



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 2, 2021

Mears Celebrates Music and Performance



Congratulations to Mears incredible musicians and their teachers, Mr. Shawn Campbell, Mr. Matt O'Connor, and Ms. Cari McCubrey, who remain as committed as ever to bringing the joy of music and performance to our school community. Enjoy the latest virtual performance of Mears Concert Band by visiting this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BSY6eev33e8ddMfdf4j1Qkv7PJWmXukf/view>

Go Panthers!

Cross Country Kicks Into Gear



Coaches Sorenson and Roberts enjoyed a sunny day of warm ups and running with their Cross Country athletes this week. Receding ice allowed students to run in the parking lot for the first time since last Fall.

S - T - R - E - T - C - H



Another cohort of cross country runners worked out with coaches Hundrup and Spann. Here they are stretching out in the 8th grade hallway earlier this week.

Reading by the Fireside



This week, students in the library enjoyed reading beside the warm glow of a virtual fireplace, provided by Ms. Heather Fleming, Mears Librarian.

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

Our 1st Session of activities have begun, and everyone is having a great time. Students and coaches are taking advantage of any good weather days to spend time outside, and anytime inside is spent in small cohorts with masking and social distancing. We'll start a new session on April 26th. We hope to see you there for one of our three opportunities: Tennis and Racquet Sports, Basketball, or Track+Field.

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: April 5 - 9

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, April 7 -- Staff Meeting & PEAKS Training, 8:00am

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>	

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>

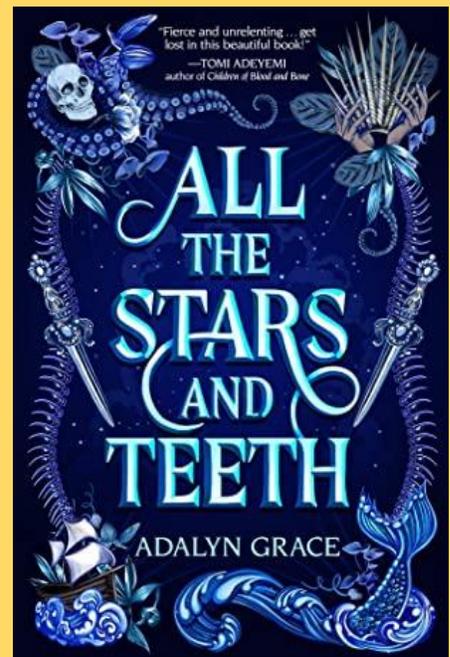
Panthers are Readers Mears Reads Book Club

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.



Panthers are Writers

April Mears Writing Contest Write an ekphrastic poem...

Write a WHAAAAAT?

Ekphrastic poems usually refer to poems that describe a work of art. In Ancient Greece, the term referred to the skill of describing an object in vivid detail.



For this contest, select a photo that catches your eye. The photo could be of anything: people, places, events, artwork, nature. Make it the subject of your poem.

Ideas for writing an ekphrastic poem:

1. **Write** about the scene shown in the photo.
2. **Write** about what happened just before or just after this scene...
3. **Write** a conversation between the characters in the image.
4. **Write** about your experience of looking at the photo or artwork.
5. **Write** as a character in the photo or artwork speaking to the viewer.

April Contest Details:

- Poems should be no more than 20 lines.
- Deadline for April submissions is Friday, April 30th.
- Submit your poem and the picture on which you based your poem as a text entry inside the Canvas panther pictures course.

https://asdk12.instructure.com/courses/167345/assignments/4131205?module_item_id=9434052

(To include your photo, click on the 3 dots above the text box and select the insert image icon.)

Here are the winners of March's writing contest:

First place -- Arianna Dance, for her entry entitled, "The Return."
Runner-up -- Karleen Kama, for "The Return of Me."

Congratulations and thank you to all students who participated in the March competition.

[Mears April Creative 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 two weeks of in-person school, I am pleased to report that our students and staff continue to do 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.

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](#)

Important Reminder to All Parents and Families: **Please Stay Home When Feeling Ill**

"I'd like to ask for parents' continued attention when conducting home symptom screening before sending children to school. While more and more parents are becoming vaccinated, children are still susceptible and can spread COVID-19 at school. Just a single positive case in a school can close an entire classroom and potentially cause the entire class to quarantine as close contacts. The school community has done a great job thus far, and COVID-related impacts to our classrooms have been minimal. Let's stay vigilant."

--Dr. Deena Bishop



Mears Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

PTSA Meetings

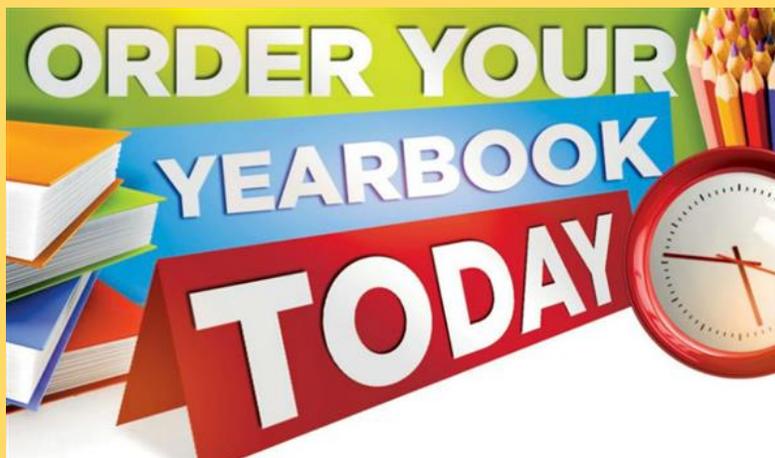
We have monthly meetings usually on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and you are welcome to attend. Here are our upcoming PTSA meeting held @ 6:00 pm via zoom

- Tuesday, April 6, 6:00pm

Check the newsletter that was sent out in an email for the Zoom links.

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

Mears Yearbooks on Sale Now!



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

Our next PTSA meeting will be held @ 6:00 pm via zoom on April 6th (see Zoom Links Below). We hope to see you there!

Check the newsletter that was sent out as an email for Zoom links.

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 Mears upcoming fundraising opportunity: "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.

We are 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



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>

Friday Fun Days



Ms. Sally Pak and Ms. Jessica Norton celebrate this week's Friday Fun Day wearing their favorite Sports/Team athletic attire. Until the end of the school year, every Friday will be a Fun Friday with a designated theme to promote school spirit and Panther Pride. All students and staff are encouraged to join in the fun!

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](#)