



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

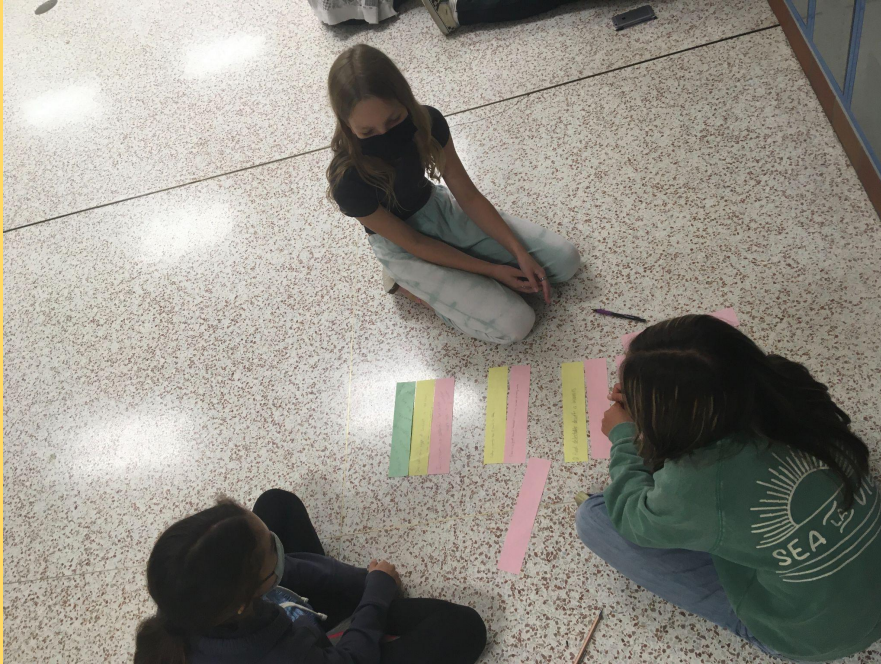
Friday, September 17, 2021

Promoting Mental Health and Self-care



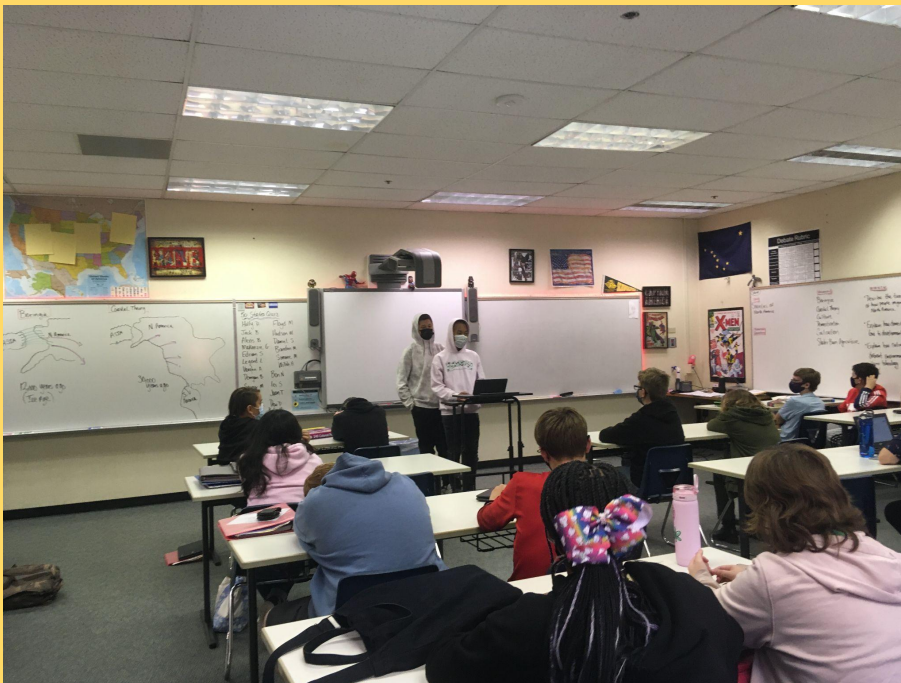
This week in Ms. Callie Wilder's Health classes, students learned about mental health challenges and the importance of self-care. Here students are engaged in a collaborative discussion about healthy strategies to manage stress and anxiety. It goes without saying that this discussion is quite timely and relevant, as students return to school after a year of remote learning. **Go Panthers!**

Writing Construction



Students in Mr. Thomas Pease worked together during the week to write an expository paragraph. This trio of students were excited to write about preparing and eating dessert. Graphic organizers help students better understand the construction of a well-written paragraph.

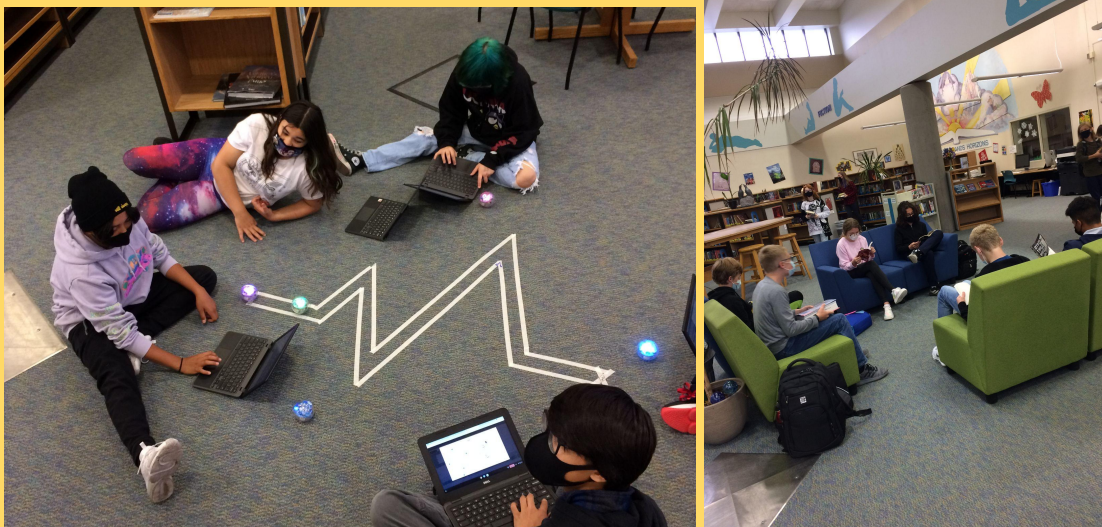
Examining Differing Points of View



This week, students in Mr. Nick Middleton's Debate class presented opposing points of view about the costs and benefits of video games. Here are two students presenting their oral arguments in favor of the use of video games. This type of activity helps students learn to conduct research, evaluate evidence, and think critically about how to construct a compelling argument.

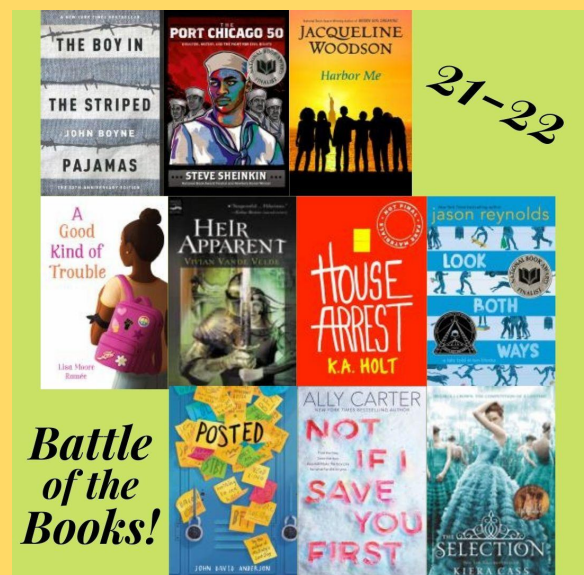
Library at Mears

The library at Mears is an amazing space and it is perfect for many activities. 28 language arts classes have been to the library for orientations and book check out. Several classes are now using Noodletools to cite sources and create bibliographies. Students are also coming at lunch, after they eat, to hang out and play board games. Research units will be starting soon with lessons on preventing plagiarism and evaluating sources.



Battle of the Books

All ten of this years' titles are available in the library! Students who are interested in participating in Battle of the Books should start reading right away. Meetings will be held during lunch (both lunch periods, one for each grade) starting on Monday, September 27. Reminders will be given during morning announcements.



Stay Informed/Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Wednesday, Sept. 22 -- Collaborative Team Leaders Meeting, 3:00-4:00pm

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.

Mears Fall Open House Zoom Link:

Please contact Mears' front office to have the Zoom information emailed to you, call 742-6400, or email one of the following: Goodman_Ava@asdk12.org, Spartz-Hays_Robin@asdk12.org, or Klancher_Lisa@asdk12.org

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.

Support Mears Next Week



FUNDRAISING

»» *Support* ««

**MEARS MIDDLE SCHOOL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
4PM-8:30PM**



**10%
DONATION NIGHT**

for Mears Middle School.

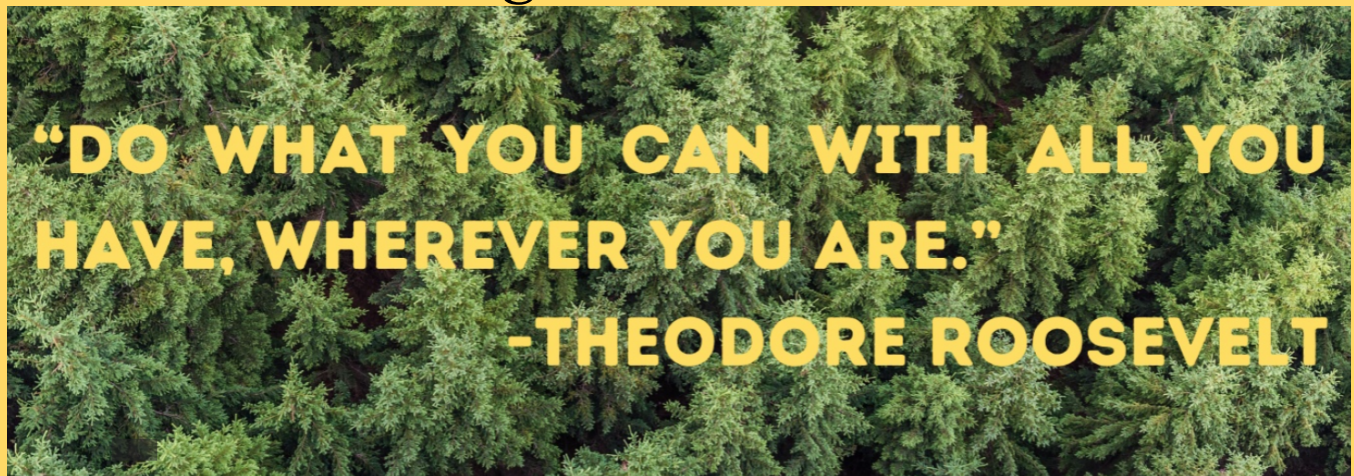
Present this flyer at the Anchorage
(Old Seward Hwy) location and
Texas Roadhouse will donate **10%** of
your total food purchases to **Mears
Middle School!**

907-336-7427

**9001 OLD SEWARD HIGHWAY
ANCHORAGE, AK**



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

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_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-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

Girls Basketball: Any student spectators must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

9/21/21 Central @ Mears JV (5 PM)
Central @ Mears V (6 PM)

9/28/21 Begich @ Mears JV (5 PM)
GView @ Mears V (6 PM)

10/2/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule

10/9/21 Jamboree (9-3 PM) Locations/Times Vary-Check ASD Schedule

Baseball

9/18/21

Mears 1:

11 AM- vs Goldenview 1 Field K4

1:15 PM- vs Goldenview 2 Field K3

Mears 2:

3:30 PM- vs Gruening Field K4

5:45 PM- vs Begich Field K4

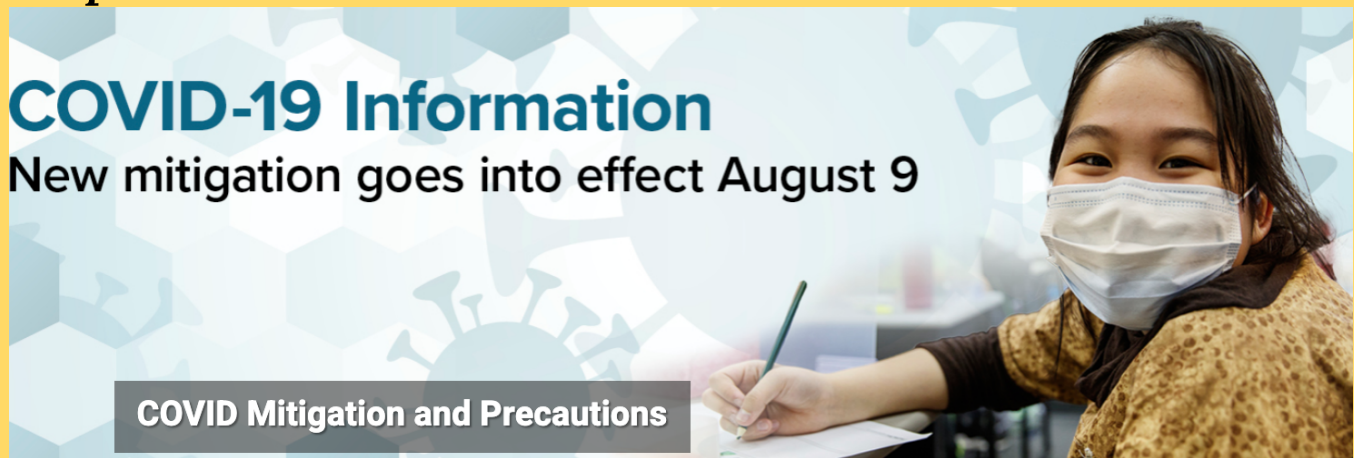
Mears 3:

3:30 PM- vs Begich 2 Field K3

5:45 PM- vs Gruening Field K3

All games this weekend will be at Kosinski Fields 3 & 4

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 -- Oct. 12, 5:30pm

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

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

[Mears PTSA Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2513 4041

Passcode: 436866

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

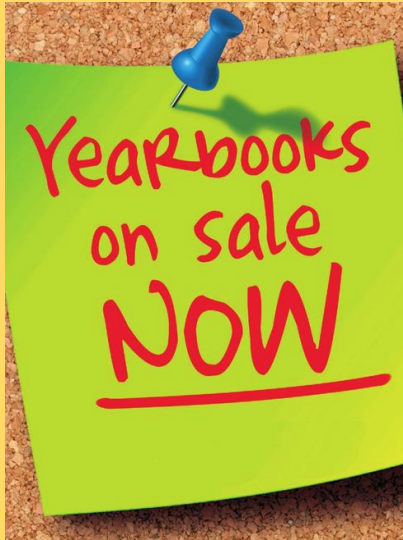
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- 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:

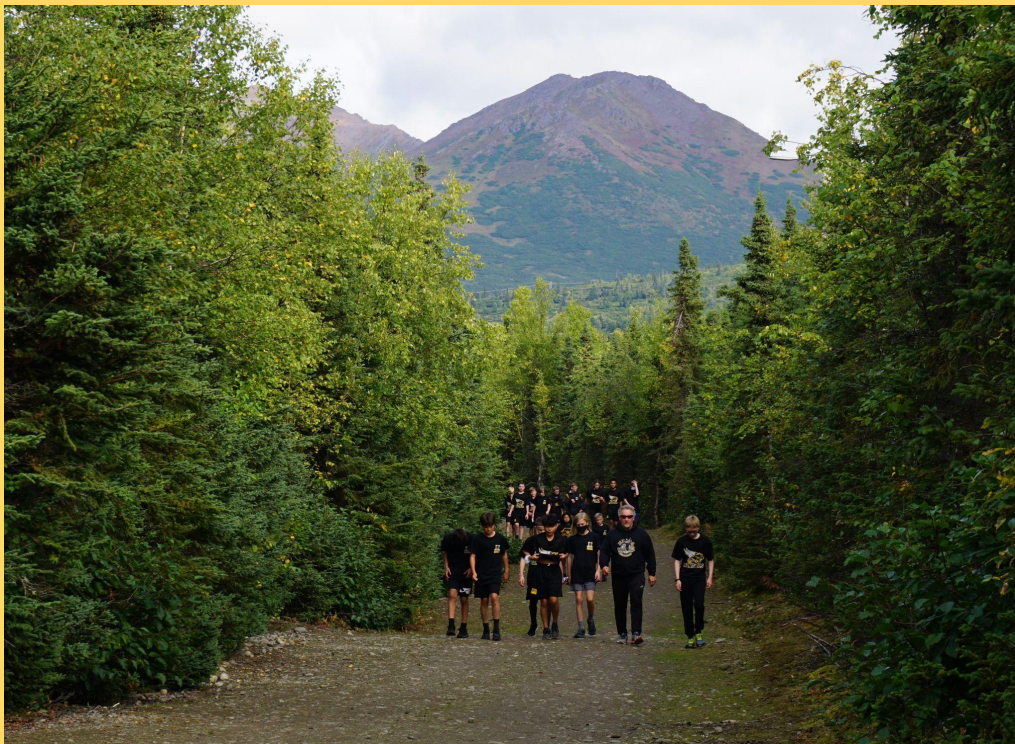
[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

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

Preparing to Race



Coach Sorenson walks the course with the team before the race.

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](#)