



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, May 6, 2022

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## *Students Lead Public Forum on Constitution*



Under the skilled guidance of their social studies teacher, Mr. Nick Middleton, Mears 8th graders engaged this week in a series of public forums about United States Constitutional History. In small groups, students presented to a panel of judges who asked a series of challenging questions about colonial history, the Revolutionary War, and the US Constitution. The project, which is titled “We The People,” offers students the opportunity to practice essential academic skills, including critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and argumentation. The project also helps students understand and appreciate the origins of American democracy and rule of law.

**Go Panthers!**

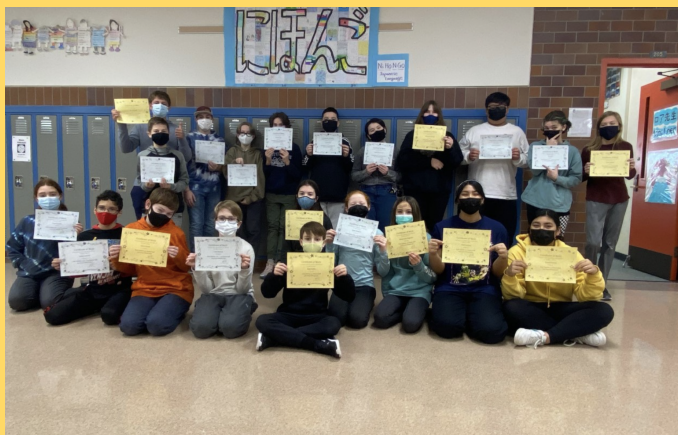
# Mears Q3 Honor Roll Totals, 2021-22

Grade	# and % of students with GPA of 3.0-3.9	# and % of students with GPA of 4.0	% of students
7th & 8th	260/36%	160/21%	47%

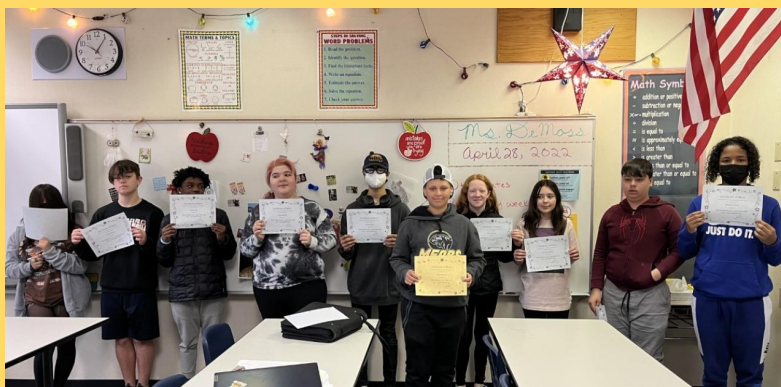
Total enrollment: 776 students overall/ 373 7th graders and 403 8th graders

Nearly half of Mears students made Honor Roll for quarter 3. One out of every five students at Mears has a perfect 4.0 GPA!

## Mears Celebrates Hard Work



Last week, students across Mears campus were recognized for their hard work and academic achievements during the 3rd quarter. Teachers had the pleasure of distributing Honor Roll certificates to all those students who earned GPAs of 3.0-3.99 and 4.0.



Above is a photo of Ms. Kiyoko Loer's Japanese Immersion students, followed by Ms. Roxanne DeMoss' students in math.

# Stay Informed/Get Involved

## Upcoming End-of-Year Events

Wed., May 11 – Staff Meeting, 3:00pm, Library

Wed. & Thurs. May 11 & 12 – Mears Music Performances, 7-8:00pm MPR

Thursday, May 12 – Mears 4.0 Breakfast, 7:30am, MPR

Thursday, May 12 – School Dance, 3:00-4:30pm, MPR, Tickets are \$2

Thursday, May 19 – Last Day of School, 8th Grade Collaborative Team Student Recognition Ceremonies, 8th Grade Bash Field-day Celebration

Friday, May 20 – Teacher Work Day

## May 3 - May 19 – **Finish Strong School-wide Campaign**

Students are strongly encouraged to give it their all these last two weeks of school. Students should check in with all their teachers about missing assignments, upcoming tests and quizzes, and final projects. We want every student at Mears to finish the year strong so that they can feel proud of their accomplishments and have confidence that their final grades reflect their best effort.

## Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age

Through the generous support of Mears PTSA, the original Screenagers film is available for free to all members of the Mears school community for the next two weeks.



Film viewing available at no cost for the Mears school community, April 22-May 10

<https://www.eventcombo.com/e/screenagers-growing-up-in-the-digital-age-presented-by-mears-45898>



# Spring Neighborhood Cleanup



On Saturday, April 30, approximately 50 Mears students participated in the Spring Neighborhood Clean Up. Pictured here are students who found and disposed of an old car engine found near a park nearby. Special thanks to Ms. Mia Sison and Mr. Greg Ross who led this community service effort.

# Student Leaders Complete No Place for Hate Training



- Address school-based issues
- Have a school-wide impact
- Focus on **inclusivity** & community
- Honor **diversity** and foster belonging
- Promote **respect** for individual group differences
- Involve **ACTIVE** learning
- Involve discussion



A cohort of Mears 7th and 8th graders completed their third No Place for Hate training session for school leaders. Led by facilitators with The Anti Defamation League, Mears students learned about the negative impact of bias, bullying, and exclusion in a school

setting. The third training focused on tools and skills for building a safe and inclusive school community.



# Mears Library

## Working hard, or hardly working?



## Mears Health Update:

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/returntoschoolpolicy/return-to-schoolwork>

- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

Other Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)  
[ASD Covid Information Link](#)



# Panther Positive Behavior Contest



In the interest of encouraging and acknowledging positive behavior at Mears, we began our Panther Positive Behavior Contest. Each week, I provide tickets to teachers and staff. I announce a particular positive behavior we're targeting that week (i.e. seated and ready to learn when the bell rings), and teachers and staff provide students that exhibit these behaviors with tickets. Then students place the tickets in the contest box in the library, and I draw two names from each grade level at the end of the

day Friday. On Monday, I announce the winners, and they receive a small prize and congratulations. Their names are also emblazoned on the nearby library wall. It's a great opportunity to encourage students to employ positive behaviors. I want to thank Ms. Fleming for the space and the cool wall display and Mr. Anderson for building the box expressly for this purpose. Finally, I would like to thank the Foundations team at Mears for making this idea a reality: see image.

Great job, everyone!

Mike Scott, Mears AP

## Mears Activities Update

Mears Families:

The track season's final events are occurring next week. Please see the ASD schedule for track in the link below for any questions:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSddovJU77zzzfz298lFwll2rUudSkNID1dSDOs5TLyXX0iEU9mRKGKsKm5k-UEEsrsCJP5cOf4uqBK/pubhtml>

Students are also enjoying soccer and tennis/pickleball. Thanks to Mears families for encouraging students to join in the fun!

Best Wishes,

Mike Scott, Mears AP



**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-MNlknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/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>



# COVID-19 Return To Play

In addition to the standard forms and COVID-19 waiver, if a student has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and seeks to begin or return to a sport or activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form. The school nurse can provide more information; however, it's essentially a form (linked above and below) that requires 2 steps:

1. If the student has a confirmed positive COVID-19 test, a healthcare professional must sign off that he/she is able to return to the sport or activity prior to participation (not required to return to school).
2. Upon submission of this form, coaches will employ the slow re-entry process to ensure safety. **Please view the document to see the transitional return process. (Apologies: Last week I included the wrong link-please view this one).**
  - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>

Although the form is not new, our employment of the document will be more stringent. All families that agree to participate in sports sign the COVID-19 waiver, which makes the Return to Play documentation part of the process. Our hope is to enhance safety and help students as they restart strenuous activity. If you have any questions please contact Mike Scott, Mears AP, or Karin Richards, Mears Nurse.

[scott\\_michael@asdk12.org](mailto:scott_michael@asdk12.org)  
[richards\\_karin@asdk12.org](mailto:richards_karin@asdk12.org)

## Mears Counseling Corner

### Future Freshman of Dimond High School Class of 2026!



Current 8th grade students, who will be entering Dimond High School in the fall of 2022, and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. We'll share information about 9th grade classes, sports, and activities. Department chairs, counselors and teachers will also be onsite to answer questions. Please see the flier below for more information.

[DHS Transition to High School Resources](#)



Team Echo prepares to depart for their tour at DHS.

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



**Upcoming PTSA General Meeting -- May 17, 2022 5:30pm**

Final Meeting of the Year!

[Mears PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

**7th Graders-Be Sure to Get Your Mears Gear for Next Year**

We are proud to announce our new Mears PTSA School Store Online! We are able to bring many brand-name items delivered directly to your home!

<https://mearsptsa.squarespace.com/>

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# Mears Appreciates Its Amazing Teachers!



At the close of Teacher Appreciation Week 2022, I would like all of our families to take a moment to reflect on the many contributions our teachers have made to the growth and wellbeing of our students this year. Mears teachers have worked tirelessly throughout the school year on behalf of all the young people who are the heartbeat of the Mears community. Thank you to all Mears teachers and educators everywhere for supporting young people and strengthening our communities!

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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](#)