



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride

*Respect, Responsibility, Creativity
and Academic Excellence*

Special Summer Edition: Friday, August 9, 2019

2011 Alumni Makes Mears Proud



Over the last few weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting new people wherever I go in Anchorage, a surprising number of whom are former students of Mears Middle School. I am pleased to report that everyone I meet who attended Mears speaks favorably, often enthusiastically, about our school.

Just the other day, while dining at South Restaurant, I met Kaily Stanton, a Mears alumni from 2011, who was preparing to leave Anchorage the very next day to go to Japan where she is set to begin the exciting work of teaching English in the public school system there.

Kaily is a wonderful example of a young person who benefited immensely from her experience at Mears. She is a student who took full advantage of the programs offered at Mears, as well as at Dimond High. As a result of her hard work, along with the ongoing support of her family, friends and teachers, Kaily continues to flourish as she transitions into adulthood.

Congratulations, Kaily. You make the Mears Middle School Community very proud! --Eric

Kaily's Academic Journey:

"I finished school at Mears in 2011, going on to graduate from Dimond High School in 2015. I really enjoyed language arts in 7th grade with Ms. Haynes and my Japanese classes with Beppu sensei! I was also in orchestra with Mr. Levine and learned so much about playing the cello.

After graduating second in my class and completing the Japanese Immersion Program at DHS, I went on to UAA to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I graduated after four years in May 2019, with Cum Laude honors and a minor in Japanese.

During school I held two part-time jobs — working as a server at South Restaurant and a Revit Tech at a local engineering firm, Unigroup Engineers.

Post-graduation, I applied and was accepted into the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, a program run by the government of Japan to bring native English speakers over to teach English in elementary, middle and high schools. I have just arrived in Japan and have a contract to work with the JET Program for at least a year. My placement is Niigata, about 200 miles North of Tokyo (2 hours by bullet train).

I am very excited for this chapter in my life and am looking forward to learning about the Japanese people, culture, and language. I hope I can take my experiences here and apply them to any future career as an engineer. I hope my time here does not fly by too quickly, but I do plan to return to Alaska once my contract ends (in 1 year or 2), and find work locally as an engineer!

Mears Middle School will always be a place that holds many fond memories :-) -- Kaily Stanton

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

Thursday, August 15 -- Teachers First Day Back, meet in the library at 8:30am for Principal's Welcome and PTSA Welcome Back Breakfast (Coaches Meeting at 2:45 PM in the library)

Friday August 16 -- ASD Cross District Professional Development Day at the following locations:

- ELA, Math, Science, SS, SPED Resource, ELL, AKSD, CTE Teachers, Indian Ed Community Tutors and Counselors: West High Auditorium: 8:00-11:00 AM (remainder of day at school site)
- Secondary World Language Teachers: Bartlett High School-Band Room, 8:00-3:30 PM
- SPED Special Program teachers (Structured learning, Life Skills, Affective Education: Bartlett High School (tentative), 8:00-11:00 AM (remainder of day at school site)
- Librarians: East High Library and East High Library Annex, 8:00-3:30 PM
- K-12 Nurses: ASD Ed Center Tech 1 and 2; Bartlett HS room 225; Wendler; Hanshew (tentative: check with administration on August 15th)
- Fine Arts: Service High School Auditorium, 8:00-3:30 PM
- Related Services: See schedule for elementary and secondary PD

Monday, August 19 -- Mears PD and Teacher Work Day, meet in the library at 8:00am
Monday, August 19 -- Staff Photos, 9:00-12:00
Tuesday, August 20 -- First Day of School

Mears Parents and Guardians

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 13, 14 -- Panther Camp, see details below
Tuesday, August 20 -- **First Day of School!**
Thursday, August 22 - PTSA Meeting - 6:30 pm in the Library
Thursday, August 29 - School Photos
Thursday, September 5 - Open House 6:30pm

School Registration has begun!!

All students must register prior to the beginning of school!!

If your student is returning, registration is available online through Q ParentConnection, until August 23rd. Password and pin numbers are available by calling the school office, 742-6420, 7am-3pm daily.

If your student is new to the district or you do not have computer access, you will need to enroll in person at Mears.



Documents to bring for New-to-the-District

students are: current immunization records, birth certificate (copy), unofficial transcripts from former school, and proof of residency, such as two utility bills or a purchase agreement with your residence address. Person other than the legal guardian who is registering children should bring proof of temporary guardianship. Current IEP and Eligibility Reports required if applicable.

Documents to bring for Current ASD students

transferring schools: proof of residency, such as two utility bills or a purchase agreement with your residence address. Anyone other than the legal guardian registering students should bring proof of temporary guardianship.

Returning students must clear all fines/charges incurred in any ASD school before they can activate their class schedule. Please be prepared to return books or pay fines/fees.

Be sure to visit the link: [Plan Ahead for a Successful Start at Mears](#)

Panther Camp Information

It is time to sign up for Panther Camp!

What is Panther Camp? Panther Camp is an opportunity for seventh graders and new to Mears eighth graders to get to know all the ins and outs of attending Mears Middle School. Most students that attend Panther Camp feel much more at ease and confident with starting this new and exciting time in their educational career.

Students attending Panther Camp receive their class schedules and get to meet other students who will be on their team. They will also learn where their classes are located as well as other important places such as the nurse's and counseling offices. The students will practice using the lockers, understand the lunchroom and open gym procedures, gain knowledge on how to have a successful year at Mears from fellow 8th grade students and much more. Students will also get to know many of the Mears staff and make new friends.

The one day Panther Camp sessions will be offered on Tuesday (8/13) and Wednesday (8/14) from 9:00 to 11:30. Our new Principal, Eric Backman, will also have a "meet and greet" session for parents from 11:00 to 11:30.

To sign up for Panther Camp, please go to the Mears webpage, www.asdk12.org/mears click on the Panther Camp icon and follow the instructions. There is a \$10.00 fee which needs to be paid on-line by going to your "Zangle Parent Connect, Online Payments." This fee covers the costs of the camp and also includes students receiving a Mears T-shirt (that can be worn for Physical Education class) and a snack.

We are looking forward to seeing your student at camp.

Fall Sports....

Cross Country Running - 8/22-10/11

Soccer (no fee) - 8/26-9/20

Girls Basketball - 8/26-10/11

Archery I (no fee) - 9/16-10/11

If your student is participating in a fall sport the following items are required:

1. Current physical (within the last 18 mos.)
2. A completed participation form
3. Fee for interscholastic sport, \$110 (cash/check) or a receipt of payment made online
OR a completed and approved fee waiver.

All forms are available on the ASD website or the Mears office.



It's a new year and new and PTSA welcomes new and returning families to Mears Middle School. Help us reach our goal with over 300 supporting PTSA members. PTSA will be hosting family education nights during most months throughout the school year. We have been listening to the requests of community members and are working to include educational opportunities that are most relevant to the Mears community. Please stay tuned for more information.

To sign up to be a PTSA member, please visit our website at www.MearsPTSA.com.

An added benefit of being a PTSA member is school supply shopping. When shopping at Office Depot/Office Max just mention Mears Middle School as part of the Give Back to Schools Program and Mears will receive a small portion of the proceeds.

Exciting news! Office Depot OfficeMax has partnered with us on a savings program to provide discounts in-store and online, plus fantastic new benefits for all PTA members.

To Sign up for Office Depot Discounts you need to be a PTSA Member. How to sign up for the Office Depot Discounts will be emailed after becoming a PTSA Member.

Go to: <https://www.officedepot.com/cm/school-supplies/give-back>

School Supplies

The following are lists of school supplies listed for students in grades 7 and 8, along with items requested by Teacher Teams. While parents are encouraged to get supplies prior to the beginning of school, this is certainly not required. Teachers will review the list of needed supplies once school begins. Any student or family that wants assistance with supply needs can notify any member of Mears staff. We are here to assist in any way we can.

7th grade School Supplies:

Daily Planner – provided by Mears MS

4 pkgs loose leaf paper, college ruled for binder - no spiral notebooks or “rip out”

3 ring binders (see below for Team specifics)

Notebook tab dividers - set of 5

2-3 pocket folders – w/holes to fit in binder

Composition books (80-100 pg bound) (see below for Team specifics)

Pencil pouch

LOTS of #2 Pencils w/eraser -mechanical are fine- don't forget extra lead (must have 2 at all times!)

Colored pencils – set of 12

Small pencil sharpener

Pens – blue/black/red – 2 of each-NO gel pens

Eraser

Sharpie marker – black

Highlighters -blue, green, pink, yellow

Ruler – 6” inches/centimeters

Glue sticks (see below for Team specifics)

Scientific calculator – doesn't need to be fancy but should say “Scientific” on label

3 Kleenex – given to 4th period teacher

Jumbo size stretchy book cover for math book

Optional but Recommended!!

Pencil box for locker

Protractor

Scissors

White out

Markers

Dictionary/Thesaurus

World Atlas (to be kept at home for homework assignments. May be purchased in school store.)

Blackstone

2 binders – 1 small (1”) 1 large (2.5-3”)

4 glue sticks

2 Composition notebooks

Eklutna

4 glue sticks

5x8 index cards

Surprise

1 binder – 2-3” size

4 Composition notebooks

10 glue sticks (to be given to Science teacher)

8th grade School Supplies:

Daily Planner – provided by Mears MS

2-3 pkgs loose leaf paper, college ruled for binder

3 ring binder – 3” size

Notebook tab dividers – set of 5

Composition books (see below for Team specifics)

Pencil pouch

#2 Pencils-mechanical are fine-don't forget extra lead (must have 2 at all times!!)

Colored pencils – set of 12

Small pencil sharpener

Jumbo eraser
Pens – blue/black/red – 2 of each color
Highlighters -blue, green, yellow, pink
Ruler – 6” inches/centimeters
8 glue sticks
3 Kleenex – given to 4th period teacher
Scientific calculator – doesn’t need to be fancy

Optional but Recommended!!

Protractor
Sharpie marker – black
Whiteout
Scissors
Colored markers
Dictionary/Thesaurus
Clorox wipes – given to 4th period teacher

Echo

2 Composition notebooks (80-100pg bound) 1 for Math; 1 for Science

Muir

2-3 Pocket folders w/holes to go in binder
4 Composition notebooks (80-100pg bound)
1 small pencil sharpener

Raven

1 Composition notebook (80-100pg bound) for Science



SAVE TIME AND PREORDER YOUR STUDENTS SCHOOL SUPPLIES TODAY. Pre-Order school supply kits are a great hit this year. There is still time to pre-order. Visit our website to order school supply kits.

This is a generic list that fits all teams. Electives and teams may require additional supplies.
\$30 40 items (no binder)
\$45 41 items (inc. 3" binder)
\$55 41 items (inc. 3" Zipper Binder-color of your choice)

Supplies Included:

3" Zipper Binder (Case-It) (Black, Blue, Pink or Purple) (optional)	4 pk- Blue Pens (papermate)
3" Black Binder (optional)	Colored Pencils (crayola)
6 pk- mechanical pencils (office depot brand)	6 pk- highlighters (office depot)
3 pk additional lead	2 pk- college ruled loose leaf paper
Ruler	4- college ruled composition notebooks
Pencil Sharpener	3 pk- erasers
4 pk- Red Pens (papermate)	zipper pencil case
4 pk- Black Pens (papermate)	5 tab pocket dividers

-Purchases between August 2 and August 11 can be picked up during Panther Camp August 13th or 14th. Between 9 and 12 pm.

-Purchases between August 12 through August 18th can be picked up on the first day of school. August 20th.

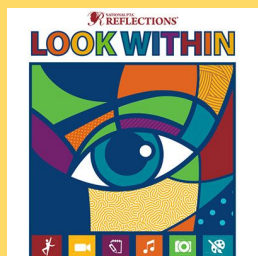
Want to help the school earn more money at no extra cost to you?

Added benefits for Mears Middle School and the PTSA. If you shop at any of these places be sure to use the links provided or sync up your rewards card to Mears Middle School PTSA

Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Shutterfly: <http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com/>

Fred Meyer Community Rewards: Login into your account from a computer or web app (not phone apps) and add Mears Middle School to your Community Rewards program. It's that simple. FAQs <https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-9>



Reflections Art Contest theme this year is **Look Within**. Categories are: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Film Production, Special Artist, Visual Arts and Dance Choreography. Watch for more information in future newsletters and on our website.

Looking for 2019/2020 Volunteers for the Black Cat Cafe. If you would like to volunteer email us at MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MEARS PTSA. If you currently are not a member sign up today and be entered into a drawing for a free memory book. Drawing will take place following Open House in September. Become a member at www.MearsPTSA.com

⇐Backman Recommends⇒

Mears Parents and Guardians,

The following article [10 Ways to Help Your Child Succeed in Middle School](#) is published online by Kids Health, an organization that provides advice on children's health, behavior and growth. The article outlines a number of different common sense ways you can support your child's success at Mears and beyond. The authors emphasize the importance of supporting open and honest communication, healthy nutrition, regular school attendance, flexibility and empathy, study habits and organization, along with a number of other strategies.

At Mears, we are committed to doing all that we can at school to help support all students with the development of academic and life skills that lead to success. In partnership, parents and educators can help ensure that our students get the most out of the new school year and reach their fullest potential.
--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](#)