

Fueling Hope Through Learning

MISSION

Mt. Ararat Middle School provides a proficiency-based, learner-centered education for students in grades six, seven, and eight in which a feeling of hope and engagement is fostered by clear expectations, learning from mistakes, and positive relationships.

THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

Mt. Ararat Middle School is a regional public middle school serving approx. 600 students in grades 6-8. The towns of Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Harpswell, and Topsham comprise Maine School Administrative District #75. The economy of these four towns are suburban/rural and a majority residents work for employers in the Portland, Freeport, Brunswick, and Augusta commercial areas. The median income of residents is \$44,316 and 38% of our families receive free/reduced lunch services. 18% of our students participate in special education.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Proficiency-Based Learning. When students are given clear expectations for what they need to learn and they truly believe that their teacher has high expectations for them, they are more likely to take ownership and be successful at school. This proficiency-based approach to student learning has been central to how we teach students at Mt. Ararat Middle School for many years. Our teachers work regularly with teachers from the high school to clearly define the important knowledge and skills students need by the time they graduate from high school and how that learning will progress through grades 6-12.

Core Academic Program. All students participate in rigorous and engaging English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science classes. Our school places emphasis on the development of literacy and numeracy skills throughout all these learning experiences.

Literacy: Our English Language Arts curriculum follows a workshop model, in which teachers teach a short daily mini-lesson to the class and then, while the students are practicing their skills independently or with writing partners, the teacher conferences with individuals and/or pulls small groups to do additional instruction. In developing their writing skills, students are also very accustomed to assessing their progress and setting goals and action steps for attaining the next level of mastery.

Numeracy: As students move through a well defined math curriculum, the focus is on both mathematical procedural knowledge and applied problem solving. Within each class, teachers group students flexibly according to the learning goals each student has demonstrated they are ready to learn based on pre-testing. During math workshop time students receive instruction and practice their learning in a variety of modes: whole group instruction, small group lessons, individual coaching, independent work on the computer and group problem solving.

Exploratory Program. All students participate in a diverse and broad-based exploratory program consisting of Art, Health, Music, Physical Education, Technology, World Languages, and Learning Commons. The program enables students to discover their particular interest, talents, values and preferences. The intent of the program is to acquaint students with enriching, healthy pursuits in order for students to become well-rounded adults.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Advisor Group. Every student participates in the Advisor Group program, where they are matched up with one adult and a small number of peers that they start every day with and with whom they engage in positive team building and character development activities.

Teams. Each student is placed on a cooperative Team (see sidebar), where subject-area teachers are able to collaborate and communicate to provide the best possible educational experience for a select group of students.

Counseling Support School counselors and social workers at MAMS create opportunities for students to overcome obstacles to their education, and promote a respectful and safe learning environment. We partner with students, parents, guardians, staff, and community members to enable all students to become successful, productive citizens and lifelong learners in a diverse and changing world.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

School-Based Athletics:

field hockey | soccer | cross country | basketball | wrestling | baseball | softball | track and field

Community-Based Athletics:

football | hockey | cheering | intramurals | tennis | lacrosse

Clubs & Activities

band | chorus | drama | math team | Interact | student council | ambassadors | iTeam | art club | technology club | plant club | science club | rubiks cube club | yearbook | guitar club | ping pong | sewing club



SCHOOL PROFILE 2019-2020

MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL

66 Republic Avenue
Topsham, ME 04086
mams.link75.org
207-729-2950

Dr. Josh Ottow
Principal
ottowj@link75.org

Megan Hayes Teague
Assistant Principal
hayesteaguem@link75.org

Cathy Curtis
Special Education
Coordinator
curtisc@link75.org

MAMS TEAMS

6th Grade
Four 2 Teacher Teams
Magalloway Team
Cathance Team
Sebasticook Team
Carrabassett Team

7th Grade
Two 4 Teacher Teams
Merrymeeting Team (looping)
Androscoggin Team

8th Grade
Two 4 Teacher Teams
Kennebec Team (looping)
Casco Team

Sheepscot