



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 8, 2021

## *Fostering Respect*



Across the campus at Mears, teachers and staff have been creating new signage with messages that promote pride, positivity, and school unity. Next week, Mears will celebrate its first spirit week of the year with dress up days and an end-of-week event that kicks off a school-wide No Place for Hate middle school pledge.

**Go Panthers!**

# Spirit Week Dress Up Days

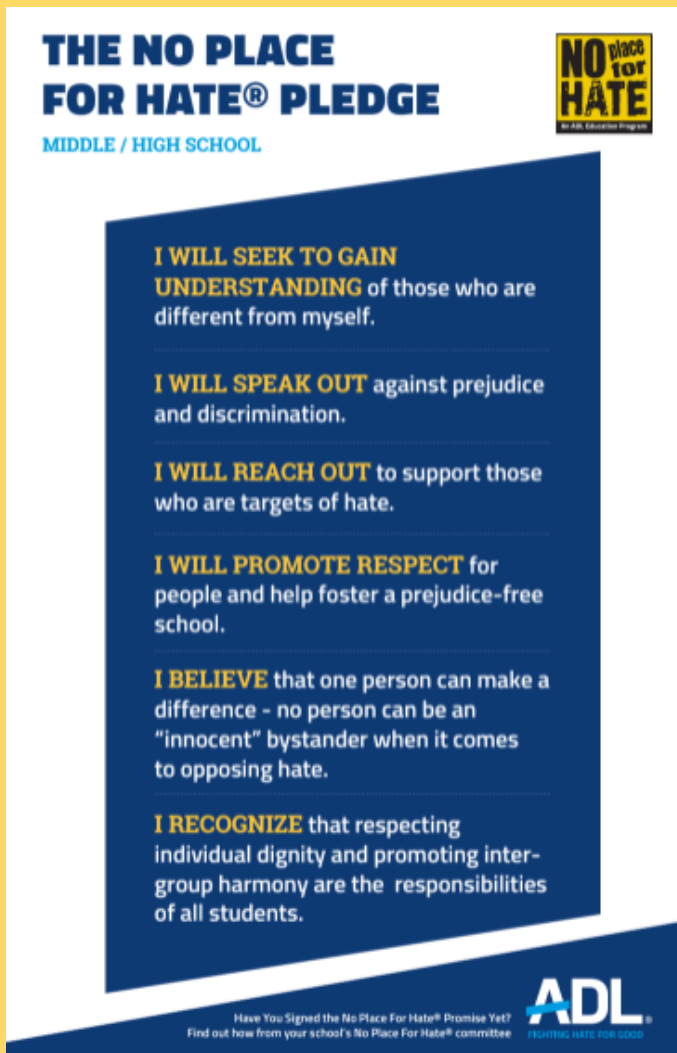


Mears students and staff are all encouraged to participate in the school's first Spirit Week of the Year. Each day's focus is on having lots of fun, while supporting the important message of standing together for respect and kindness.

## Promoting Inclusion and Respect for All



Spirit Week, Oct. 11-14, will culminate in a school-wide No Place for Hate kick off event, featuring US Youth Poet Laureate, Amanda Gorman. Students will watch Ms. Gorman recite her original new poem, “Can You Hear Change Humming?” followed by a series of activities related to building understanding and empathy for others.



Here's the No Place for Hate Middle School Pledge, which will be promoted campus-wide as part of Mears' school-wide initiative to build campus unity and respect for all members of the community.

## *Stay Informed/Get Involved*

### **Teachers and Staff**

Wednesday, Oct. 13 -- Mears Leadership Team Meeting, 3:00-3:45, Library

Thursday, Oct. 14 -- End of 1st Quarter and No Place for Hate Assembly Day

Friday, Oct. 15 -- No School, Teacher In-service Day

### **Student/Parent/Teacher Conference Days**

#### **Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21**

For in-person and face-to-face meetings with your teachers, Mears families should plan to attend the Student/Parent/Teacher conferences next month. These meetings will be scheduled in advance for all interested parents and families, which will allow us to safely social distance and limit the number of persons in the building at one time. Masking and other Covid mitigation protocols will be practiced at all times during the event.

## Conferences with Elective Teachers

Parents and families will schedule conferences with core academic teachers that are organized in their Collaborative Teams. Mears electives teachers will be on site and available for conferences following each family's meeting with core teachers. Campus maps and locations will be provided to all who attend.

## Virtual Conferences

For families who would prefer not to attend in-person conferences, accommodations will be made to meet with teachers. Please send an email to your student's counselor requesting a virtual conference and we work to schedule an online meeting via zoom.

Online scheduler is now live. Sign up for your conference by using this link:

[Parent/Student/Teacher Conference Scheduler, Oct. 20-21, 2021](#)

# PICTURE RETAKE DAY IS COMING

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**  
**\ miércoles, 13 de octubre, 2021**

Mears Middle School

You can still order on [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com)  
with your Picture Day ID:  
**EVTJFPMBC**

*Ya llega el día de la nueva toma fotográfica  
Aún puedes encargar en [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com) con tu ID del Día de la Foto.*

74372 © 2020 Shutterfly Lifetouch, LLC





# Remember Your Chromebooks, Mears

Beginning the week of 10/4, Mears will seriously curtail the practice of checking out Chromebooks to students during school. At this point, all students have been provided the opportunity to check out a Chromebook from ASD. If they have declined, it is because they have their own Chromebook. It is incredibly important that students remember to charge and bring their Chromebook to school each day. Students leaving class to check out Chromebooks interferes with their education and prevents staff from taking care of work that enhances your child's education.

Please make Chromebook preparation part of your student's nightly and morning routine. Teachers will have a few power cords in their classes, but students should also bring this item, too. I've been reminding students that this is part of being responsible at school over the last few days. Please work with Mears to ensure that your student brings his/her Chromebook fully charged each day. Finally, if for some reason, your student has need of a Chromebook, please contact Mears soon, and we'll take care of that: 742-6400.

Thanks,  
Mike Scott  
Assistant Principal

## Mears Activities Update

### 2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun four great activities a Mears as of Thursday, August 19th: Girls Basketball, Baseball, Archery, and Cross Country. Practices run daily from 3-4:30 PM; please be punctual for pick up, as coaches cannot leave until students are picked up.



ASD's guidance indicates that students are not required to wear masks during active portions of practice, but I encourage all the students to wear masks at all times, particularly those involved in indoor activities. This promotes safety and helps allow for continuation of the activity in the even of a positive case.

Additionally, coaches will take temperatures prior to practice with a forehead-scanning thermometer. They will also encourage the use of hand sanitizer and social distancing when possible.

**Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:**

- Middle School Participation Form
  - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk\\_MrWgZd4mjAkPMj5/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk_MrWgZd4mjAkPMj5/view)
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
  - <https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4260/COVID-19%20Waiver.pdf>
- COVID-19 Return To Play
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>
- Health Examination Form
  - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11I5oSifxCsxF-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/view>

Added to these forms, if a student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the three months prior to the activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form.

Forms can be scanned and emailed to our AAFP: [spartz-hays\\_robin@asdk12.org](mailto:spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org) or dropped off at the school by your student near the main office between periods 1 and 2: designated basket supervised by Ms. Spartz-Hays.

Visit Mears website for all activities updates and information:  
<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4260>

## Upcoming Activity Events

### **Cross Country Running Meets:**

10/13/21: Kincaid Park-Championships: 1:30 PM Start Time

### **Girls Basketball: Any student spectators must be accompanied by a parent or guardian**

10/9/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule and Coach Handout

### **Wrestling**

This sport starts on 10/11/21. We look forward to seeing your students there!

### **Volleyball**

This sport starts on 10/25/21. We look forward to seeing your students there!

# Safety Minute:

## Warm Clothing and Safe Walking

Mears Families:

Please be certain to remind your students that cold weather has arrived. It's critical that all students wear clothing to cover their bodies, for there's always a chance we may need to spend time outside in the event of an emergency. **This includes suitable footwear; students may not wear open-toed shoes 2nd and 3rd quarter for safety reasons.**

Additionally, students should be certain to wear school-appropriate clothing. Finally, bright, reflective clothing should be considered if your student walks to school, for it's tough to see students on these dark mornings. I'll remind students in the announcements, too.

Have a great start to fall!

Mike Scott, Mears AP

## Honoring Veterans

### Veterans Day Photo Form

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thursday, November 11, 2021, is Veterans Day. Mears Middle School will observe Veterans Day on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> where we have a virtual assembly honoring all our veterans. Additionally, part of the virtual assembly will include a slideshow. If you would like a photo of a veteran in your family included in the slideshow, please email the photo and the required information to [hannam.leslie@asdk12.org](mailto:hannam.leslie@asdk12.org) (**Email Subject: Veterans Day**). Forms need to be submitted by Monday, 11/1, and cannot be accepted after that date.

Sincerely,  
Mears Staff

*Please send the following information and a photo to Mrs. Hannam by Monday, 11/1/21.*

Student name and relation to veteran: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran's title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Example

*Student name and relation: Jon Smith's Grandpa*

*Grade: 8*

*Veteran's title and name: Col. Archie Sykes*

# Library at Mears



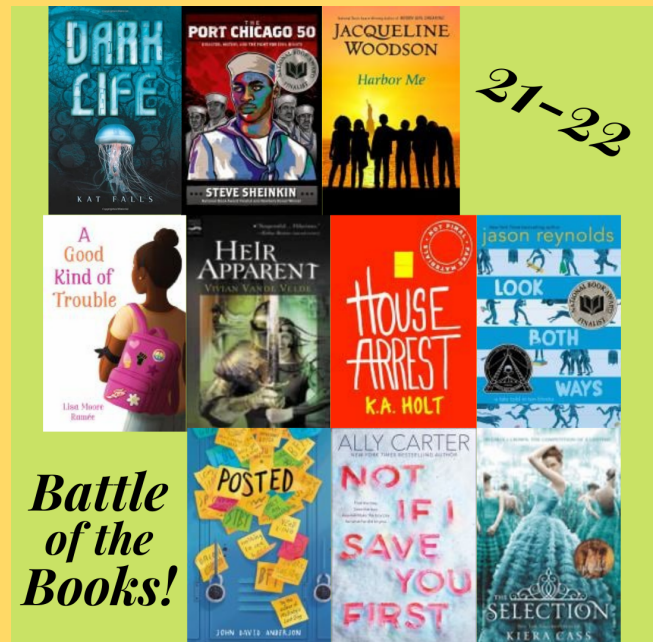
Cinema class has been creating sets and filming silent movies this week in the library alongside students checking out books to read when they finish with the MAP test.

Also, new books have arrived! Each book goes through a process to get it ready for the shelves and to add it to our public access catalog.

## Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books meetings will be held on Tuesdays. A meeting will be held during both lunch periods. Once practice questions are available we will increase the number of days we meet.

**TITLE CHANGE!** *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* was dropped from this years' battle list. *Dark Life* by Kat Falls is the replacement title. Copies of all books are available.





# Panthers are Writers



## October Creative Writing Contest



### A moose, a mask and Mears

Write a story that contains these 3 items in it. Stories should have a clear beginning middle and end and should contain memorable characters.

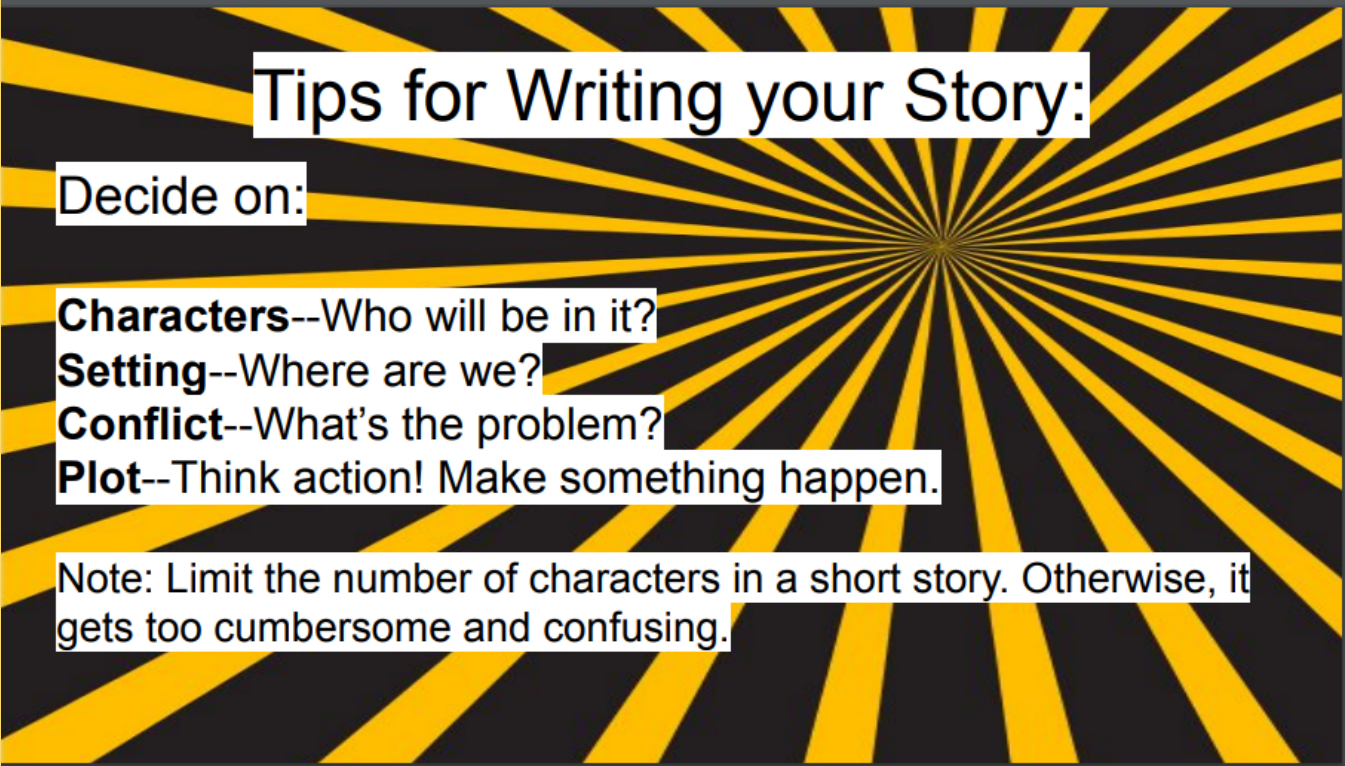
**Submission deadline:**  
**Friday, October 29th**

**Length Limit: 1,000 words**

See next slides for additional hints and guidelines.

## How to submit your story:

1. Join Panther Participation by clicking on the course in Canvas.
2. Click the link below to make a copy of the Googledocument. (You will need to have your Google drive open in your ASD account.)
3. Write your story in the Google document provided, then upload it to the October Writing Contest inside Panther Participation.



## Tips for Writing your Story:

Decide on:

**Characters**--Who will be in it?

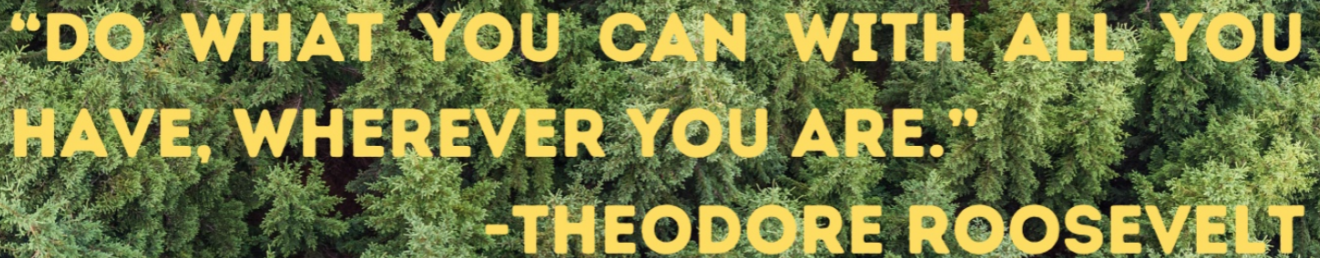
**Setting**--Where are we?

**Conflict**--What's the problem?

**Plot**--Think action! Make something happen.

Note: Limit the number of characters in a short story. Otherwise, it gets too cumbersome and confusing.

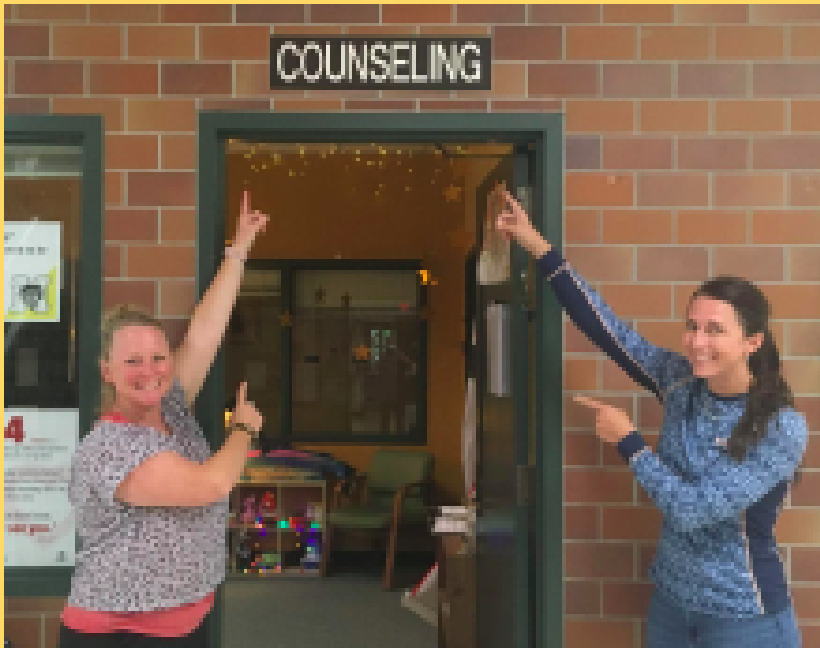
## Mears Counseling Corner



**"DO WHAT YOU CAN WITH ALL YOU  
HAVE, WHEREVER YOU ARE."  
-THEODORE ROOSEVELT**

Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

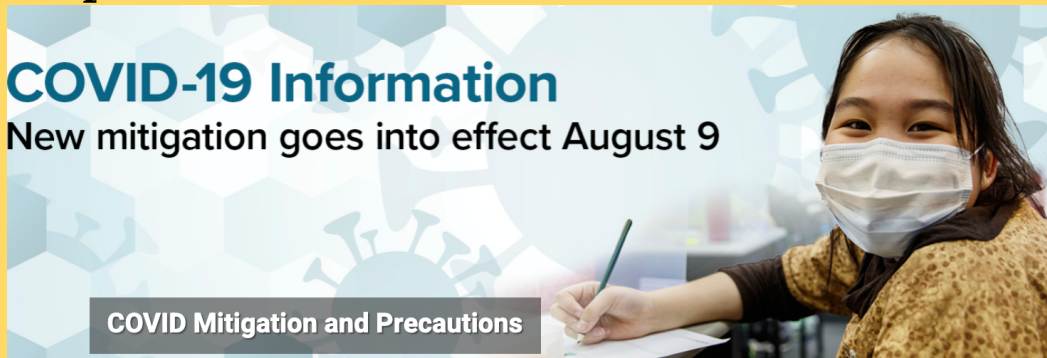
Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)



Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade  
[burr\\_caitlin@asdk12.org](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade  
[svendsen\\_crysta@asdk12.org](mailto:svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6428

## Nurse Dan's Health Update Important Covid Health Reminder:



### Please stay home if you're feeling sick

Just a reminder to parents and students. To help mitigate the COVID-19 pandemic please do not come to school if you are feeling sick. If you start to feel sick during the day, come to the nurse's office for an evaluation. We are working hard to keep all students and staff healthy and following this process will help.



## Free Covid-19 Vaccinations Available at Mears, Oct. 21

COVID vaccine clinic. Mears will be hosting a COVID vaccine clinic on October 21st from 12 noon to 7 PM. This is an opportunity for any eligible person (12 years old or older) to begin or continue the vaccination process. Yes pfizer boosters will be available to those eligible to receive the booster. For information on booster recommendations visit the CDC website. If you have questions feel free to contact Nurse Dan at 742-6401. Please take advantage of this opportunity and remember there is no charge to you or your insurance for this clinic.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



### **PTSA Meets This Week**

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

### **PTSA General Meeting -- Oct. 12, 5:30pm**

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

[Mears PTSA Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2513 4041

Passcode: 436866

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.



### PTSA Volunteer Needs

We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

## Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 – 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now!  
Purchase your yearbook at  
[www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com) use Yearbook ID:  
13921122 Mears PTSA

# Community Service Leads School Recycling Effort



Special thanks to the students in Mr. Ross' Community Service students, who are collecting the school's recycling every Friday.

Thank you for your service!

## Go Panthers!

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## We are on Dena'ina Homeland

Mears Middle School acknowledges that we operate and gather on the traditional land of the Dena'ina Peoples and honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

## Mears Middle School Mission

Through teamwork and cooperation, all students become partners in their own educational progress, fostering self-respect, responsibility and integrity.

[Mears Middle School Website](#)