



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 10, 2021

Panthers Hit the Trails



On Thursday, Mears student-athletes hit the trails, running in their first cross-country meet of the season. It was a beautiful Fall afternoon at Service High School, where teams from all over Anchorage gathered to run the challenging course. Our student-athletes ran hard and demonstrated great school spirit and sportsmanship. Special thanks to our amazing coaches, Dennis Sorenson, Holly Roberts, and Holly Barclay. **Go Panthers!**

Mears Alumni are Standouts

Athlete of the Week: Dimond running duo of Jared Gardiner and Emily Erickson



By Patrick Enslow

Published: Sep. 8, 2021 at 6:11 AM AKDT | Updated: 6 hours ago

Check out this terrific local news story about two Mears alumni, who are among the best runners in the state. Both students are scholar-athletes who attend Dimond High School.

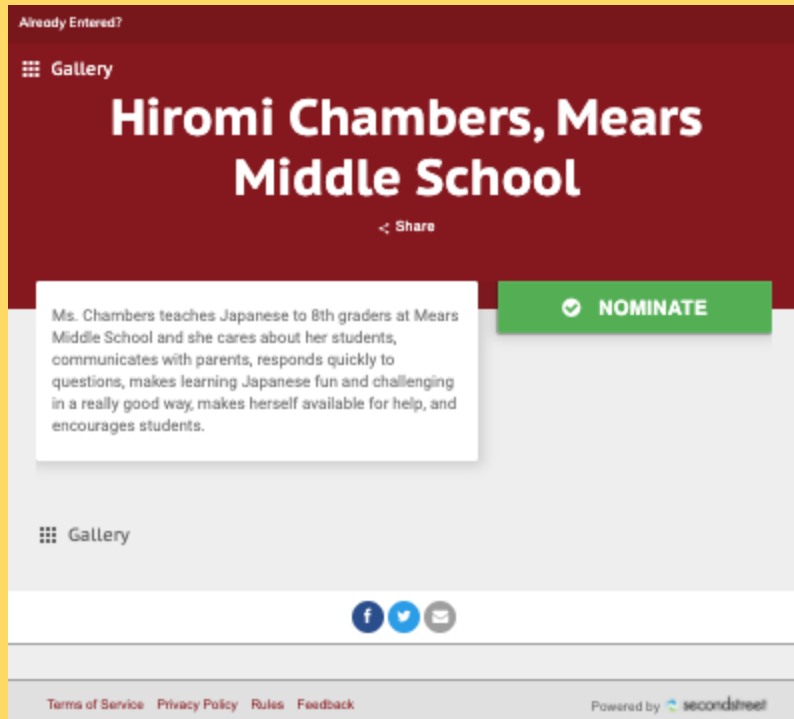
[Athletes of the Week, Alaska News Source](#)

Mears Introduces Ukulele



This week, about 40 students began learning to play ukulele in two new music classes offered at Mears. Ukulele classes are being taught by Mr. Matt O'Connor and Mr. Jason Edwards, who are both already having fun teaching students to play this fun, easy-to-learn instrument.

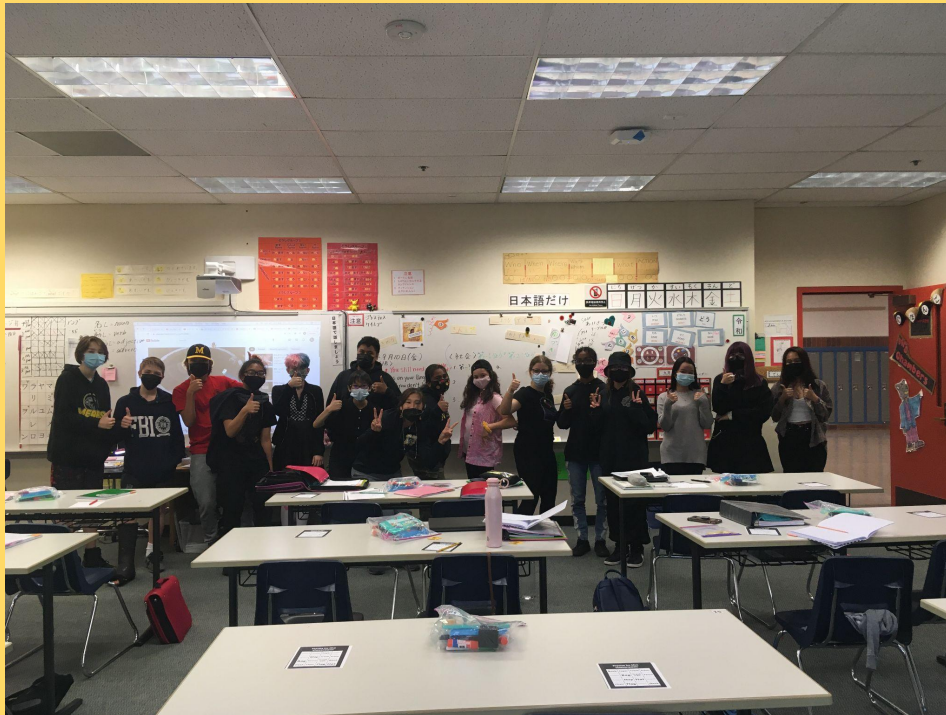
Congratulations Ms. Hiromi Chambers



Check out what a community member wrote about Ms. Hiromi Chambers, Mears 8th grade Japanese Immersion Teacher. Indeed, Ms. Chambers is an incredible educator and we are so fortunate that she teaches at Mears Middle School.

You can nominate your favorite teacher by visiting this link: [Teacher of the Month](#)

Immersion Students Celebrate Teacher



Here's Ms. Hiromi Chambers with her 8th graders in Japanese Immersion class. The students were thrilled to hear of their teacher's nomination as a Teacher of the Month.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Wednesday, Sept. 15 -- Leadership Team Meeting, Library, 3:00-3:45pm

Mark Your Calendars for a Virtual Open House Event

Thursday, September 23, 6:00pm

To do our part to support community health, Mears Back to School Night will be hosted virtually. Please mark your calendars for this special online event, which will feature Mears teacher-leaders, counselors, our school nurse, and administrators. The event will be recorded for any family that cannot attend.

Please use the newsletter that was emailed to access the Zoom link, meeting ID, and password for Open House or contact Mears, 742-6400, to have the information emailed to you.

Student/Parent/Teacher Conference Days

Wednesday and Thursday, October 20-21

For in-person and face-to-face meetings with your teachers, Mears families should plan to attend the Student/Parent/Teacher conferences next month. These meetings will be scheduled in advance for all interested parents and families, which will allow us to safely social distance and limit the number of persons in the building at one time. Masking and other Covid mitigation protocols will be practiced at all times during the event.

Is Your Student Missing a Jacket or Water Bottle?



Mears Lost and Found is overflowing with student clothing, water bottles, and lunch containers. If your student is missing any of these items, please encourage them to check the Lost and Found in the Multi-use Room during lunch.

Mears Counseling Corner

New classes were added and schedule changes were made this week and Mears students did remarkably well adjusting to the changes.

This is great news for Mears students and teachers, as most classes school-wide now have more manageable class sizes, which allows for safer and more focused classroom environments.

Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)

Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade
svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org
907-742-6428



What a crazy week! Thank you all for your patience during this process. We are both here to meet the needs of our students and our school community. Be sure to contact your student's counselor if academic and/or social and emotional support are needed.

Mears Activities Update

2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun four great activities a Mears as of Thursday, August 19th: Girls Basketball, Baseball, Archery, and Cross Country. Practices run daily from 3-4:30 PM; please be punctual for pick up, as coaches cannot leave until students are picked up.



ASD's guidance indicates that students are not required to wear masks during active portions of practice, but I encourage all the students to wear masks at all times, particularly those involved in indoor activities. This promotes safety and helps allow for continuation of the activity in the even of a positive case.

Additionally, coaches will take temperatures prior to practice with a forehead-scanning thermometer. They will also encourage the use of hand sanitizer and social distancing when possible.

Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:

- Middle School Participation Form
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk_MrWGGZd4mjAkPMj5/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-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/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 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>

Upcoming Activity Events

Cross Country Running Meets: All begin at 5:30 PM

9/22/21: Kincaid Park
9/29/21: Service High
10/6/21: Kincaid Park
10/13/21: Kincaid Park

Backpacks Must be Stored in Lockers Starting Tuesday, August 31st: Update

Starting this Tuesday, students needed to store full-sized backpacks in their lockers for the remainder of the year, and they've truly met this challenge! They are allowed to use string backpacks or small book bags. Reusable grocery bags are also a great option. Mears let students know that this change was coming, and it has arrived, so continue to encourage your students to stow their full-size backpacks in their lockers and thank them from Mr. Scott for doing such a great job at this and other structua

Nurse Dan's Health Update Important Covid Health Reminder:

All are reminded of the importance of staying home if you are feeling ill or showing any symptoms. It is critically important that students and staff stay home whenever they are feeling ill.

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



PTSA Upcoming Meeting Dates

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

PTSA General Meeting -- Sept. 14, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Oct. 12, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

Please contact the Mears PTSA to have the Zoom link, meeting ID, and passcode emailed to you.

MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.

PTSA Volunteer Needs

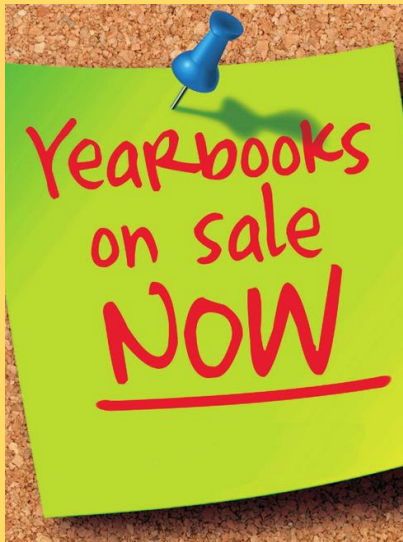
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 – 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now! Purchase your yearbook at www.ybpay.com use Yearbook ID: 13921122 Mears PTSA

Fridays are School Spirit Days



At Mears, we like to show our school spirit on Fridays. Here are the teachers on Team Muir, all dressed in their team color, yellow. All students and staff are encouraged to wear school colors (black and gold) and/or or their team color on Fridays.

Team Colors:

Blackstone -- Jade

Eklutna -- Red

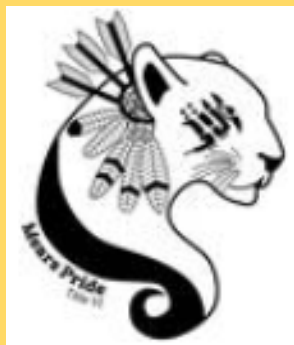
Surprise -- Blue

Echo -- Pink

Muir -- Yellow

Raven -- Black

Go Panthers!



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](#)