



# MAMS Family

## Newsletter

September 26, 2024

### **Homework is important for learning**

Most MAMS students will be assigned nightly homework; this is not a change in district/school policy. In fact, homework accounts for a percentage of each student's grade for academic subjects at MAMS. By assigning homework, teachers can use the block period to its fullest potential and increase our students' achievement (it is not a good practice for students to complete their homework during class time as this takes away from valuable instructional time). Quality homework:

- Reinforces learning and helps students practice skills
- Prepares students for upcoming lessons
- Improves communication between teachers and families (parents develop a better knowledge of what their child is learning in class)
- Helps teachers to gauge students' levels of understanding

Please make sure that your child completes this important work. In the middle school grades, it is a reasonable expectation for students to have 60-90 minutes of homework (on average) but this will vary some day-to-day. We understand that families may be busy after school but please make time for this work as it is crucial to your child's learning and development. If you have questions about the amount of work assigned by a particular teacher, please contact that staff member to discuss your concern.

### **MAEF Battle of the Faculties**

The Matawan-Aberdeen Educational Foundation is hosting a new event on October 24. Please see the flyer [MAEF Battle of the Faculties.pdf](#) for more details. This event will be held at the MRHS gymnasium from 6:00-7:30 and each school's staff will compete in various Minute-to-Win-It type games. Tickets are on sale now [www.maefgrants.org/bof24](http://www.maefgrants.org/bof24) and all proceeds will go toward teacher grants.

### **Knowing about HIB**

Sometimes, students' behavior will not meet our expectations. When these instances occur, our staff will take appropriate steps to correct behavior. Often, this means that administrators will apply disciplinary consequences per our school's code of conduct. Sometimes, persons feel that the misbehavior includes harassment, intimidation, and bullying. New Jersey's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act and the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District's Policy on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) define HIB as the following:

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or
2. By any other distinguishing characteristic; and that
3. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the

orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils; and that

4. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or

5. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or

6. Creates a hostile educational environment for the pupil by interfering with a pupil's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the pupil.

In order for an incident to be considered HIB, it must meet the above criteria. If not, the incident falls under the code of conduct and will be addressed accordingly.

## **PTSO news**

Please view the PTSO's current flyers: