



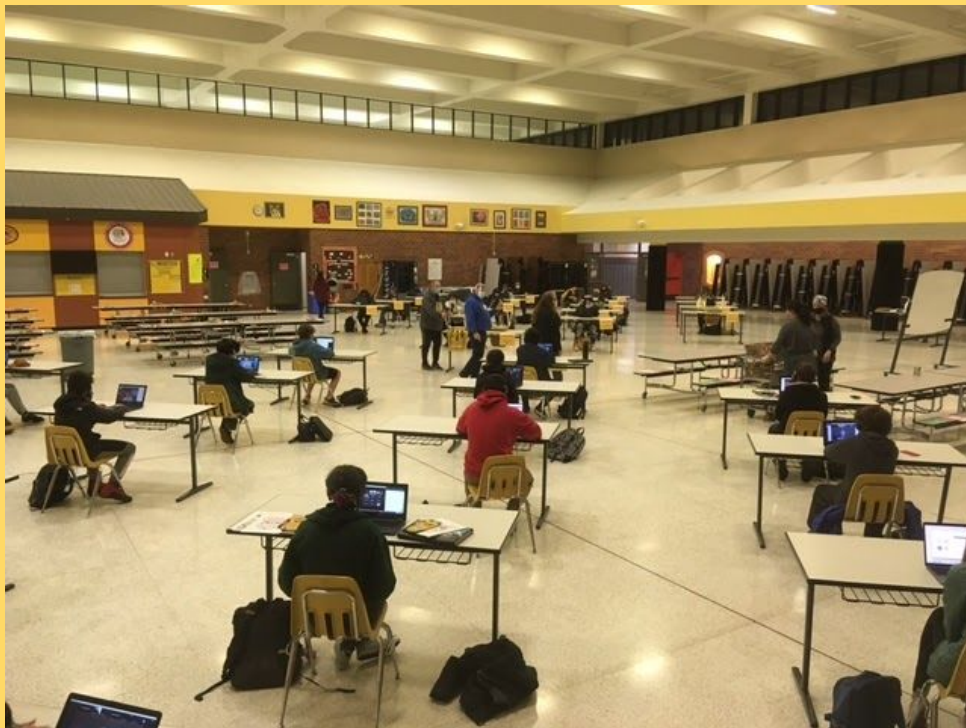
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, January 22, 2021

Mears Welcomes Back Small Group of Students



This week at Mears, teachers and staff were thrilled to welcome back to school a cohort of 35 students. This small group of Panthers exhibited great attitudes upon their return, and have done so responsibly, adhering to the 10-Point Panther Path to Safety. For the third quarter, Mears in-school program will remain small and focused on those students already selected for the program. While supporting these students, we are working to build confidence for a potential reopening of school during the 4th quarter.

Meet Your Quarter 3 Teachers and Teams



Mears Parents and Families,

As a result of the restrictions of distance learning, parents and families do not have the same opportunities to get to know your student's teachers as you would during a traditional school year. So, in an effort to make sure you get to know your teachers, Mears teachers and Collaborative Teams have created introduction videos.

Be sure to take a few moments to watch the new [Mears Teacher and Team Videos](#).



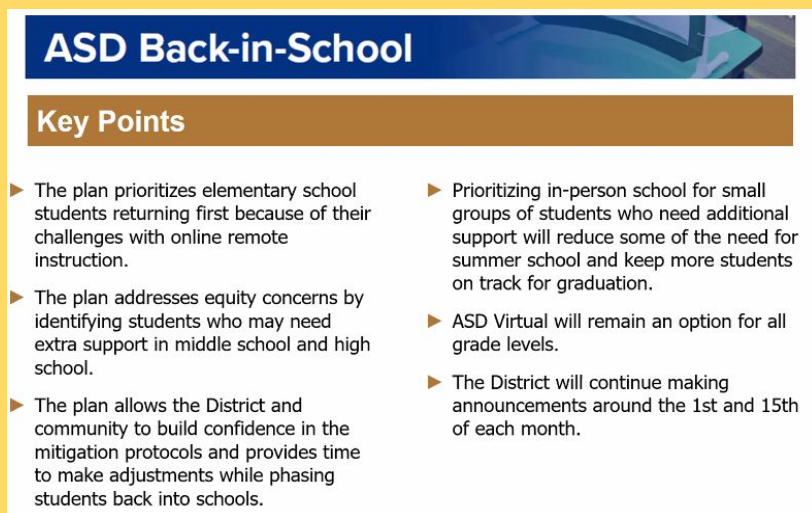
The videos will give you the opportunity to get to know your student's 3rd quarter teachers, along with the learning objectives and goals of the classes they teach. Mears 7th and 8th grade Collaborative Teams have also produced introduction videos, so you can get to know the teacher teams that support your students.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Jan. 25 --	Staff Meeting Planning and CT after school
Tuesday/Jan. 26 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Wednesday/Jan. 27 --	CT Teams, 8:00-9:00am Canvas Open Hours Support Session, 9:00-10:00am CT Leaders Training, 10:30am-12:00pm Departments, 12:45-1:45pm
Thursday/Jan. 28 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Friday/Jan. 29 --	Planning and CT before and after school

ASD Return to School Update



ASD Back-in-School

Key Points

- ▶ The plan prioritizes elementary school students returning first because of their challenges with online remote instruction.
- ▶ The plan addresses equity concerns by identifying students who may need extra support in middle school and high school.
- ▶ The plan allows the District and community to build confidence in the mitigation protocols and provides time to make adjustments while phasing students back into schools.
- ▶ Prioritizing in-person school for small groups of students who need additional support will reduce some of the need for summer school and keep more students on track for graduation.
- ▶ ASD Virtual will remain an option for all grade levels.
- ▶ The District will continue making announcements around the 1st and 15th of each month.

Mears Families,

This week, middle and high schools throughout ASD have reopened their doors to small groups of students for in-person support and instruction. While the majority of students in the district are generally showing success while learning online, the students selected for the small in-school programs have demonstrated a need for additional support.

At Mears, we are excited to welcome back a cohort of about 35 students, who were invited to attend based on meeting certain criteria. Due to ongoing safety mitigation efforts and the need to continue to staff Mears' robust online educational program, staffing for the in-school program is limited. Therefore, Mears in-school program will remain small and focused on those students who have already been selected.



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.

The small in-school program at Mears will support students, while at the same time allow school personnel the opportunity to fine tune safety protocols and build community confidence as we prepare for a broader reopening of school at the beginning of 4th quarter on March 15.

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

As always, I will continue to provide our school community with updates in this newsletter, which is published every Friday. Go Panthers! --Eric

The 10-Point Safety Plan used by all students and staff at Mears.

Commitment to Safety First



Following social distancing guidelines, Mears staff circle up to debrief and review safety protocols after the return of students on Jan. 21.

Students Encouraged to Join National Junior Honor Society



Attention: Current National Junior Honor Society Members

8th Graders who were inducted into National Junior Honor Society in February 2020 will have a meeting on Zoom Wednesday, January 27th at 2pm.

All current members should have received an invite to our NJHS Canvas Page.

Email Mrs. Lambert if you have not received the invite:

Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org



Are you interested in joining National Junior Honor Society?

**There is an interest meeting on
February 3rd for prospective members
(for 7th or 8th graders) to join Mears' NJHS!**

Email Ms. Mia Sison or Ms. Marah Lambert, if interested, for further details:

Sison_Mia@asdk12.org Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org

Requirements:

- 3.5 Average GPA (Q1 and Q2)**
- Love for Community Service and Leadership**



Panthers are Writers

January Writing Contest

FLASH FICTION or The Super Short Story



- Tell a story in 200 words or less.
- **Categories:**
 - > “No, not my cell phone.”
 - > “Tik Tok gone viral.”
 - > “COVID--blocked and unfriended.”
- Deadline: Friday, January 29th.

For all contest details go to:

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mears-creative-writing-contest/home>



Mears Middle School

District Home COVID Incident Report Our Schools ▼ Employee Options ▼  

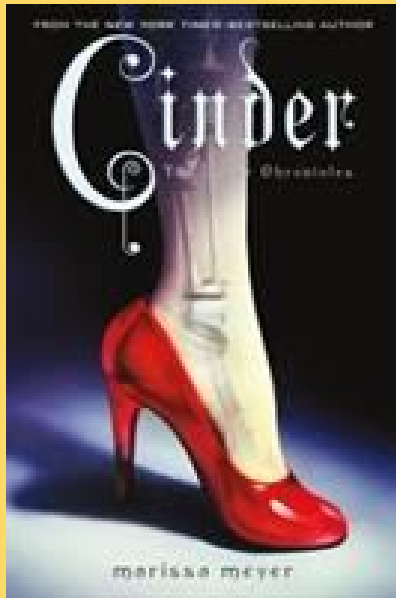
WELCOME FAMILIES STUDENTS STAFF ACADEMICS SPORTS & ACTIVITIES PTSA 

CREATIVE WRITING... STORYTELLING CONTEST
DECEMBER

CONGRATULATIONS!
1st Place: Ella Wheelles 2nd Place: Winry Olivieri

Panthers are Readers

Mears Reads Book Club



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

February's book club meeting will be on Tuesday, February 16th, at 2:15PM. We will be discussing *Cinder* by Marissa Meyer.

Each month, there are artful activities, dazzling discussions, dynamic debates and venerable voting!

If you would like to join us on Feb. 16th contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through a student's Inbox in Canvas, to ask for the Zoom link.

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any assistance in preparing for the 3rd quarter, please let our counselors know by filling out a HELP Ticket:

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Welcome to Mears Counseling!

Counselors: Caitlin Burr, Brent Haugen, & Crysta Svendsen



Mears Counseling is a place where students can contact their counselor, find resources, and have a safe place to connect.

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen,
907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr,
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen,
907-742-6426

⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒

13,000 School Districts, 13,000 Approaches to Teaching During Covid

To assess how public schools have navigated the pandemic and the impact on students, The Times examined seven representative districts. The answers were strikingly different.



Here is a really informative article about public school's nationwide and the challenge of reopening amidst the Covid pandemic:

[13,000 School Districts Approaches to School Re-entry, NY Times](#)

Does Your Family Need Some Extra Support?

CARES Act Voucher (Gift Card) Program Application

Introduction

The Voucher Program is made possible through CARES Act funding from the Municipality of Anchorage. This program will provide vouchers to individuals and/or families living within the municipality to help them with certain daily expenses such as groceries, diapers, medication, gasoline, etc. The vouchers will be made up of non-transferable gift cards from local participating stores that can be redeemed for those daily expenses. You will receive one voucher per address with the exception of those living in a residential program that requires sharing a physical address. Households including minor children are eligible for an increased benefit.

[CARES ACT Voucher Application](#)

Recently Updated: ASD's Health and Safety Covid Matrix

ASD's planning and decision-making process for determining the District's risk level for conducting school takes multiple community factors into consideration. The District conducts this process in close conversation with the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

In recent months, organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization have expanded their guidance and resources regarding safely providing public education. This new information includes a range of metrics and other criteria that allows districts, in close coordination with state and local health officials, to revise and adapt school opening guidelines based on the unique context of their community.

Here is a link: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



Congratulations to Mears' New President Curt Ehrhart and Sheila Hill as our new Treasurer.

Mears PTSA still has open leadership positions, including Vice President and Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to support this great organization and our wonderful school community.

The school store now has masks!

Order online and you can pick up at the school while supporting the PTSA!

<https://mearsptsa.memberhub.store/store/items/123659>



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

**JOIN
FOR
YOUR
CHILD**

**National
PTA**
everychild.onevoice®

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 gift-giving.

Amazon Smile

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999 to generate donations for Mears PTSA.

Shutterfly

<http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com>

Fred Meyer Community Rewards



YOU CAN HELP Mears Middle School PTSA **EARN DONATIONS**

JUST BY SHOPPING WITH YOUR FRED MEYER REWARDS CARD!

Fred Meyer donates over \$2 million per year to non-profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, based on where their customers tell them to give. Here's how the program works:

- Sign up for the Community Rewards program by linking your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Mears Middle School PTSA at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. You can search for us by our name or by our non-profit number FT042.
- Then, every time you shop and use your Rewards Card, you are helping Mears Middle School PTSA earn a donation!
- You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today.
- If you do not have a Rewards Card, they are available at the Customer Service desk of any Fred Meyer store.
- For more information, please visit www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards.

Mears Student Shines in Rube Goldberg Challenge



Mears student, Brek Cropper, has created an amazing Rube Goldberg Apparatus with one step involving a density change. According to his science teacher, Mr. Ben Armentrout, Brek actually included two. The space occupied by the cup full of water increased in density when solid objects were added to the cup. The second was the decrease in density when some material was removed from the hand sanitizer dispenser. What a fun incorporation of current events into the assignment!

Congratulations, Brek, for your creative ingenuity!

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](#)