in 5 years and what needs to be done now to support your goal? Thinking ahead, committing to a goal, and planning will help you achieve it.

5. Get Organized - Prepare a study area, a place where school materials are stored and schoolwork can be done. Many students need to share spaces with other members of a household so designating an area promotes and supports academic.

Recognitions

Attending school every day will help each child achieve his or her true potential and I am proud to say that the professional staff at Mt. Ararat High School has been able to positively impact our student attendance rate as a result of implementing practices that focus on reaching out to parents, guardians, and students. Last year the percentage of chronically absent students (18 days or more) was reduced 22% and students at risk for chronic absenteeism (11 - 17 days) was reduced 26%. Thank you to all the professional staff - the data shows that your efforts have clearly made a difference. And parents, thank you for making your child's school attendance a priority; this is an important step in supporting your child's success.

Attend a Day - Achieve Tomorrow... every day counts!

“Thank You” to the National Honor Society students and Allen Graffam for organizing the Freshman Orientation Day.

Congratulations to all who engaged in learning opportunities throughout the summer months. There were many teachers enrolled in courses. For example, Chris Nulle took a graduate course: *Integrating Mindfulness-based Stress/ Anxiety Reduction and Social and Emotional Intelligence into the Classroom*. Christine Delrossi completed coursework for a Certificate of Advanced Study program. These are just two examples but there were many taking courses or attending workshops throughout the summer. The teachers at Mt. Ararat High School are engaged, lifelong learners and our students truly benefit from their continued study of instructional best practices.

Calendar Dates

September 2	Freshman Orientation 10:00am - 12:00pm in the Commons at MTA
September 6	First Day for All Students
September 26 – October 1	Homecoming (Field Day is Sept. 28 & Dance is October 1)
September 27	NEACAC College Fair in Gorham 6:30 - 8:30pm
October 7	Professional Development Day
October 10	Columbus Day holiday

Freshman Orientation

For 9th grade students and parents, the Freshman Orientation is scheduled for Friday, September 2nd, 10:00 - 12:00 in the Commons at Mt. Ararat High School. All incoming freshman and their families are invited to this annual event. This event offers freshman the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the building, get information about school clubs and activities, ask questions, and get advice from current MTA students. Parents attending will hear about our school and have an opportunity ask questions. The goal is to support both students and parents as you make a transition to the high school. This annual event which is organized by National Honor Society students will conclude with an ice cream social. Hope you can join us.

First Day of School

The first day of school for all students is Tuesday, September 6th. All students should plan to be at school by 7:45. Students can expect the following on the first day:

- Students meet with Advisors for an extended period of time to review start up materials, schedules, and so forth
- School Pictures will be taken
- Students will attend Blue Day classes
- Tech Region 10 Classes Begin – the schedule is adjusted to allow time for communication with students about scheduling, transportation, and expectations
- All students will have school photos taken. Information from our school photographer, Geskus, is included in this newsletter. Parents who would like to purchase pictures can order online or envelopes are available if you want to send a check in with your child on the first day of school.
- The hope is that all of the new laptops will have arrived and we will be able to distribute laptops on the first day of school. In order to receive a school assigned laptop on the first day of school, students must turn in a signed MLTI Information and Take Home Coverage form by 12:00 on September 1 and have either paid fees or created a plan with an administrator to take care of fees associated with laptop repairs, outstanding books, uniforms not returned, and so forth. *(The laptop take home form was handed out to students on Step Up Day in May and is also included on pages 10-11 in this newsletter in case students and parents still need to complete this paperwork. Please send paperwork to the main office.)* Students who turn in the take home form after noontime on September 1 will receive laptops during a scheduled distribution after the first day of school.
- Lockers will be issued to students who bring in signed “Parent and Student Consent to Search Locker” forms to their Advisor. (The form is included in this newsletter.) Students who wish to have a locker assigned that do not have the form on the first day will be issued a locker when the paperwork is turned in.

Fall Sports – All MTA Fall athletic programs have begun. Any student who was not aware of the preseason schedule who is interested in fall athletic programs should contact our Athletic Director, Geoffrey Godo.

Naviance/Family Connection News

School counselors are looking forward to working with seniors on their post-secondary planning. For our students applying to college, we are excited to begin using a new software program, Naviance/Family Connection. This allows us to house all materials (applications, transcripts, recommendations, the common application and the status of all documents) in one location for counselors, students and parents to view and update on an on-going basis. We met with all junior students by advisory last year to set up their individual accounts. Please have your son/daughter log in and check their messages regularly for important updates/news. We will meet again with every senior advisory in September to begin our post-secondary work in Naviance/Family Connection. It's an exciting time of year and counselors are eager to support and assist our seniors in planning their futures!

Learning Commons News

New Laptops! In September, all students and teachers at Mt. Ararat High School will receive brand new MacBook Air laptops. These devices are provided by the State of Maine's MLTI Program (Maine Learning Technology Initiative). This program is unique in the United States in that State funding pays for laptops for each student in 7th and 8th grade in every school. MSAD 75 is in itself on the leading edge, choosing to continue to fund the one to one laptop program for each student through high school, grades 9-12.

The laptop program provides students of all backgrounds a tool for learning. And prepares each student for today's classroom, for further education, the workplace, and their own lifelong learning goals. Access to laptop allows each of our students the opportunity to learn about technology and how to use it and thus successfully compete with students around the world.

According to the MLTI website:

“Students will receive the 11-inch MacBook Air, which features a new fifth-generation Intel Core processor, the rock solid stability and security of Mac OS X, and up to nine hours of battery life—all packed into an incredibly thin 0.68-inch unibody aluminum enclosure that's light enough to carry around campus. Every MacBook Air will ship with a powerful suite of productivity and content creation apps pre-installed.”

At home we ask that parents and guardians take time to learn about the laptop devices from their students and also take time to remind students of proper care and use of this powerful tool.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to fill out and return the Laptop Take Home Coverage Form that was sent home in June! Each family, whether the coverage is chosen or not, must return this form to the High School before a laptop will be issued to their student(s) this Fall.

School Based Health Clinic" Eagle's Nest"

A few brief reminders from the Health Office as we approach the start of the new school year!

- Your student will be bringing home a packet which includes a **Health Questionnaire**. Please complete this very important document as soon as possible and return it to school with your student.
- All medications, both prescription and over-the-counter (OTC), must be kept in the Health Office. According to district policy, all students taking medication at school need a completed **Permission to Administer Medication Form** on file (completed by a parent for OTC meds and by a doctor for prescription meds). Medication must be sent to school in the original bottle. Complete the form, send in a bottle of the medication your student might regularly need during school hours (ex. Advil for headaches or menstrual cramps) and the nurse can administer the medication to your student as needed throughout the year.
- This year we are offering **free membership** to the Eagle's Nest School Based Health Clinic. Look for further information and a signup form in the packet your student will bring home. Membership allows your student to see our Nurse Practitioner during school hours for diagnosis and treatment of many common illnesses at no charge to you!

- All students with asthma, an anaphylactic allergy, or a seizure disorder need to have an **Action Plan** (completed by the student's doctor) on file in the Health Office. Plans may be printed off the website or can be sent home by request.
- Please encourage your student to aim for adequate **sleep** (at least 8-9 hours) every night and a nutritious **breakfast** every day. Many adolescents struggle on both these fronts, but they really are much better prepared for a successful day at school when they are equipped for concentration!

Interact Club

The Interact Club is always looking for students who wish to give back to our community. Sponsored by the Brunswick Rotary, Interact holds a variety of activities during the year like food drives, assisting with local walks and races, as well as fundraising for a variety of worthy causes. All students are welcome to join. We meet every Thursday right after school in the band room starting September 15th! Come join in the fun!

Things to Consider for Students/Parents New to MTA & Reminders for Returning Students/Parents

➤ **Entry to MTA During School Day** - As the new school year begins we ask parents and students at Mt. Ararat High School to work with us and remind everyone of the efforts in the district to manage entry to schools when school is in session. When classes are in session all entry doors are locked. Parents, family members, and others who need to enter our school to volunteer, deliver something, dismiss a student, and so forth, will need to enter through our main entrance using the intercom system (*installed under our "Welcome" sign to the right of the doors*) to contact the main office to request entry. Students who arrive after classes have begun will also be expected to use this same entry system. Please note that the secretaries who respond when the intercom is activated are managing phones, interacting with people in the office, and working on various tasks. Occasionally, there can be a slight delay in response, but please know that someone is always monitoring this system and they will respond in a timely manner.

➤ **Cell Phones** - Students are allowed to bring cell phones to school but please know that during class, study halls, advisory, and other structured times during the school day students are expected to put the phone away. Cell phones have wonderful uses, but in school they can be a huge distraction and disrupt learning. Use in class, particularly when an assessment is being administered, can lead to significant consequences. MTA students are welcome to use cell phones before and after school, during the passing time between classes, as well as during their lunch period; therefore, we ask parents and students to plan ahead, limit use of cell phone communication during the day, and support a focus on learning when school is in session.

➤ **Attendance Communication** - All students are expected to be on time and attend all assigned classes daily, this includes study halls, advisory, and academic support periods. We notify parents by phone using an automated system when a student is not in attendance at the beginning of the day, and again, at the end of the day, if a student has been marked absent for a class after morning advisory. The accuracy of our attendance records is important, and we encourage parents to contact the Student Affairs Office if you believe you received a call in error. You should also know that a student with more than 5 absences from a class during a marking period could fail due to an attendance concern, and a student involved in sports and other extracurricular

activities may not participate in an activity on any day that s/he is absent from school or dismissed early. Please review the information in our handbook for details about the attendance policy and procedures, communication expectations, documentation of absences, and more.

➤ **Early Dismissal Procedures** - Students needing to be dismissed during the school day for reasons other than illness must present a note to the Student Affairs Office at the beginning of the school day. The note must include the student's name, date and time of the dismissal, reason for the dismissal, and a parent signature. The student will receive a dismissal pass to show to his/her teacher and must sign out in the Student Affairs Office before leaving the building. Please understand that dismissals will not be made over the phone; this process requires a parent signature. Students who become sick during the school day must report to the Health Clinic to arrange for dismissal. Students will not be dismissed until permission is received from a parent or other responsible adult designated on the Student Emergency Card.

➤ **Period Blue 4 Advisory/Academic Support Time Dismissals** - The Advisory program and Academic Support Time provided during the Blue 4 period is important academic time and parents are asked not to dismiss students unless absolutely necessary. Advisory is a graded class, and Academic Support Time is a period structured to provide teacher access to students for extra academic support; a student may also make arrangements to meet with a teacher during this time. If a student has an appointment and needs to be out of school during this period, s/he is asked to follow the early dismissal procedures, providing a note with appropriate details signed by a parent at the beginning of the school day.

➤ **Grading and Habits of Work (HoW)** - MTA made some changes in grading practices a couple of years ago as part of the transition to a proficiency-based system of learning. MTA scores work habits and academic performance separately in each course. We have a school-wide rubric focused on habits of work (HoW rubric) that will be reviewed with all students at the beginning of the year. A copy of the rubric is included at the end of this newsletter. Habits of Work will be considered when determining honor roll, eligibility for honors passes, and, for seniors, eligibility for senior privileges (delayed start or early release). Habits of Work will not factor into a student's academic grade.

➤ **Parking Applications** - Parking spaces at Mt. Ararat High School are available to students through an application process. Driving and parking a vehicle on campus is a privilege, not a right, and comes with the expectation that the student will conduct him/herself safely and responsibly. The application process will be open to seniors first, and then juniors, since parking spaces are limited. Sophomores may apply for parking after second quarter if spaces are available. Parking space applications will be available to seniors beginning on Thursday, September 1, 2016, and juniors starting on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Please review the details on the application. When an application is approved, the student will receive a parking pass designating the assigned space for the vehicle listed on the application. Students are expected to display this pass at all times in the vehicle when parked on campus during the school day. Vehicles parked in the wrong space are subject to towing without notice. Also note, school administrators has the right to revoke parking privileges due to concerns regarding student attendance or behavior.

Region Ten students who wish to drive to the technical school must see their Assistant Principal to discuss this privilege and complete additional paperwork. The vocational school driving privilege is for juniors and seniors

only. Additional terms apply to this privilege including the expectation that there are “no passengers” when driving to or from Region Ten.



School Construction Update

The design for the new high school has been the focus for the summer. Portland Design Team (PDT) has been working with the Building Committee and various subcommittees and facilitated a public forum at the beginning of August to gather input from the community as we set priorities around elements of the project subcommittees have identified that would need to be paid for either with local funding or fundraising initiatives. More information and the designs are available on the MTA or District websites; just look for the icon in the heading of this article on the website.

Class of 2017

WELCOME TO OUR SENIOR YEAR!! If you haven't received an email from me, Ellen Messier, (messiere@link75.org) by the time you are reading this, PLEASE send me your email address and I will add you to the 2017 parent address book!! Important senior dates, as well as fundraising information & the many ways you can help, will be shared!! Cheers to MTA's Class of 2017!!

Class of 2020

Welcome to Mt. Ararat High School! My name is Lianna Fenimore and I am excited to be the freshman class advisor. I encourage all parents and students to get involved in class activities, fundraising, meetings, etc. I will hold a parent meeting shortly after school begins to provide more detailed information. Please join the "MTA Class of 2020" Facebook page, and parents, please send your email address to messierl@link75.org so that I can add you to the Class of 2020 address book! I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Let's make it a great four years!

Thank you for reviewing the newsletter. Documents included with the newsletter are:

- School Photo Information – Pictures will be taken on the first day of school
- Parent and Student Consent to Search Locker Form
- MLTI Information and Take Home Coverage Paperwork

order su pedido Please order online AND SAVE or fill out this form and send with your child or picture for Geskus. Ask money order or check payable to Geskus. Returned checks are subject to an administrative fee. Enclose EXACT amount due - photographers do not carry change.

88319

School: Mount Ararat High
 Student Name: _____ Grade: _____
 Teacher: _____
 Phone: _____

Please do NOT combine sibling payments. Each child must submit their own order envelope.

Select Your Background (optional): **Color choice guaranteed when selected below and given to photographer. Traditional (a) will be used if no selection is made.**

Backgrounds: a b c d e f

Pkg	Quantity	Digital Download	\$29 =	Total
1.	Package 1	\$48 =		
2.	Package 2	\$39 =		
3.	Package 3	\$24 =		
4.	Photo Calendar	\$15 =		
5.	8 - 2x3 Photo Holiday Cards	\$15 =		
6.	2 - Flashlight Keyrings	\$15 =		
7.	BONUS BUY - with any purchases:			
	2 - photo magnets	add \$10 =		
8.	1 - 8x10	\$12 =		
9.	2 - 5x7s	\$12 =		
10.	4 - 3x5s	\$9 =		
11.	8 - 2x3 wallets	\$9 =		
<input type="checkbox"/> BASIC Retouching add \$9 =				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREMIUM Retouching add \$12 =				
<input type="checkbox"/> Personalization add \$8 =				
PRINT the student's FIRST NAME ONLY as it should appear.				
CASH		CHECK		NO ORDER TOTAL

Credit Card orders must be placed online. Enclose receipt and print confirmation if Online background color choice must be provided.



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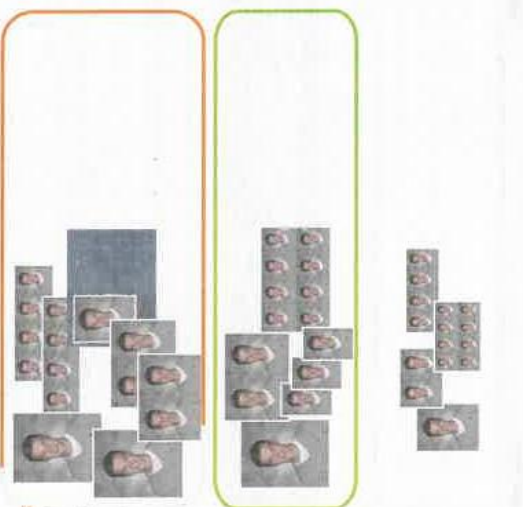
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picture day is:
 su dia de fotos es:





Mt. Ararat High School
73 Eagles Way
Topsham, Maine 04086

207 729 2951
 207 729 2953 fax
 www.mta.link75.org

STUDENT AND PARENT CONSENT TO SEARCH OF LOCKERS

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

I acknowledge that the school will give me permission to use a locker located on school property, pending my signature below. I understand that the locker belongs to the school and not to me. I have received and read a copy of the school’s locker policy contained in my Student Handbook on page 46. I understand and accept the terms of the locker policy.

I HEARBY GIVE MY CONSENT TO THE OPENING, INSPECTION AND SEARCH, BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS OF THE LOCKER ASSIGNED TO ME, AND IT CONTENTS, AT ANY TIME, FOR ANY REASON AND WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE TO ME.

Students Signature **Date**

SEEN AND APPROVED:

Signature of Parent / Guardian **Date**



M.S.A.D. # 75

T 207-729-2951

F 207-729-2953

<http://mta.link75.org/>

Dear Parent,

Your student will be receiving a state-owned MLTI Mac Book Air. This laptop will enhance your student's learning, as technology is integrated into classroom instruction. Laptops help students learn "hard to teach" concepts, practice skills needed for academic success, provide the most current research and help your child learn 21st century skills. Your child may bring the Mac Book Air home to continue work on class assignments, complete homework, and work on projects. Parents may also request that the assigned laptop stay at school. Please contact the school Learning Commons for more details.

MSAD 75 offers Take-Home Coverage for the MLTI Mac Book Air. You may elect to purchase this Coverage for the laptop assigned to your child. For a one-time yearly fee, the Take-Home Coverage covers accidental damage that occurs outside of school. Please see the back of this sheet for the cost of the coverage.

Coverage Details:

Take Home Coverage Plan, annual enrollment fee:

- See chart on reverse side

Deductible:

- \$50.00 per billable damage incident.
- Once a maximum combined damage of \$700.00 has been reached the deductible will increase to \$100.00 per incident.

Coverage benefits:

- Accidental damage outside of school
- Fire
- Natural disasters
- Power surges

Equipment covered:

- Apple Mac Book Air, Charger, Extension Cord, Case.

Please note: Wanton and willful destruction or negligence is not covered. Food, drinks, and liquids must not be near the laptop. Damage from food or drink or liquids will be considered negligence. All damage incidents deemed Negligence result in students being billed the entire repair charge, or the cost of laptop replacement, if less expensive. The current MacBook Air replacement cost is \$699.00.

Take Home Coverage has limitations. Issues of theft, loss or intentional damage will be referred to administrators and possibly the police for investigation. In these instances the level of coverage will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

MLTI Take Home Coverage can be paid online, in the 'Payment' section of the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. You can also send a payment to school with your child, but we urge you to use the online payment. Payments delivered to school should be turned in to the Main Office. Checks should be made out to MSAD 75.

Laptops will be deployed on the first day of school, September 6, 2016. To ensure that your student receives a laptop on that day, each student must:

1. Return this completed form indicating whether electing to purchase, or declining coverage.
2. Pay any outstanding fees or fines, or make arrangements for a payment plan. (All payment plans must be arranged with school administration.)

Students and parents should complete these steps before the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Any outstanding form or fee issues remaining at the start of 2016-2017 school-year will prevent students from being issued a laptop.

Please Note: Payment for the coverage is not due when the form is submitted. However, any coverage payments not received by October 14, 2016 will result in a cancellation of coverage.

Each student MUST return this Take Home Coverage Form, completed and signed by a parent/guardian, to receive a school-issued laptop.

M.S.A.D. # 75

Mt. Ararat High School
73 Eagles Way
Topsham, Maine 04086

T 207-729-2951
F 207-729-2953

<http://mta.link75.org>

- I / We have elected to purchase the MLTI Take Home Coverage , and will pay online.
- I / We have elected to purchase the MLTI Take Home Coverage and are sending the payment to school.
- I / We have elected not to purchase the MLTI Take Home Coverage. I / We accept all responsibility for the MLTI Mac Book should it be accidentally damaged, lost, stolen, or intentionally damaged. A MacBook damaged beyond repair will cost \$699.00.

Student Name(s) _____ Grade Level(s) _____

Parent Signature _____ Check Number _____

This form must be completed and returned to the school office for your student(s) to receive a school-issued laptop.

Payments for MLTI Laptop Coverage

Number of students in family in grades 7 to 12 only	Students who pay regular lunch prices.	Students who receive reduced lunch.	Students who receive free lunch.
1 student in family	\$50.00	\$30.00	\$10.00
2 students in family	\$40.00 per student	\$25.00 per student	10.00 per student
3+ students in family	\$30.00 per student	\$20.00 per student	10.00 per student

Directions for making the payment online:

- 1) Login to the Parent Portal at: <https://ic.link75.org/campus/portal/msad75.jsp>
- 2) Click on 'Payments'. The payment will be called "MLTI – Take Home Coverage"

Directions for payment by check:

- 1) Make a check out to **MSAD 75**. In the memo line, please write "MLTI", and the name(s) of student(s) the payment covers.
- 2) Deliver the check to the school office, or mail to: Mt. Ararat High School (Attn.MLTI), 73 Eagles Way, Topsham, Maine 04086

In the case of financial hardship please contact school administration.

Office use only:

Received by: _____ Amount: _____ Date _____

Cash: _____ Check Number: _____