



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

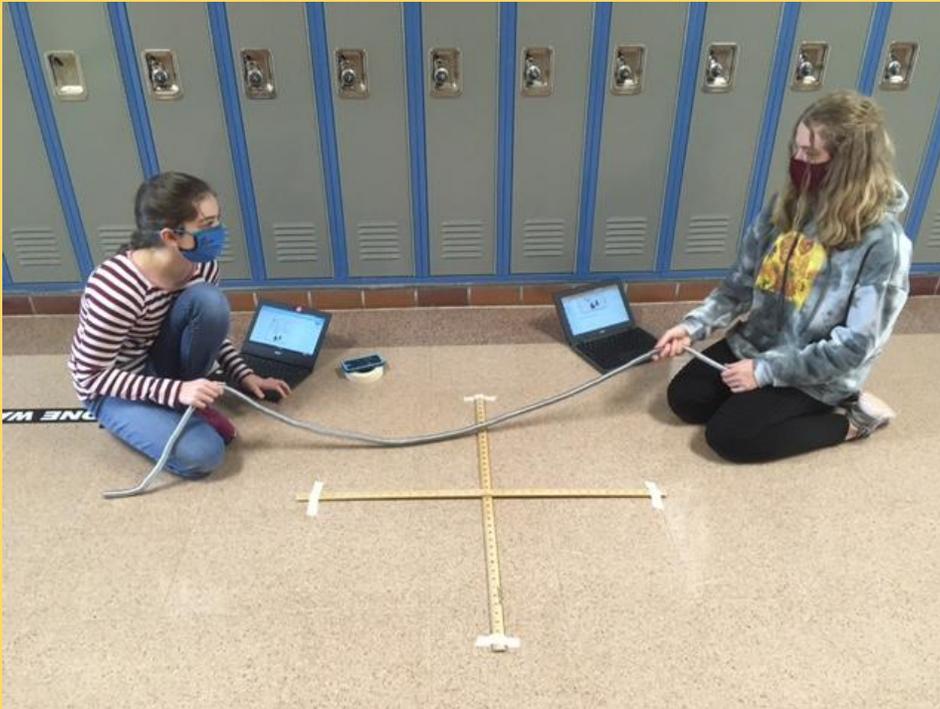
Friday, March 26, 2021

A Pride of Pink Panthers



Now that we are back in the building, Mears teachers are jumping right back into the swing of things. In a show of school spirit, teachers on Team Echo showed up at school today all dressed as pink panthers. Happy Friday everyone. Go Pink Panthers! --Eric

Learning Together Again



Students in Ms. Callie Wilder's Science 7 classes have been studying waves. Working together in pairs, students participate in a hands-on lab to measure wavelengths and record data.

Library Promotes Reading



This week, students in Ms. Holly Roberts Social Studies classes have visited the school library, where they participated in a presentation by Ms. Heather Fleming, Mears Librarian. Students learned about all the services provided by the library, including all the fun and amazing books to read!

Duck, Cover, Hold



Pictured here are students in Ms. Jessica Norton's English Language Arts 8 class as they duck, cover, and hold during an earthquake drill this week. The drill, which was led by Mr. Mike Scott, assistant principal, is one of series to ensure safety and preparedness for emergency situations.

Reminder: Student Schedule for Quarter 4

1. 7th and 8th graders signed up for Mears in-person will attend school on M, T, Th, F.
 - Arrival time -- 8:30am
 - 1st period -- 8:45am - 10:15am
 - 2nd period -- 10:25am - 12:20pm (includes nutrition break)
 - 3rd period -- 12:30pm - 2:00pm
 - Bus pick up -- 2:00pm - 2:15pm
2. All Mears Online students will meet with their teachers on Wednesdays during **required** class periods:
 - 1st Block -- 10:15 - 11:15am
 - 2nd Block -- 11:25am - 12:25pm
 - 3rd Block -- 12:55 - 1:55pm
3. All Mears students can access meeting links and other important information about their classes on their teacher's Canvas pages.

Activities at Mears Middle School

During the 4th quarter, Mears will have two activities sessions: Session 1, 3/29-4/23; Session 2, 4/26-5/20. Session 1 will consist of Cross-Country Running and Soccer. Session 2 will tentatively include Track and Field, Tennis, and Outdoor Basketball. All of the activities will occur from 2:15-3:45, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In-Person, Mears Online, and Mears students attending ASD Virtual or ASD home schools are welcome to participate in activities!



As always, the activities depend on student interest, so please sign up soon and secure your spot. Finally, all activities are intramural this quarter, meaning we will not compete with other schools, and we will not have spectators: All activities will occur on site. Additionally, there are no fees for intramural sports.

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>

Mears Staff Meeting Schedule: March 29 - April 2

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.

Wednesday, March 31 -- CT Leadership Training, 8:45-9:55am

Mears 10-Point Safety Plan



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.

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

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

It's Quarter 4!!! As this wild school year comes to a close, we will be looking forward to next school year and things each student needs to be aware of.

Please review this information and be sure to share it with your families.

If you have any questions, be sure to contact your counselor at Mears. Go Panthers!
--Mears Counseling Team

7th Graders

Here is the updated presentation about elective course sign ups for next year.



[Mears 7th Grade Elective Course Sign Ups, 2021-22](#)

8th Graders

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL	
<u>MIDDLE SCHOOL</u>	<u>HIGH SCHOOL</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• QUARTER GRADES• CLOSED CAMPUS• PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL• CONFERENCES ARE STUDENT LED OVER TWO DAYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SEMESTER GRADES• FINALS AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER• OPEN CAMPUS• PREPARING FOR COLLEGE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SCHOLARSHIPS• OPEN CONCEPT CONFERENCES ON ONE DAY
<p>YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS A PERMANENT RECORD</p>	

AJ

Here is the Dimond High School Freshman Fair Folder for all information pertaining to getting started at DHS.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X1iHeHIN12AtcRF5IsSmyDTxaV27pRkg>

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

Visit this link to meet Mears
Counselors:

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mearsteachervideointros/home>

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.

Here is a link: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)
[New CDC Guidance for Schools](#)

Panthers are Writers

March Writing Contest



The Return: Write a story that includes a transition from online to in-person learning. (See next slides for details.)

Deadline for entries: Wednesday, March 31st.

Online-to-In-person Story



Write a story in which the main character moves back into the classroom after learning online for the previous year. Capture the first day back at school--feelings, thoughts, expectations, observations, the building, teachers and classmates. Your story can be fiction or nonfiction, or a blend of the two.

Returning to school...

- Stories can be written in conventional paragraph format, or can use alternate formats. Consider using blog posts, IM, or text messages to tell your story. Or a combination of several forms...!
- Stories should be no more than 1,000 words.
- Submit stories by following the directions inside the Panther Pride Canvas on or before Wednesday, March 31st.
- Link to Panther Pictures submission page:
<https://asdk12.instructure.com/courses/167345/assignments/3736105>



Mears March Creative Writing Contest

Results for the February "Write It Like Amanda" Mears Creative Writing Contest:

First place went to Kadee Farmer for her poem, "Bruised but Whole."

Runner-up was Ella Wheelles for her poem, "Weathered and Witnessed."

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all who submitted poems. All winning entries can be viewed online on Mears website.

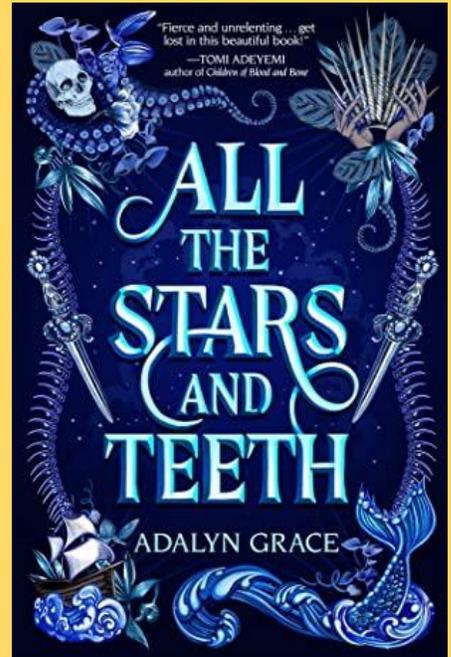
Panthers are Readers

Mears Reads Book Club

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

For April we chose, *All the Stars and Teeth* by Adalyn Grace. The next book club meeting will be on April 20th, through Zoom. Yep, we will still use Zoom to meet. The meeting will start at 2:45PM.

If you would like to join us contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through a student's Inbox in Canvas to get the Zoom information.



PTSA Meetings

We have monthly meetings usually on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and you are welcome to attend. Here are our upcoming PTSA meeting held @ 6:00 pm via zoom

- April 6
- April 20th (Nominations for board positions accepted)
- May 11th (Vote in 2021/2022 board week prior to school ending)

PTA Fundraising Opportunity

2020 was a rough year for all businesses; the Black Cat Cafe is no exception. The lack of income means we need to get creative with our fundraising. Let me introduce my nominee: "Ducks 4 Bucks"!



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!

We currently sold more ducks than anticipated and we **need** PTSA assistance for this event.

I'm currently in **need** of

- social media type person
- graphics person
- writer
- few camera operators that are not afraid of flying ducks

More information at the **next** PTSA meeting. *By the way, did you pay this year's dues?*



<https://twitter.com/MearsPtsa>



Team Clothes Order Forms

- [Taku](#)
- [Echo](#)
- [Surprise](#)
- [Raven](#)
- [Muir](#)
- [Eklutna](#)
- [Blackstone](#)

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>

Law of Superposition



On a beautiful and sunny Friday morning, students in Mr. Armentrout's Science 8 class studied the Law of Superposition, which is used to determine the order of layers on a surface. Led by their teacher, students went out to Mears parking lot to determine it's recent geochronology.

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](#)