



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 18, 2020

Students Take a Virtual Field Trip to China



Through initiative and innovation, Mears staff members are doing an incredible job of bringing virtual education to life. This week, Ms. Cheryl Fischer and Daria Ulikhina, both Teacher's Assistants in Ms. Ali Lindsey's Life Skills class, have collaborated to create an interactive virtual field trip to China. Next week, students in the class will get to explore Chinese folktales, hieroglyphic art, paper mache dragon making, and traditional festivals. Special thanks to Mears staff members who do so much to support our students and to make learning fun and engaging. --Eric

CTE Delivers



Last week, Ms. Diane McLaughlin, Mears incredible Design and Modeling instructor, handed out modeling supply kits to all of her students. The kits allow students to build and tinker at home, while exploring this exciting hands-on Project Lead The Way curriculum.

“Two Roads Diverged...”

A screenshot of a Google Meet session. On the left, a grid of video feeds shows a teacher and several students. The main screen displays a PDF document titled "1.3 Choices in Poetry.pdf". The document features the poem "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost. A "Knowledge Question" is visible on the left side of the PDF, asking about the impact of choices. A "My Notes" section is at the bottom. A pop-up window defines the word "diverged" as a verb meaning to separate from another route and go in a different direction.

This week, Mr. Thomas Pease led a fantastic lesson on the famous Robert Frost poem, “The Road Not Taken.” During the lesson, students were given the opportunity to learn about Frost’s life and writing, in addition to the use of imagery, rhythm, and figurative language. Mr. Pease treated his students to a powerful reading of the poem as well.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Sept. 21 -- Staff Meeting 8:00-8:35am

Tuesday/Sept. 22 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Wednesday/Sept. 23 -- Staff Meeting 8:00-9:00am, CT Leaders
10:30am-12:00pm, Collaborative Team Gatherings, 7th Grade 1:00-1:45pm and
8th Grade 1:45-2:30pm

Thursday/Sept. 24 -- Planning and CT before and after school, Family Open
House, 6:30pm

Friday/Sept. 25 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Parents and Families

Wednesday/Sept. 23 -- Mears Collaborative Team Gatherings, 1:00-1:45 7th
Grade Teams (Blackstone, Eklutna, Surprise) and 1:45-2:30 8th Grade Teams
(Echo, Muir, Raven)

Thursday/Sept. 24 -- Family Night Open House, 6:30pm All students,
parents, and families welcome

Topic: Mears Family Open House
Time: Sep 24, 2020 06:30 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

Contact Mears Middle School for the Zoom link to Open House, 742-6400

Monday-Friday/Sept. 21-25 -- Textbook return for current 8th and 9th
graders, 8:00am-3:00pm on the east side of the Mears school building.

Important Updates:

Calling Student Leaders!



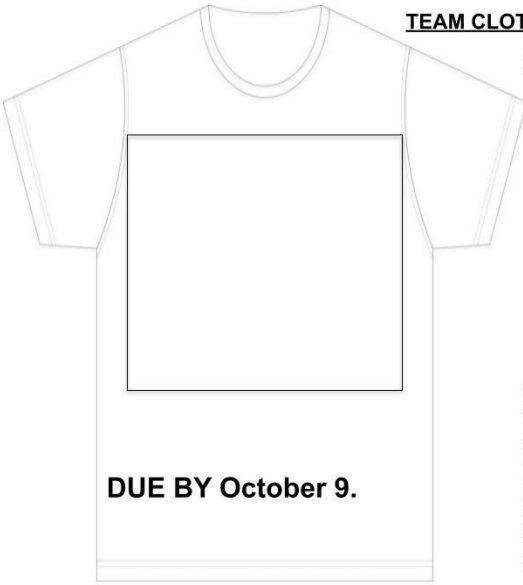
Are you interested in developing your leadership skills? Are you interested in working with others to help make Mears the best school it can be?

Mears is now accepting applications for Student Advisory Board, 2020-21.

Use this link to submit your application now:
[Mears Student Advisory Board Application, 2020-21](#)

Mike Scott, Assistant Principal, leads a discussion during a Student Advisory Board meeting last year.

Deadline Extended to Oct. 9: Student Team Clothing Design Contest



TEAM CLOTHING DESIGN CONTEST

Design requirements:

- 1 Color (no exceptions)
- Think of your team color/s and name
- Image will only be on front (inside the square) of shirt and hoodies
- DO NOT include year
- Can be hand drawn or digitally drawn in the color of your team (ex. Red Mountains for Eklutna)
- Include your name with drawing

Once a design is picked.
Pre-Orders will then take place.

Shirts will be \$15
Hoodies will be \$30

******Each winning design/ team will receive a Free Team T Shirt.**

Email your Team Teacher the design of your shirt OR
MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com
www.MearsPTSA.com

DUE BY October 9.

Students are strongly encouraged to enter the design contest for Mears Teams clothing and swag! Artwork is due by the end of September and should be submitted to Mears PTSA. Designs will be used for each team's t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other items.

Free Flu Immunizations for All ASD Students



Drive-Through Immunization Clinics

FREE to all ASD Students

State Required Immunizations

DTaP, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, MMR,
Varicella, and combo vaccines

ASD Education Center

5530 E Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage AK 99504

September 26, 2020 (Saturday)

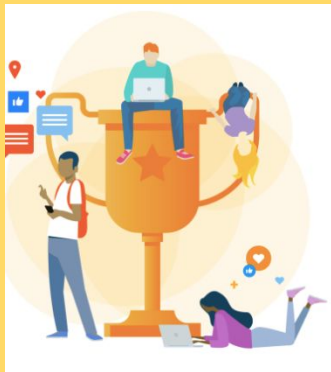
September 30, 2020 (Wednesday)

8AM - 8PM

Flu Shots FREE for the Community!

Brought to you by the ASD Healthcare Services Department in conjunction
with the Anchorage Public Health Department

ASD Adopts Online Safety Measure



Ensuring student health and safety is the highest priority at Mears and throughout ASD. For this reason, ASD has taken the step to proactively monitor student online content through the use of Gaggle, a cyber-security service that scans all documents in the Google educational suite that all ASD students use.

In a typical year, all content that is turned in by students is reviewed by teachers in a classroom setting. However, in the new virtual classroom environment, different tools need to be employed to help ensure student safety.

Beginning this school year, all documents that appear in a student's G-Suite will be reviewed for images and/or language that is inappropriate or in some way communicates a potential risk to student health and safety. If such content is detected, school administrators are contacted for further investigation.

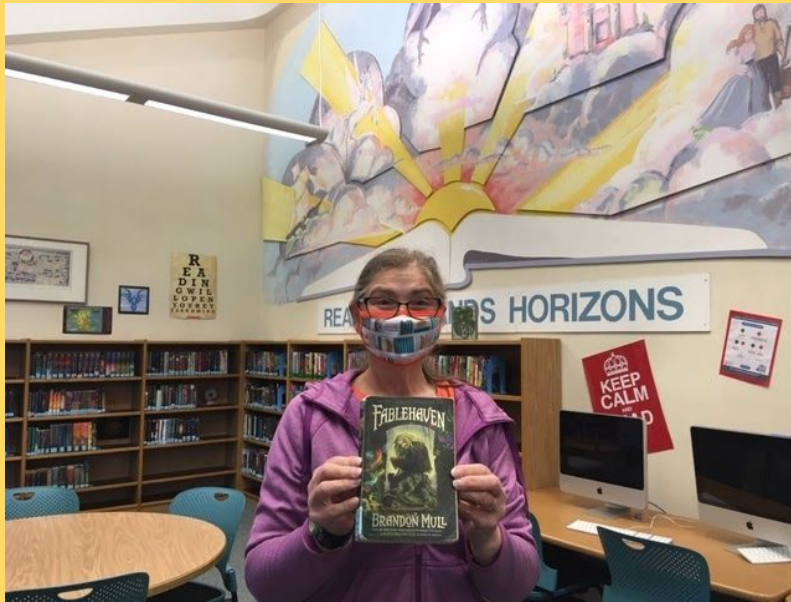
Teachers at Mears will be reviewing the purpose and function of Gaggle with students in the context of broader lessons about digital citizenship and safety. For more information, please review the link below and/or feel free to contact Mears school administration at 907-742-6400. <https://www.gaggle.net/>

Need Assistance at Mears?



[Mears Counseling](#)
[Counselor Help](#)
[Ticket Link](#)

Join Mears READS Book Club



Everyone is invited to join the Mears' book club! We will meet, through Zoom, on Wednesdays at noon.

There is also a Mears READS Google Classroom for announcements and activities. To join the Google Classroom, log in to your ASD Google Drive, click on the Google app waffle, and click on Classroom. (See the screen shot below.) Click the + sign and use the code: koudai5

koudai5

Our current book is, Fablehaven by Brandon Mull and we will choose a new title to read on the 9th. Contact Ms. Heather Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

ASD Technology Distribution

If your student needs a Chromebook device and/or internet connectivity, please send an email to Ms. Ava Goodman, Administrative Assistant, at Mears. You can call her as well. We will submit an application for technology on your behalf.

goodman_ava@asdk12.org

907-742-6400

Let's be sure that every student at Mears has the technology they need to fully access the curriculum and to be completely connected to their teachers and classmates!



Help Mears Become A School of Excellence for Four Years in a Row!

School Community Letter

September 14, 2020

Dear Families, Administrators and Teachers:

The Mears PTSA knows that a strong partnership among our families, school leaders and community members is important to the success of our students and school. That's why we are participating in the National PTA School of Excellence program, which grows partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being of all students.

At a National PTA School of Excellence, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement. We feel Mears Middle School and Mears PTSA can achieve that together—and the result will be national, state and community-wide visibility for the positive impact we are making together at Mears Middle School.

We need your help! As part of the process, National PTA requests feedback from families, administrators and teachers at two points in the school year—the beginning and the end. Your feedback will help us improve our family-school partnership and achieve excellence.

Please take 5-10 minutes to reflect on your experience at this school and complete the attached survey. Mark an "X" in the box that most accurately expresses how you feel about your experience. This survey is completely anonymous. Please return this survey to the office by October 5, 2020 or complete online. Form can be found at www.MearsPTSA.com.

Does this sound like a PTA program you'd really like to help with? Join us! Contact April Eide at mearsms.ptsa@gmail.com to learn more!

Sincerely,

April Eide	Eric Backman
Interim PTSA President	Mears Principal

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration as we work toward becoming a National PTA School of Excellence!

Please fill out the survey so Mears and PTSA can continue to work together to make Mears the best school anywhere! <https://forms.gle/YNXRtuRvaruBA6tP7>

Be Sure to Join Mears PTSA



Mears PTSA is one of only two schools in the state of Alaska recognized as a PTA School of Excellence. The PTSA received this award due to its active and involved membership and close working relationship with school staff. Please, if you have not done so already, sign up and become a member of this vital organization. Mears students and staff benefit tremendously from the work done by the PTSA.

www.MearsPTSA.com

PTSA Leadership Wanted

We are still on the hunt for 2020/2021 Board members. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Join us September 24 during the Family Open House for an informational breakout session. This will be a time to get to know these positions are all about. If you are interested visit our website for position descriptions and interest form.

www.MearsPTSA.com

Follow us on Facebook



What's Happening

- **Membership drive now through September 30th. Win a Gift card or Mears Gear**

Everyone that becomes a **P**arent, **T**eacher, **S**tudent, **A**ssociation Supporting Member by Sept 30 will be entered into a drawing. Membership is \$10.

Prize:

Parents/Guardians 1- \$50 Gift Card

Students \$50 Mears Gear of their choice

Teachers/Staff 1- \$50 Gift Card

Sign up at www.MearsPTSA.com

- **September 24 7pm PTSA Informational Meeting**

This meeting is set up for those on the fence on becoming part of the PTSA Board You can hear from the current leadership and ask questions on how our PTSA works.

I Matter Because...

2020-2021



CALL FOR ENTRIES

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 **November 10, 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, Cultural Dance, 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.

facebook

We're on Facebook

Mears PTSA will be open outdoors on the east side of Mears every Wednesday 10-2. Weather permitting. Call the office if you're unsure if we're set up. School Store is open. Orders clothes online or stop by www.MearsPTSA.com



Mears PTSA has had to slim down its budget due to school buildings being closed. The PTSA supports many events and grant programs at Mears and will continue to support them this year, even if they are held virtually. We ask that you continue to support the PTSA. To help, you can donate or purchase spirit wear.

Orders purchased by Wednesday will be ready for pick up on Friday between 8:45 and 2 pm.



Masks are available online.

**School Supply Kits are still available.
\$30-\$65.**



Ms. Lambert uses her virtual classroom to promote a great message.

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](#)