

MT. ARARAT MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

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CAFETERIA CHANGES

As a part of our COVID mitigation strategies, Mt. Ararat Middle School has been operating two cafeteria spaces since the beginning of the school year, allowing the grade level teams to eat separately. As you can imagine, this has been logistically challenging, requiring double the staff to meet increased custodial, supervisory, and meal service needs.

With the recent changes in contact tracing, and our current staffing situation, we will be transitioning back to one cafeteria space beginning Tuesday, January 18. We will add additional tables to the cafeteria to allow students to spread out. We will also keep tables available in the Orion Lobby for students who prefer a quieter lunch option. Our counselors will be available to support students who need help processing this change.

I want to thank our kitchen and custodial staff for their incredible work in supporting student needs and in adapting to the many changes.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear MAMS Families,

I wanted to share some updates that couldn't wait until the next full newsletter. We found out earlier this week that next week's scheduled eighth grade trip to Region 10 has been postponed. Region 10 plans to either reschedule the trip or to provide us with a virtual alternative. I will let you know when more specific plans become available.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday weekend.

[Megan Hayes Teague](#), Principal

MASKING EXPECTATIONS

The recent changes to the masking exemption, which allow students identified as close contacts to attend school and school activities, require that we ensure students are wearing masks consistently and properly when they are in our buildings. Since the beginning of the year, student compliance has been a challenge--a challenge that we did not experience last year.

Starting on Tuesday, January 18, students will be referred to the office for failure to wear their mask consistently or properly. As always, teachers will provide reminders prior to referral to the office. Once referred to the office, students will be assigned consequences and parents will be notified.

Parents, we need your help! Please review proper mask-wearing with your child and encourage them to follow our school and district's rules so that we can keep more students in school. We are so thankful for your support!