



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Wednesday, November 25, 2020/Special Edition

Mears Celebrates and Says Thank You!



Mears Teachers and Staff express their thanks and gratitude to all the students, parents, and families at Mears. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving to you all!

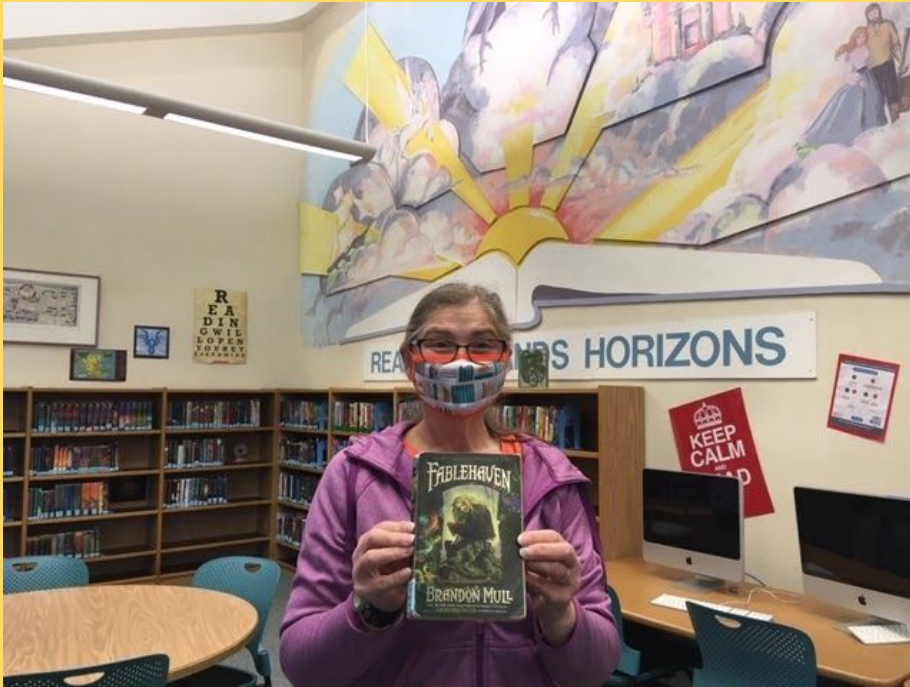


Mears Students, Parents, and Families,

On behalf of all the teachers and staff members at Mears, we want you all to know how incredibly thankful we are that each of you belongs to our wonderful school community. On the eve of this Thanksgiving, we want you all to know that we are so very grateful for the opportunity to learn and grow alongside all of our students during this historic school year. Under these trying circumstances, our students have worked very hard and have shown considerable perseverance, patience, good humor and grace. Similarly, our parents and families have been tremendously supportive of our efforts to adjust to an entirely new way to deliver the best education possible...from a distance. To our parents and families, we deeply appreciate and honor the trust you have put in us as we work to educate your children and support their growth and development. Over this long weekend, please take some time to relax and enjoy the beautiful outdoors. Remember to stay safe and enjoy time with your family. From all of us at Mears, have a wonderful Thanksgiving. --Eric



Ms. Heather Fleming is Honored with Prestigious Denali Award



Ms. Heather Fleming, Mears' amazing librarian and teacher leader, has been selected for the Anchorage School District's prestigious Denali Award. Chosen from among numerous nominees, Ms. Fleming has been recognized for her outstanding achievement, service, and dedication to the Mears community and the entire school district.

Ms. Courtney Spann is Recognized as Distinguished Early Career Professional



Congratulations to Ms. Courtney Spann, Mears' incredible Speech-Language Pathologist, who has been recognized by the American Speech and Language Association as a distinguished Early Career Professional. Ms. Spann is an extremely talented and dedicated professional who does essential work in supporting young people and their families. She is a strong collaborator who is a valuable asset to the SPED department, Mears athletics, and the staff as a whole.

Congratulations, Ms. Spann! You are most deserving of this award.

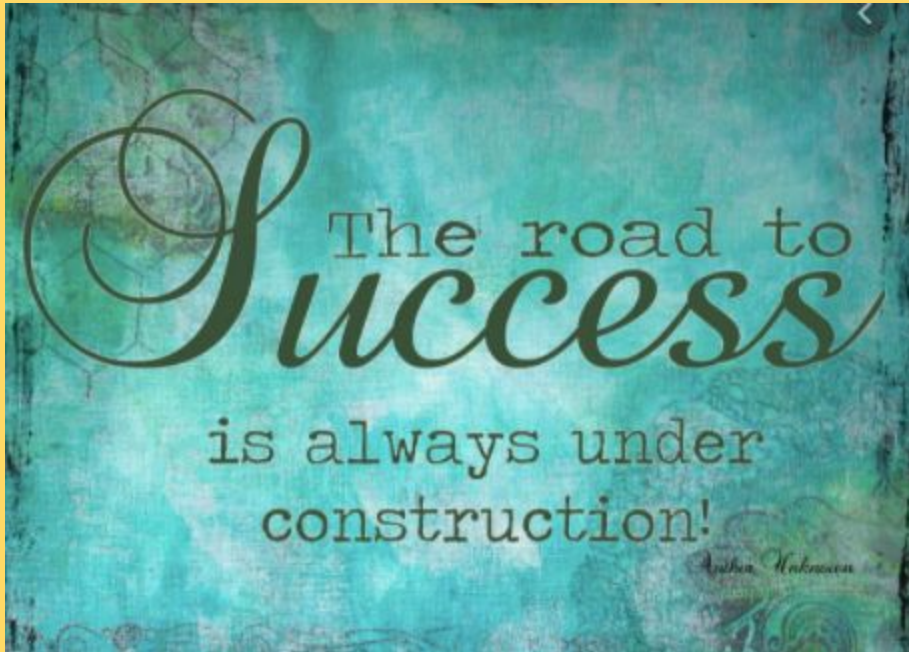
Hard Work Pays Off!

Celebrating Honor Roll Students

Grade Level	3.0-3.99 GPA	4.0 GPA	Overall %
7th	141 students	90 students	63%
8th	179 students	40 students	64%

Mears Middle School is extremely proud of the high level of achievement that so many of our students are reaching. The chart above shows that a majority of students at Mears have made the Honor Roll for the first quarter. Out of 706 students at Mears (366 7th graders and 340 8th graders), 450, 64% of the total, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. It is also worth noting that the vast majority of students at Mears are passing all of their classes, with many students extremely close to achieving the 3.0 GPA mark. All of us at Mears continue to encourage our students to give their best effort every day and to work hard for the remainder of the second quarter, which ends on December 17th.

Finish Strong and Push to Pass



Upon our return to school after Thanksgiving Break, Mears teachers and staff will be promoting a school-wide message to **Finish Strong and Push to Pass** all second quarter classes. Students in danger of failing classes will be identified and given some extra support and encouragement as we head into the final weeks of the quarter.

Passing all classes in middle school is an extremely important indicator of likely success in high school and beyond.

Parents and families should also support this effort. Your student's grades are continually updated in Q, which is viewable in QParentConnection. If you do not know your pin or password, please call the front office at 907-742-6400 or call your counselor to get that important information.

Parent/Family Tools:

- Q Parent Connection for checking grades: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1697>
- Canvas Parent Observer (see attachment) Link for detailed class info and student progress in Canvas: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5039>
- Mears Landing Pad (see attachment for Clever access) for Applications being used this year and helpful tech tips: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4940>
- There is tutoring and homework help available, contact your counselor for more information.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Nov. 30 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am Planning and CT before and after school
Tuesday/Dec. 1 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Wednesday/Dec. 2 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am Covid-19 Subcommittees, 11:00 am-12:00 pm Departments, 12:45-1:45pm Student Advisory Board, 1:00-2:00pm
Thursday/Dec. 3 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Friday/Dec. 4 --	Planning and CT before and after school

Get Involved & Stay Connected:

Why Not Wednesday #4 Show You're Thankful

This week's Why Not Wednesday is going to require some creativity... Show you're thankful!

The challenge is to pick a person that you are thankful for and SHOW them how thankful you are for them by doing something nice for them. You could make a gift, write a heartfelt thank you letter, shovel the driveway for them, make a meal, rub tired feet, take care of the dishes, etc.

We're all excited to see what each of you can come up with!!!

Don't forget to submit a picture to Mears Canvas Pictures.

Bookmark Contest Only 10 More Days

Go Virtual@your library™

2020 – 2021 Bookmark Design Contest

sponsored by the ASD Librarians

Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Go Virtual@your library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: 7" x 2 ¾" either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade

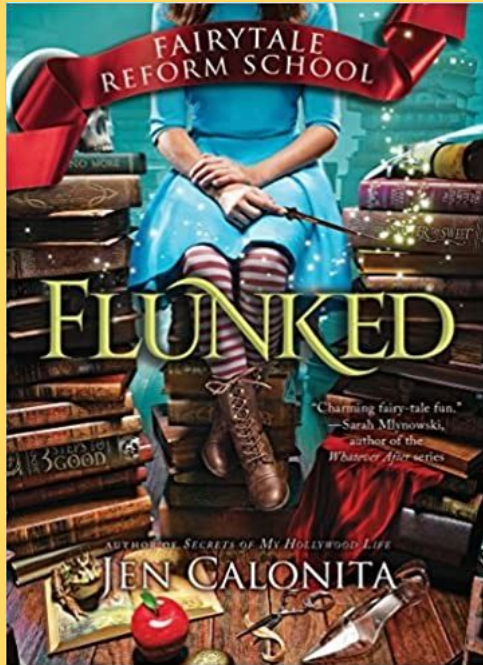
No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.

Use your imagination and any ideas relating to reading, literacy and the love of the library!

Entries are due November 30, 2020.

Ways to submit your entry: through Panther Pictures in Canvas, Google Drive, email, or drop it off at the school during curbside pickup hours (Tues. 11AM - 5PM, Thurs. 11AM - 3:30PM). Contact Mrs. Fleming, the librarian, at 742-6432 or fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you need to make alternative arrangements for submitting your entry.

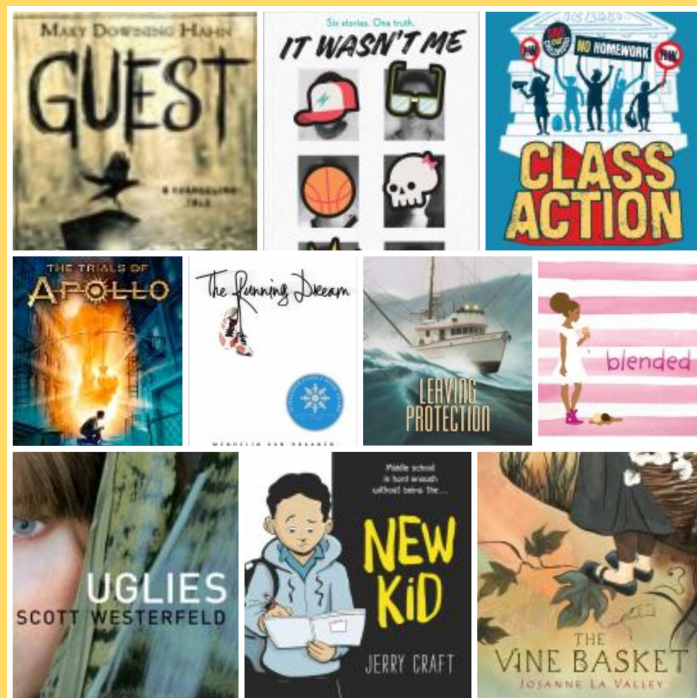
Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month, on Zoom, and we keep in contact through Canvas. Contact Mrs. Fleming for the Canvas join link. fleming_heather@asdk12.org or call 742-6432.

Each month, we have daring discussions and artful activities around the book, followed by the nomination of books and a vote on what title we will read for the next month. We are currently reading *Flunked*, by Lauren James. It is book one in the Fairytale Reform School series. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15th at 2:15 PM.** Come with a title to nominate for January.

Mears Battle of the Books



Battle meetings are on Wednesdays, at a new time: 12 PM (noon). Access Zoom links, discussions, activities, participate in the leaderboard, earn badges and more by joining the Mears Middle School Battle of the Books Canvas course. There won't be assignments or lessons, I promise.

Contact Mrs. Heather Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

November Writing Contest



I matter because...

Write a poem, short story, essay or a dramatic interpretation, either fiction or nonfiction, that addresses the theme, "I matter because..."

All of us have stories to tell. All are welcome and encouraged to join in! Feel free to direct any questions to Mr. Pease at pease_thomas@asdk12.org

Follow the Reflections guidelines for literature described on the PTSA website by clicking here.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B-URgyK-1gWbGchXpyOt1TvPRDBCaw7M/view>

Mears Writing Contest Deadline: **Monday, November 30th**. Write and Submit to the Mears Writing Contest.

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mears-creative-writing-contest/home>

PTSA Reflections Entry Form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wO6Mr68qfl0xFZunP2jA6UJAUozr3451/view>



Mears Counseling Corner

Need Support?

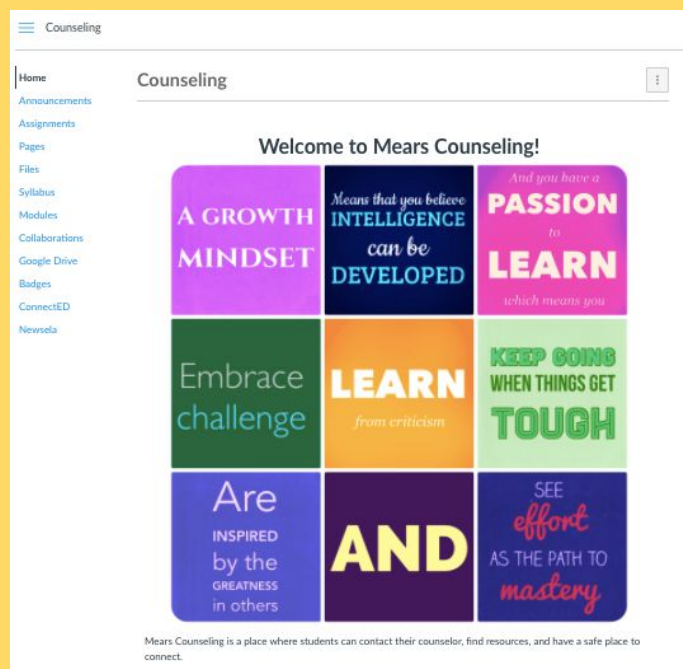
Want to be more Connected?

Interested in student chat groups?

Check out the calming rooms?

Build Lifelong Skills and Habits?

Come to Mears Counseling Corner!



Mears Counseling is a place where students can contact their counselor, find resources, and have a safe place to connect.

We are hoping to start chat groups soon on Wednesdays via Zoom from 12:30-1:30pm. Survey on topics is coming soon.

Plus lots of other cool stuff!!!

Link to the New Canvas Counseling Shell:

<https://asdk12.instructure.com/courses/160428>

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen, 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr, 907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 907-742-6426

Mears Outreach Counseling Page HELP Ticket <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Recently Updated: ASD's Health and Safety Covid Matrix

ASD's planning and decision-making process for determining the District's risk level for conducting school takes multiple community factors into consideration. The District conducts this process in close conversation with the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

In recent months, organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization have expanded their guidance and resources regarding safely providing public education. This new information includes a range of metrics and other criteria that allows districts, in close coordination with state and local health officials, to revise and adapt school opening guidelines based on the unique context of their community.

Here is a link to ASD's Covid Community Health Matrix: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



Congratulations to Mears' New President Curt Ehrhart and Sheila Hill as our new Treasurer.

Mears PTSA still has open leadership positions, including Vice President and Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to support this great organization and our wonderful school community.

Love art? Drawing? Photography? Writing? Dance? Create a project representing why You matter and submit to us for the National PTA Reflections Art Contest.

CALL FOR ENTRIES



What is Reflections? Watch this youtube video on what it is.

<https://youtu.be/IX-rzWHnY5Q>

Do you enjoy art, music, and dance or have an interest in writing, producing films, and taking photos? Then join us and have fun unleashing your inner artist with PTA Reflections! This year's theme, "I Matter Because...," calls for your own unique interpretation through the arts.

Pick up submission guidelines and an entry form today from www.MearsPTSA.com and return by **December 1, 2020**.

Submit digital copies of all entries to MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com. Save original work for us to collect at a later time

Divisions: Film Production, Visual Arts, Dance Choreographer, Music Composition, Special Artist, Photography, Group Dance, Cultural Heritage, and STEAM.

Student Entry Forms are found at www.MearsPTSA.com

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at PTA.org/Reflections/Awards.

Were on Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.The "Join for your child" logo, featuring the words "JOIN FOR YOUR CHILD" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters stacked vertically on an orange square background.The National PTA logo, featuring the word "National" in small black text above "PTA" in large, bold, italicized black letters, with the tagline "everychild.onevoice." in small black text below.

Thank you for the continued support of the Mears PTSA. Our school store sells PE approved clothing, beanies, baseball caps, hoodies and more is online www.MearsPTSA.com

Join Mears PTSA Membership become part of an organization that is the leading Child advocacy group in the Nation. You not only become a member of Mears. But Alaska PTA and National PTA. Membership benefits include Office Depot/Office Max, Hertz, and more.

Learn more about the benefits at www.MearsPTSA.com

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](#)