



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, May 14, 2021

Panthers Bike to School



Congratulations to all the students and staff members who rode their bikes to school on Bike to School Day, May 13th. A total of 54 students rode their bikes on Thursday, which is 10% of the in-person student population. Special thanks to Ms. Lauren Hundrup and Ms. Holly Barclay for supporting our students' participation in such a fun and healthy activity.

Don't forget, Friday, May 21 is Bike to Work Day! **Panthers Ride!**

Studies in Flight



Students in Ms. Joanna Hubbard's science 7 classes are using paper airplanes to explore the factors for optimum flight. After each test flight, students collect data related to time and distance, along with the variables of size and weight.

Studying Word Choice



Students in 8th grade English Language Arts utilize the main office conference area to work on a lesson about diction.

Diction:

Noun

The choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing

Fortune Tellers



Students and teachers are making the most of warmer days and are taking teaching and learning outside.

Here students in Ms. Holly Roberts classes use handmade paper fortune tellers to learn all the types of natural disasters.

BEST EFFORT -- Final Days/Push to Pass!



There are just 4 days left of school and at Mears we want to be sure that every student finishes the school year having worked hard to do their very best. Students (and parents) should review gradebooks and work to get all missing assignments turned in!

Mears Staff Schedule: May 17-21

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30am	Planning	CT	Alternating: Staff Meeting 8:00-9:00am/ CT Leads 8:45-9:55am	Planning	Planning
	Instruction Time 8:45 - 2:00	Instruction Time 8:45 - 2:00	Instruction Time 10:15-1:55 Duty Free Lunch (12:25-12:55)	Instruction Time 8:45 - 2:00	Instruction Time 8:45 - 2:00
2:00-2:30	Duty Free Lunch	Duty Free Lunch		Duty Free Lunch	Duty Free Lunch
2:35-3:15pm	Planning	Planning	Dept.	CT	Planning

See above for weekly CT and Department meeting schedule.

Tuesday Fun, May 18: Pajama Day
 Wednesday, May 19: Staff Meeting, 8:00am
 Leadership Team, 9:15am
 Thursday Fun, May 20: Last Day of School
 School Spirit Day
 8th Grade Celebration Event, 5:00pm
 Friday, May 21: Teacher In-service Day

Links to Fun Day Photos:

[Mears Friday Fun Day 1980s Photos](#)

[Mears Friday Fun Day Hawaii-Beach Photos](#)

[Mears Friday Fun Day Colorful Covid Masks/Crazy Socks Photos](#)

[Mears Tuesday Fun Day Star Wars Day Photos](#)

[Mears Friday Fun Day Crazy Hair/Crazy Socks Photos](#)

Honoring Mears 8th Graders

Special Event -- May 20, 5:00pm



Mears 8th Grade Students and Families,

Please join us for our final opportunity to honor and celebrate our incredible 8th graders as they promote to the 9th grade and begin their high school careers.

This online event will include student recognitions, Team Awards, and a video tribute created by the incredible teachers and staff at Mears.

Please join us Thursday evening, May 20, for this important milestone event.

Topic: 8th Grade Celebration Event

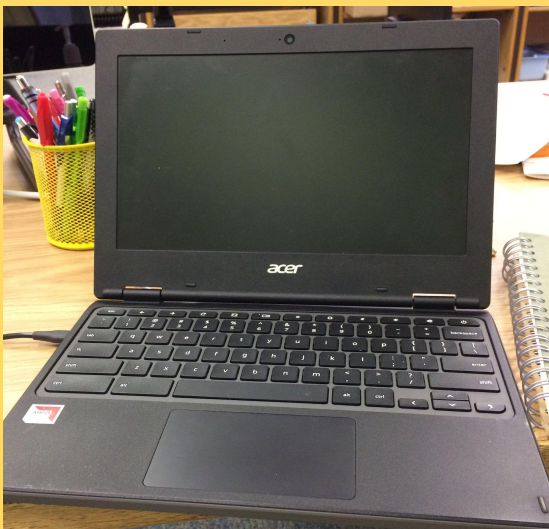
Time: May 20, 2021 05:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

Contact the Mears office at 907-742-6400 to obtain the Zoom meeting ID and password, or email one of our front office staff for the Zoom link.

Goodman_Ava@asdk12.org, Spartz-Hays_Robin@asdk12.org, Roehl_Debra@asdk12.org

Hold on to your ASD Chromebook



Students with district-issued Chromebook computers should plan to hold on to the device for the summer and use it again next school year.

If you happen to be leaving ASD, be sure to return your computer to Ms. Fleming in the library before you depart for summer. Thank you.

Go Panthers!

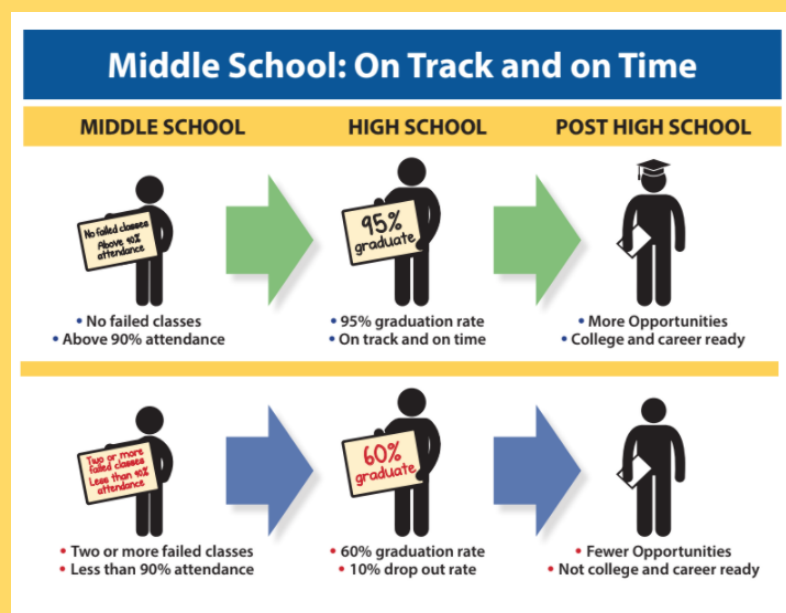
ASD Summer School Opportunities

Anchorage School District Summer Learning Program, 2021

Summer school registration has now opened for any students who have received one or more Fs/Incompletes during the 2020-21 school year. There are morning and afternoon sessions, which will allow students to make up as many as four classes if needed.

ASD Summer Learning Information Link: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18096>

Session 1: June 2-30 and Session 2: July 12-August 6



Middle school counselors will work with individual families to finalize the registration process and answer individual planning questions. Link: [Contact Mears Counselors](#)

ASD Career Exploration Program

Open to all Current ASD 8th Graders this Summer

The Career Exploration Summer School Program is designed to provide incoming freshman students the opportunity to explore up to 6 different career fields of interest. Students will participate in career and education planning, hands-on career exploration classes and possible industry tours and field trips. <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15050>

Activities at Mears Middle School

2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

At this point, we look forward to fully implementing all of our sports and activities during the 2021/22. While we will likely still have some of our mitigation strategies in place, we are excited to offer interscholastic opportunities, with students traveling to other middle schools for contests. Additionally, we will have a number of intramural activities, which will occur entirely at Mears. Please take a moment to review the 21-22 schedule attached to this email. In preparation for next year's sign ups, we've included the information below regarding paperwork submission. Have a great summer!

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

- Middle School Participation Form
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
- Health Examination Form

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>

DHS Football

Coach Dennis has asked that we share an opportunity, and we're happy to do so. There will be a meeting at the DHS football field on Tuesday, May 18th at 5:30 PM for students and families interested in taking part in DHS football during the 21/22 school year. Also, see instagram link for infivte

Please contact Coach Dennis if you have any questions: miked@chialaska.com

DHS Football Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CO0rHKjnEQa/>

Basketball Fun



Mears student-athletes are really enjoying after school activities that allow them to exercise, socialize, and compete. Here are a group of students on the intramural basketball team enjoying a competitive game on the outdoor court.

Panthers are Readers

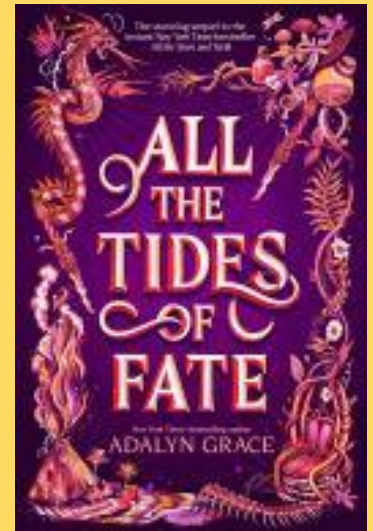
Mears Reads Book Club

LAST BOOK CLUB MEETING!

The May book that we chose is: ***All the Tides of Fate*** by Adalyn Grace, book two of the series we started in April.


Our last meeting of the year is on Wednesday, May 19th. We will meet using a Zoom, and we will start at 2:45PM.


Contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through the Canvas Inbox to get the Zoom information.




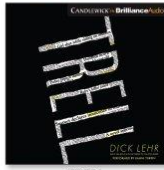
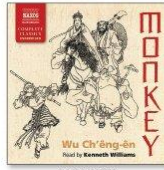
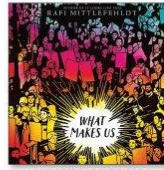
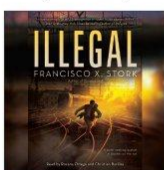
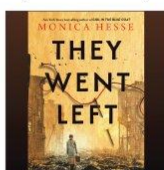
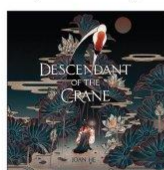
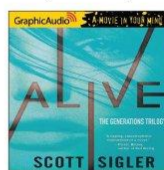
Summer Reading Opportunities

Free Audiobooks Every Week

**AudioFile
Sync**
AUDIOBOOKS
FOR TEENS

**WANT ALERTS ABOUT
FREE AUDIOBOOKS
ALL SUMMER LONG?**

For title releases,
TEXT syncya to
866-984-0598 or visit
audiobooksync.com

APRIL 29 - MAY 5	MAY 6 - MAY 12	MAY 13 - MAY 19	MAY 20 - MAY 26
 COME ON IN by Adi Ahsaid (Recorded Books)	 TRELL by Dick Lehr (Candlewick on Brilliance)	 MONKEY by Wu Ch'eng-en, Arthur Waley (Naxos AudioBooks)	 WHAT MAKES US by Rafi Mittlefehldt (Brilliance Audio)
 ILLEGAL by Francisco X. Stork (Scholastic Audio)	 THEY WENT LEFT by Monica Hesse (Hachette Audio)	 DESCENDANT OF THE CRANE by Joan He (Dreamscape Media)	 ALIVE by Scott Sigler (GraphicAudio)

AudioFile Sync offers FREE audio books for teens throughout the summer. Every week, two new audio books are offered. The second set of books, *Monkey* and *Descendant of the Crane*, became available yesterday, May 13th.

Register with an email address at audiobooksync.com, then use the SORA app to access and listen to the books. This is the same app that the Anchorage School District uses for electronic books. Just add Audiobook Sync as a library. Ask Mrs. Fleming if you need help!

Battle of the Books

The tentative list of titles is now available for the 21-22 Battle of the Books season. Start reading now and get a head start for next year!

More information is available on the [Mears Battle](#) web page or join the [Mears Battle Canvas Hub](#).



Panthers are Writers

Write an Epistle to Last Year

An epistle is a formal letter that follows standard letter format, but is written in a scholarly tone. Your letter, however, can be written in whatever tone matches how you feel about the past year. Write a letter to this past year as if last year is a person you are corresponding with.



A lot happened in the previous year; so much that you won't be able to address it all. See the next slide for suggestions to help get started.

Submission deadline: **Tuesday, May 18th.** (Submit to Panther Picture in Canvas.)

Talking Back to 2020 Brainstorm

Consider one or more of these ideas to address in your letter to 2020.

- Elections
- Space X
- Online School
- The Game *Among Us*
- The Vaccine
- New Friends/New Experiences
- Mears Middle School
- Pandemic



Crafting your Letter

1. Follow proper letter format. Begin with a salutation (Dear 2020,), and end with a closing (Sincerely, Your friend, Your ex-friend for sure, etc).
2. Start a new paragraph each time you change time, place or topic.
3. Focus on tone. Use strong word choice and an expressive voice to convey exactly how you feel about 2020.
4. Remember to personify the year. Address 2020 as you would a person. Assign it human characteristics. Write a love letter to 2020 if the year treated you well. Unfriend 2020 in your letter if the year disappointed you. Write something in between if it was a mixed year.

April's Writing Contest Winners

First Place: Ella Wheelles, for her poem, "Fall Wonderland."

Runners-up (tie): Oriah Jensen for "Umber Leather Chair"

Molly McBride for "Heroes."

Congratulations, winners, and thank you to all who entered our ekphrastic poetry writing contest.

Covid Safety Update



10-Point Panther Path of Safety

- 1 When on the Mears campus, keep your mask on at all times.
- 2 Maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and your fellow students.
- 3 Please always walk the one direction indicated by the hallway arrows.
- 4 Do not gather or socialize in the hallways: go directly to your class each period.
- 5 Do not touch your face.
- 6 Frequently wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.
- 7 Request to use the restroom and place your restroom marker outside.
- 8 Lockers will not be used.
- 9 No guests in the building: students and staff only.
- 10 Be safe for yourself and others.

After six weeks of in-person school, I am pleased to continue to report that our students and staff are doing a tremendous job adhering to the Covid mitigation plan. Everyone wears a mask without question, students are sitting socially distanced in classrooms, and classes are taking advantage of warmer days and taking their nutrition breaks outside and/or are leaving classrooms for walks around the building.

Keep up the good work, Panthers! --Eric

Here is a link to the [ASD School Safety Plans](#), where you will find all the details for Mears' Covid safety protocols.

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any assistance in preparing for the 4th quarter, please fill out a HELP Ticket: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>



Brent Haugen,
907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr,
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen,
907-742-6426



PTSA Meetings

Upcoming PTSA meetings held @ 6:00 pm via zoom

- Tuesday, June 1st

Email the Mears PTSA at MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com to obtain the Zoom link, meeting ID and passcode.



Mears Yearbooks on Sale Now! Purchase Deadline is May 28th.

Make Sure to Order a Copy of This Special Commemorative Yearbook!

Purchase your yearbook at:

ybpay.lifetouch.com

Use school code: 13921121

PTSA Volunteer Needs & Upcoming Meetings

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:

- Committee Members for the 8th Grade Graduation Celebration
- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution
- Social Media Coordinator
- School Store & Merchandise

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](#)

“Ducks 4 Bucks”! PTSA’s Last Fundraising Effort for the Year

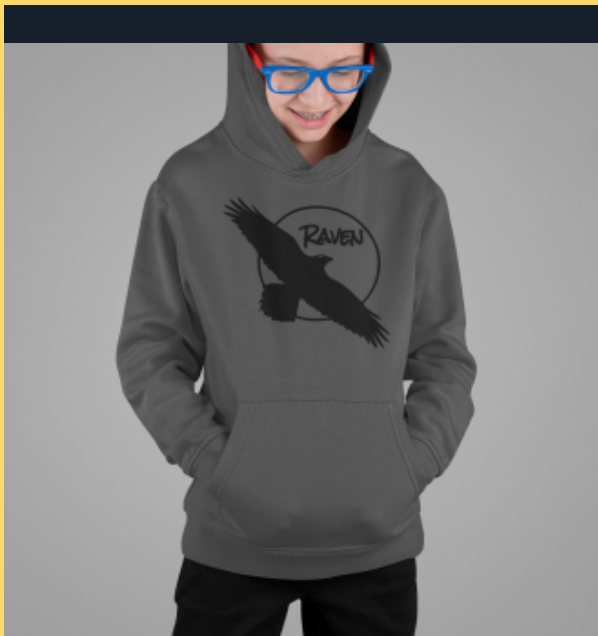


Event Description:

We are selling Ducks for \$4 on our school store at the following link:

<https://mearsptsa.memberhub.store/store/items/671092>

We will securely attach your order number(s) to our yellow rubber duckies. These ducks will be fired from a student built [trebuchet](#) at a target 200 meters away. If the duck can successfully hit the target, you will be awarded a hoodie from our school store!



[Team Clothes Order Forms](#)

Thank you for the continued support of the Mears PTSA. Our school store sells PE approved clothing, beanies, baseball caps, hoodies, and more is online www.MearsPTSA.com.

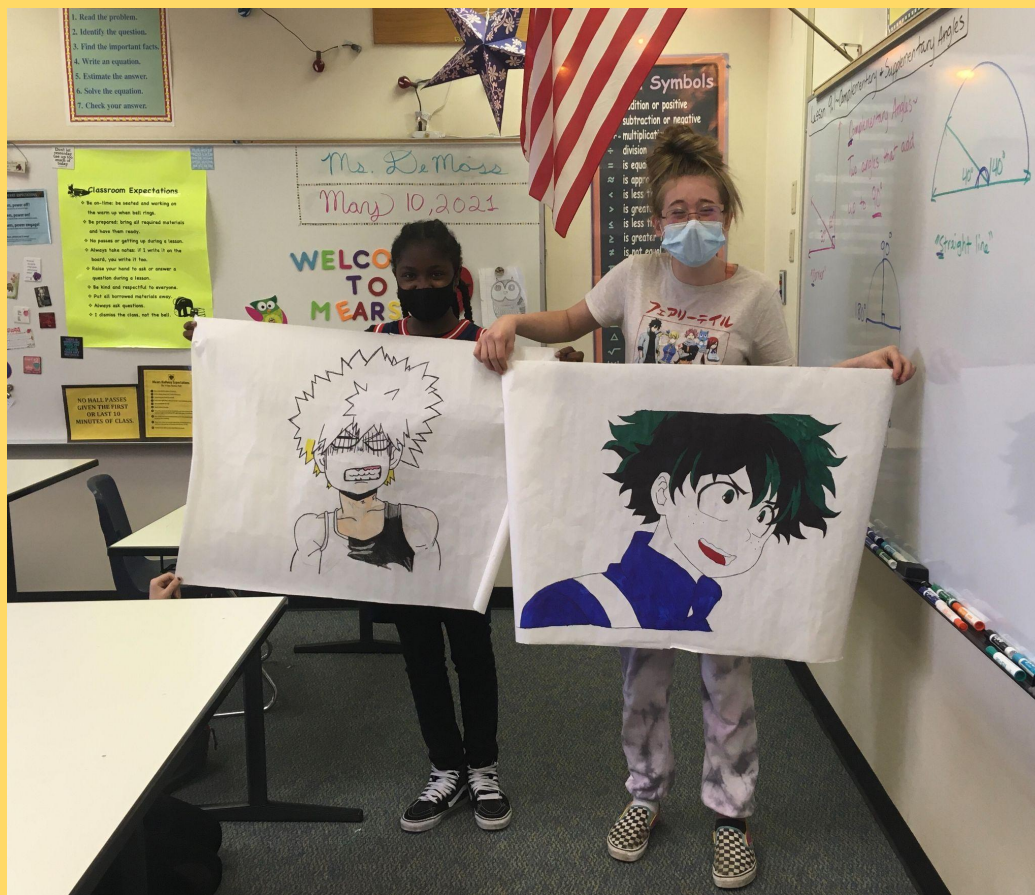
Join Mears PTSA Membership and become part of an organization that is the leading Child advocacy group in the Nation. You not only become a member of Mears. But Alaska PTA and National PTA. Membership benefits include Office Depot/Office Max, Hertz, and more. Learn more at www.MearsPTSA.com

Ways you can help us raise funds doing your day to day shopping and holiday shopping.

Amazon Smile smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999

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

Exploring Mindset Through Anime



Students in Ms. Roxanne DeMoss' math class have created fun posters of their favorite anime characters depicting growth mindset and fixed mindset. Can you tell the difference?

Students and Staff Enjoy Final Friday



The last Friday Fun Day of the Year -- Springtime/Summertime Celebration AND King and Queen Day.



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](#)