



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 26, 2021

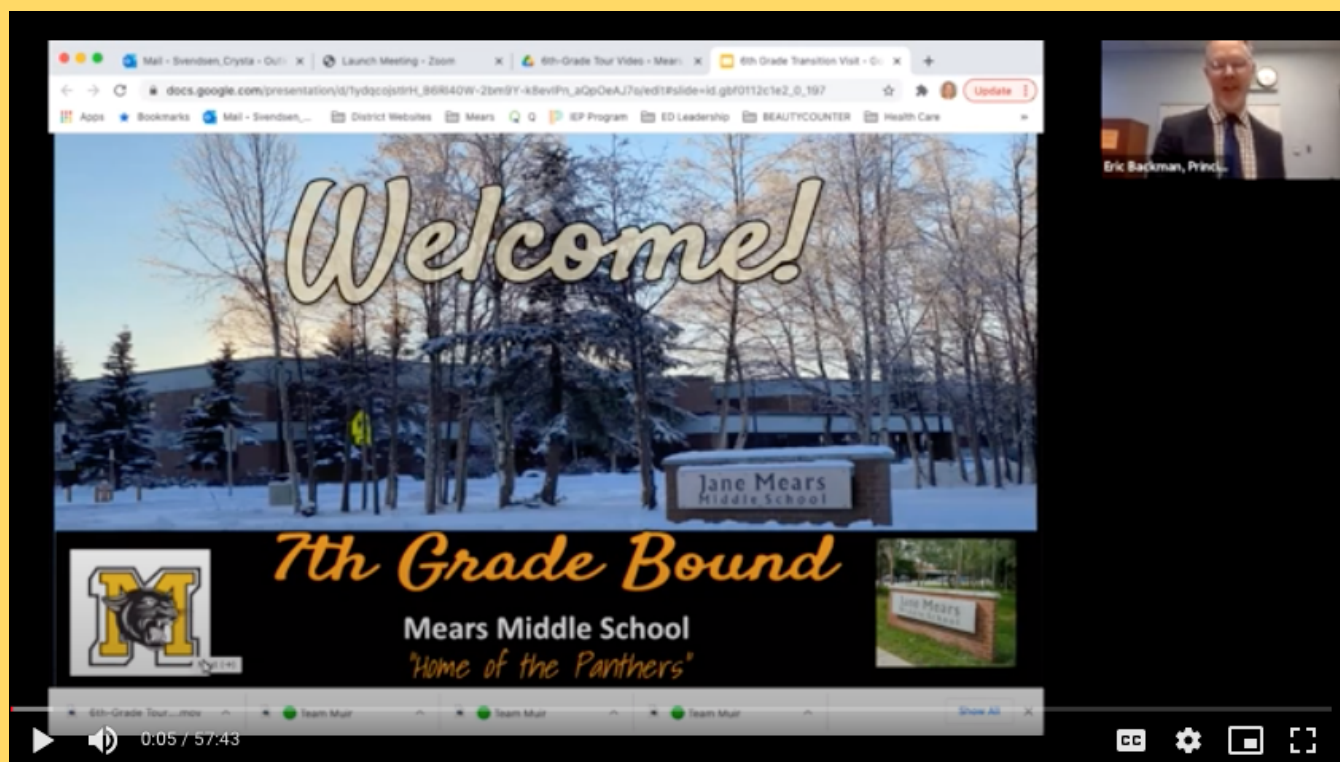
Mears Students Commit to Being Upstanders

The screenshot shows a Google Meet interface. On the left is a 4x3 grid of student video feeds. The names visible in the feeds are: Rihana Poshka, pak_sally, Noemi Flowers, #Odin Schnyder, Avery Johnson, Hunter Menck, Kiara Zhen Torralba, Titus Robinson, parker hampton, gauge mcclure, Thomas Erickson, Evan Hamey, Jack Keller, Kadyan Manansala, and Justin Keller. On the right is a digital workspace with a menu bar (File, Add-ons, Help) and a toolbar (Background, Layout, Theme, Transition). The workspace contains several sticky notes with names: Kadyan Manansala, Parker hampton, Evan Hamey, Titus Robinson, Jack Keller, Oliver Gray, Thomas erickson, Noemi Flowers, Hunter Menck, Valerie Shipley, Rihana Poshka, Justin Keller, Ms. Pak, Odin Schnyder, Avery Johnson, and Kiara Torralba. To the right of the sticky notes is a document titled 'THE NO PLACE FOR HATE® PLEDGE' for Middle / High School. The pledge text is as follows:

- I WILL SEEK TO GAIN UNDERSTANDING of those who are different from myself.
- I WILL SPEAK OUT against prejudice and discrimination.
- I WILL REACH OUT to support those who are targets of hate.
- I WILL PROMOTE RESPECT for people and help foster a prejudice-free school.
- I BELIEVE that one person can make a difference - no person can be an "innocent" bystander when it comes to opposing hate.
- I RECOGNIZE that respecting individual dignity and promoting inter-group harmony are the responsibilities of all students.

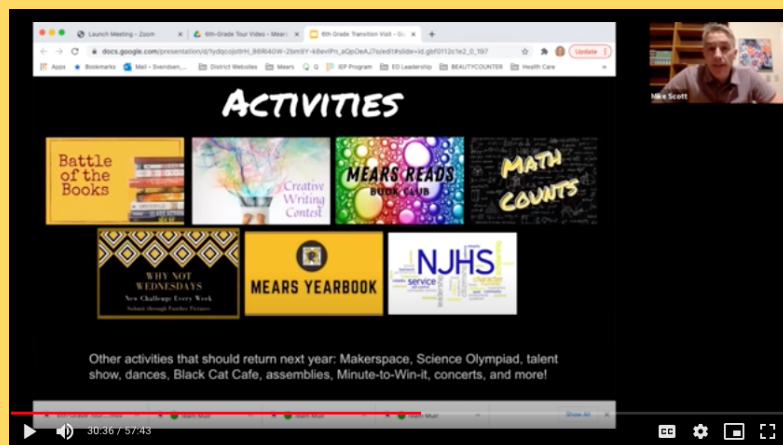
At Mears, we want all of our students to be “upstanders” and to actively support a campus culture that is safe and welcoming for all. For this reason, we have embraced the No Place for Hate Pledge, which promotes six different proactive behaviors that encourage understanding, respect, and a strong stance against bullying. Students in all second period classes have reviewed and discussed the Pledge with their teachers and have signed the document using electronic signatures. Here’s the link to the Anti-Defamation League’s [No Place for Hate Education Program](#)

Mears Welcomes Class of 2027!



On Thursday evening, Feb. 25, Mears hosted its annual Welcome to Mears 6th Grade Family Orientation Event. The online presentation provided new and returning families with lots of great information about the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

The event allowed new students and their families to get to meet a number of Mears teachers and staff, including the department chairpersons, counselors, office staff, and administrators. The presentation included a virtual tour of the school, information about course sign ups, and tips for success in middle school. Special thanks goes out to Mears counseling team, who did tremendous work organizing and promoting this successful event. Thanks also goes out to all the teachers and staff who attended and welcomed all the new students and their families to the Panther Family.



In case you were not able to attend the event, here is a link to a video recording of the entire presentation:

[Welcome to Mears 6th Grade Families](#)

Preparation and Excitement for Students Return



Ms. Liza Tran and Ms. Marisa Massey were back at school on Friday, Feb. 26 to prepare classrooms for the return of the Panthers!

Information Week is Coming, March 1-5

Safety Mini-Lessons

During the week of March 1st, second-period teachers will take some time to share information about Mears Middle School's safety plan with students. These mini lessons will reflect the school-adopted, District-approved plan available to all on the ASD website. However, the plan is around 15 pages in length, so these lessons will capture some of the most critical information, and by having the teachers deliver the information, students are more likely to employ these practices from day one.

These mini lessons will be delivered during 2nd period on March 1st, 2nd, and 4th.

Monday, March 1st-Mini Lesson 1: Student Safety: This lesson will focus on the big-picture practices and approaches that will enhance safety at Mears during the 4th quarter.

Tuesday, March 2nd-Mini Lesson 2: Student Nutrition During COVID-19: This lesson will discuss safety and nutrition at Mears, emphasizing the 2nd-period snack walk that we believe will help promote safety, while giving the students a break from desk time.

Thursday, March 4th-Mini Lesson 3: Student Movement in the Building: This day will focus on safe movement through the building, bathroom usage, and, most importantly, the location of their first period class for 4th quarter. Teachers will also provide a pdf of each student's 4th quarter schedule, which can be printed or screenshot for their mobile devices.

Finally, we'll be certain to share links for all of these lessons in the next edition of the Panther Pride newsletter. We appreciate all of your encouragement to the staff and students of Mears Middle School as we approach the exciting time of school reentry. --The Mears Safety Team

Mears 10-Point Safety Plan for Students



10-Point Panther Path of Safety

- ❶ When on the Mears campus, keep your mask on at all times.
- ❷ Maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and your fellow students.
- ❸ Please always walk the one direction indicated by the hallway arrows.
- ❹ Do not gather or socialize in the hallways: go directly to your class each period.
- ❺ Do not touch your face.
- ❻ Frequently wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.
- ❼ Request to use the restroom and place your restroom marker outside.
- ❽ Lockers will not be used.
- ❾ No guests in the building: students and staff only.
- ❿ Be safe for yourself and others.

The small in-school program at Mears will support students, while at the same time allow school personnel the opportunity to fine tune safety protocols and build community confidence as we prepare for a broader reopening of school at the beginning of 4th quarter on March 15.

As always, we will continue to provide our school community with updates in this newsletter, which is published every Friday. Go Panthers!

Here is a link to the [ASD School Safety Plans](#), where you will find all the details for Mears' Covid safety protocols.

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: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff Meeting Schedule

Monday/March 1 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00am Planning and CT after school
Tuesday/March 2 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Wednesday/March 3 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am Canvas Open Hours Support Session, 9:00-10:00am Departments, 12:45-1:45pm
Thursday/March 4 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Friday/March 5 --	End of 3rd Quarter/No School for Students Staff In-Service Day

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any assistance in preparing for the 4th quarter, please fill out a HELP Ticket: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>



Brent Haugen,
907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr,
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen,
907-742-6426

Visit this link to meet Mears Counselors:

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mearsteachervideointros/home>

Upcoming Induction Ceremony for NJHS

Prospective NJHS Members: All applicants should have received their membership notification email on Monday! Please contact us if you have not.

New and Current Members:

The induction ceremony is Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:30pm.

Dress rehearsal is Wednesday, March 3rd at 2pm.

Family and friends are invited! Details were sent through email to new members. Details are on canvas for current members!



NJHS

Email us if you have questions/concerns:

Ms. Marah Lambert and Ms. Mia Sison, Co-Sponsors

Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org and Sison_Mia@asdk12.org

We are excited to welcome the new NJHS members at Wednesday's Induction Ceremony!! Congratulations to the new members!

Panthers are Writers: Deadline is Feb. 26

Write It Like Amanda!

Amanda Gorman is the youngest poet/writer to read at a presidential inauguration. She's also our nation's first youth poet laureate. And she's only 22! You can watch her perform again at this year's Super Bowl.

Submit in Panther Pictures
Course inside Canvas.



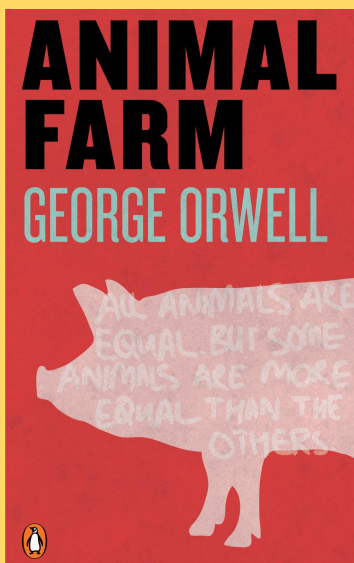
Advance to slide 2 for more information.

In this month's contest, you will write a poem while experimenting with some of the same techniques Amanda Gorman used in her poem, "The Hill We Climb." Select a line from Ms. Gorman's poem to use as the title or first line of your poem.

Entry deadline: Friday, Feb 26th.

For all contest details go to: [Mears Creative Writing Contest Information](#)

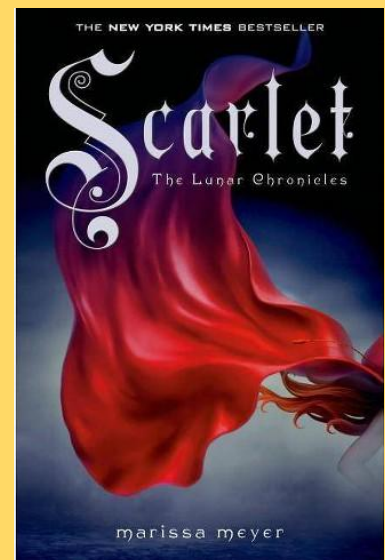
Panthers are Readers Mears Reads Book Club



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

March will have TWO meetings and TWO books! We are reading *Animal Farm* by George Orwell for March 2nd and then we will continue the Lunar Chronicles series by reading *Scarlet* by Marissa Meyer for March 23rd. Both meetings will begin at 2:15PM.

If you would like to join us for one or both meetings contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through a student's Inbox in Canvas.



Library at Mears in Canvas



Students received an invitation to add the Library at Mears to their Canvas dashboards.

The Canvas shell for the library allows students to link directly to the catalog, get tutorials on SORA, access to databases (and their passwords), Noodletools, research skills, and more.

There are no assignments associated with the Library at Mears Canvas.



PTA Fundraising Opportunity



2020 was a rough year for all businesses; the Black Cat Cafe is no exception. The lack of income means we need to get creative with our fundraising. Let me introduce my nominee: "Ducks 4 Bucks"!

Event Description:

We are selling Ducks for \$4 on our school store at the following link:

<https://mearsptsa.memberhub.store/store/items/671092>

We will securely attach your order number(s) to our yellow rubber duckies. These ducks will be fired from a student built [trebuchet](#) at a target 200 ft. away. If the duck can successfully hit the target, you will be awarded a hoodie from our school store!

We currently sold more ducks than anticipated and we **need** PTSA assistance for this event.

I'm currently in **need** of

- social media type person
- graphics person
- writer
- few camera operators that are not afraid of flying ducks

More information at the **next** PTSA meeting. *By the way, did you pay this year's dues?*





Team Clothes Order Forms

- [Taku](#)
- [Echo](#)
- [Surprise](#)
- [Raven](#)
- [Muir](#)
- [Eklutna](#)
- [Blackstone](#)

The school store now has masks!

Order online and you can pick up at the school while supporting the PTSA!

<https://mearsptsamemberhub.store/store/items/123659>

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 and 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 at www.MearsPTSA.com

Ways you can help us raise funds doing your day to day shopping and holiday shopping.

Amazon Smile smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999

Shutterfly <http://mearsptsashutterflystorefront.com>



<https://twitter.com/MearsPtsa>

Mears Teachers and Staff Return



On Friday, Feb. 26, the staff parking lot was full of cars for the first time since last Spring. It is heartwarming to see the return of staff to the building to begin preparing for our students' return to school. We can't wait to see our students again. Go Panthers! --Eric

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](#)