



Mears Middle School

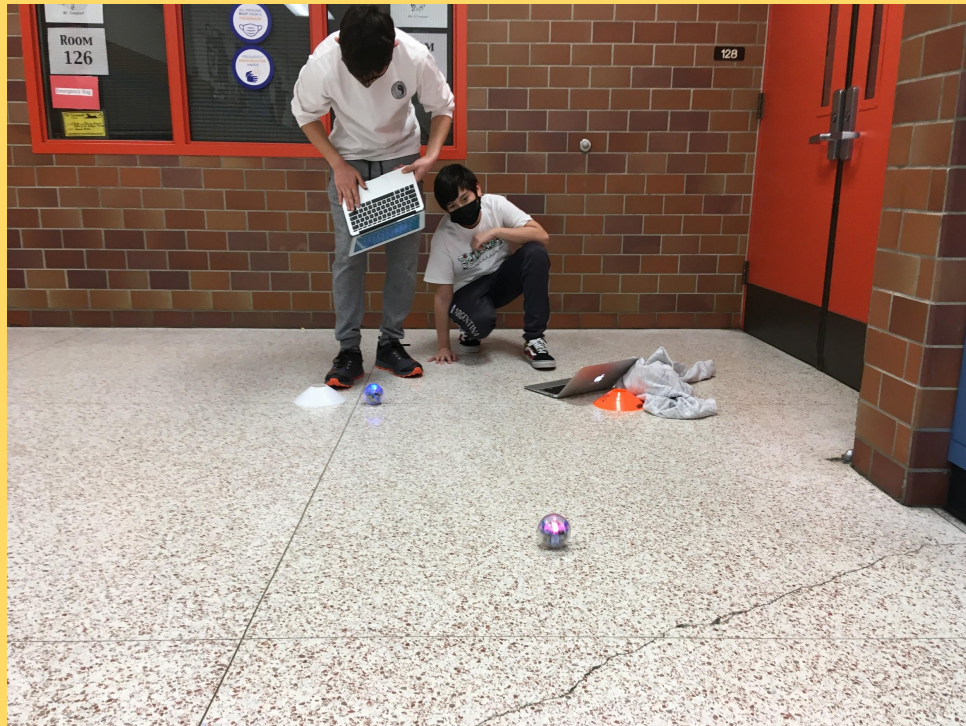
# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 9, 2021

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## *Students Explore Robotics*



Students in Mr. Tony Lewis' class are exploring coding and robotics using Spheros, the programmable, STEAM-based educational tool. Here students have programmed their rolling Sphero devices to turn the science wing corner and hit a target down the hallway.

Go Panthers!

# Pass, Dribble, Juggle, Shoot



Mears soccer players are working on their individual skills while practicing in the MPR. Here our student-athletes practice their ball handling skills in tight quarters with lots of traffic.

# Clearing the Track



ASD Operations Staff have been working to clear the snow and ice from the running track around the back field. Once cleared, warmer weather will melt the last of the ice and Mears track and field athletes will finally have a track to run on.



# PTSA Supports New Classroom Seats



This week, older chairs in Ms. Yackel's art classroom were replaced by ergonomic, rocking stools. Students favor them over traditional seats because they allow for constant movement. Mears expresses its gratitude to the PTSA for its generous support for the purchase of the new seats.

Thank you, Mears PTSA!

# Project Leading the Way



Mears hosted a great meeting this week with Ms. Missy Frazee, ASD's Career Technical Education Coordinator, who joined up with Mears teachers to discuss current and future CTE course offerings. Ms. Frazee has been a strong advocate for Mears CTE programs, which include Design and Modeling, Video Production, Computer Technology, and Robotics.

# Updated PEAKS Testing Schedule

Due to district-wide degraded internet issues that occurred on Thursday morning, April 8, Mears PEAKS testing was delayed this week. Beginning next week, Mears in-person students will begin taking the annual state PEAKS test. Information related to Alaska's state assessment can be found by visiting this link:

<https://www.asdk12.org/PEAKS>

## **PEAKS Assessment Schedule for In-person Students:**

Note: All PEAKS testing will take place during the 2nd block class period, 10:24am-12:20pm

### **English Language Arts**

April 12-13 and April 15-16

### **Mathematics**

April 19-20 and April 22-23

### **Science 8**

April 26-27

## **PEAKS for Mears Online Students**

Any student at Mears who is participating in the Online Program during the 4th quarter may opt-in to the PEAKS test by filling out this form: [Opt-in for PEAKS](#). Due to the impact of Covid on this year's testing schedule, Mears Online students who do not opt-in, will not be expected to take the assessment.

# 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.

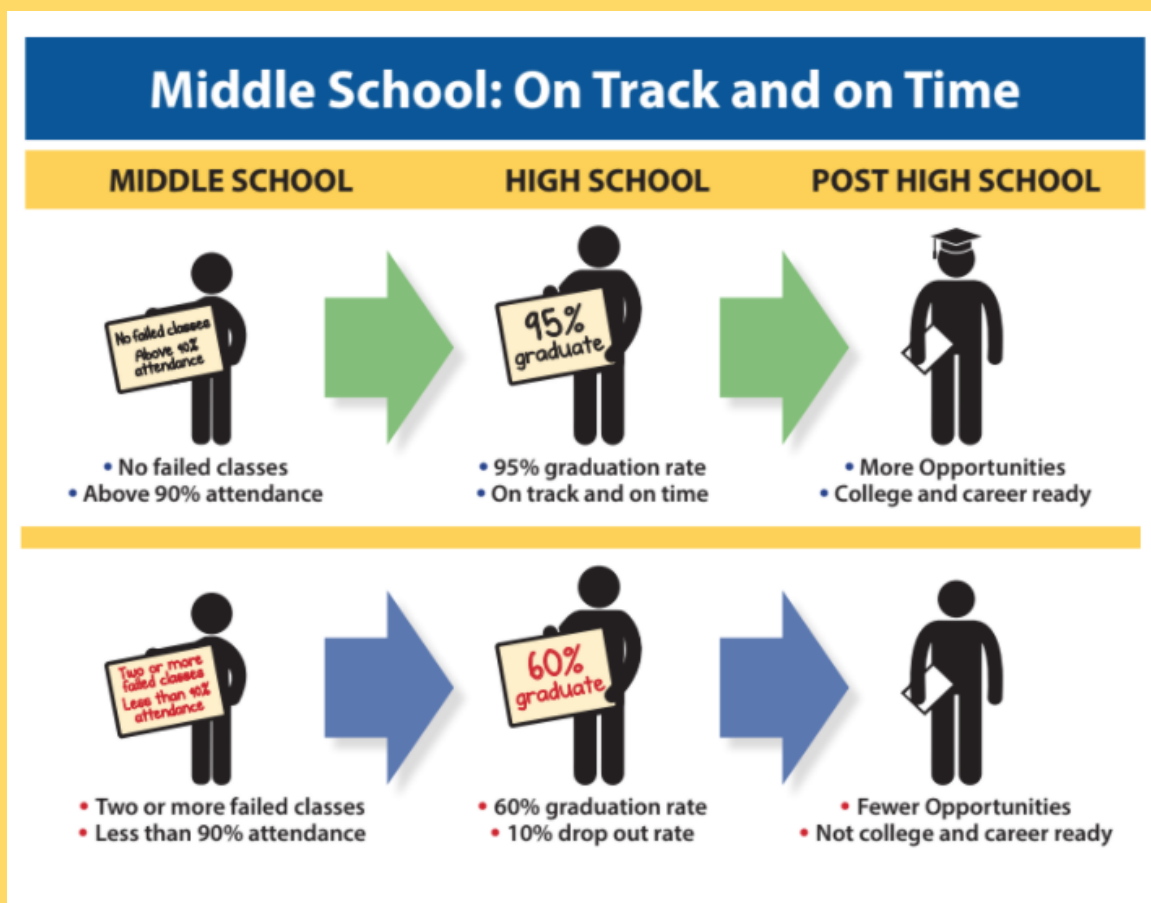
### **Session 1: June 2-30 and Session 2: July 12-August 6**

Here is the link to the [ASD Summer School Sign Up Form](#) that families should use to indicate interest in taking summer coursework for credit recovery. Mears counselors will review the information gathered and register students for the sessions and courses selected.

If you are unsure about how many F's/Incompletes your student has this year or have additional questions about the summer program, please contact your school counselor.  
Link: [Contact Mears Counselors](#)

Middle school counselors will work with individual families to finalize the registration process and answer individual planning questions.

*Start planning now and make sure your student is On Track for High School Success!*



## Middle School Career Exploration Program Summer, 2021

**Open to all Current ASD 8th Graders**

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

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](mailto: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 12-16

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 14 -- CT Leadership Training, 8:45

Friday, April 16 -- Friday Fun Day Theme/Hawaii Aloha Beach Day



# 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"><li>• QUARTER GRADES</li><li>• CLOSED CAMPUS</li><li>• PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL</li><li>• CONFERENCES ARE STUDENT LED OVER TWO DAYS</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEMESTER GRADES</li><li>• FINALS AT THE END OF THE SEMESTER</li><li>• OPEN CAMPUS</li><li>• PREPARING FOR COLLEGE, VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SCHOLARSHIPS</li><li>• OPEN CONCEPT CONFERENCES ON ONE DAY</li></ul>

**YOUR TRANSCRIPT IS A PERMANENT RECORD**





Hallie\_Eric

Eric Backman

Jennifer\_Kruber

Buck\_Jennifer

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>



## COUNSELORS

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>

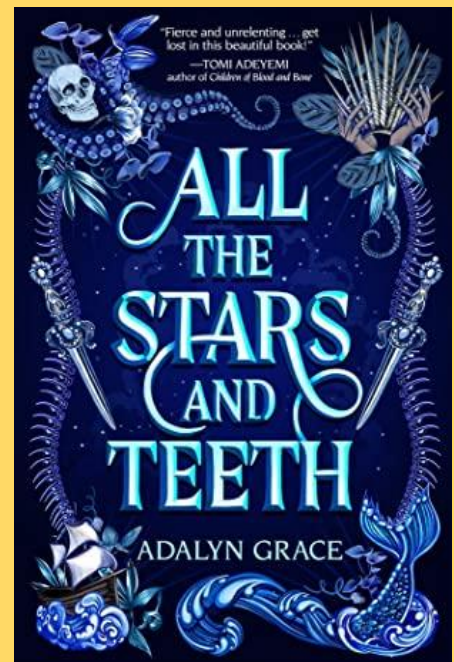
## Panthers are Readers Mears Reads Book Club

### EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The April book that we chose is: ***All the Stars and Teeth*** by Adalyn Grace.

Our next meeting is on April 20th, a little over one week away! We will meet using a Zoom, and we will start at 2:45PM. MathCounts is going to join us for the first 15 minutes.

If you would like to join us contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, [fleming\\_heather@asdk12.org](mailto:fleming_heather@asdk12.org), or through a student's Inbox in Canvas to get the Zoom information.



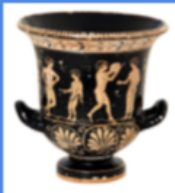


# Panthers are Writers

## 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](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:

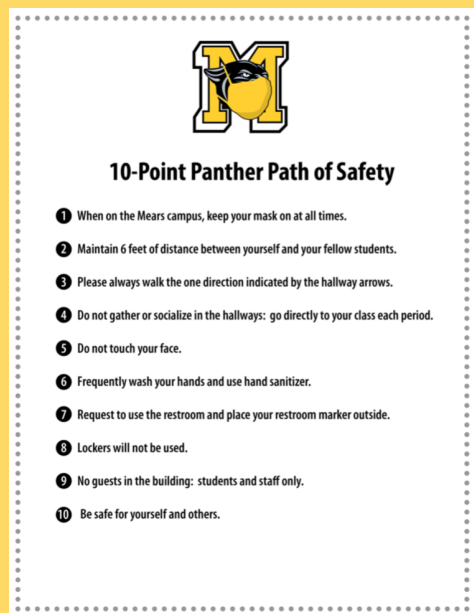
First place -- Arianna Dance, for her entry entitled, "The Return."

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



After a month 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

Upcoming PTSA meetings held @ 6:00 pm via zoom

- Tueaday, May 4th ( Nominations for board positions accepted)

## Mears Yearbooks on Sale Now!

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



Purchase your yearbook at:

[ybpay.lifetouch.com](https://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

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](http://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](http://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](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999)

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



# Friday Fun Days Continue



Ms. Caitlin's Burr's shoes lit up the hallways during this Friday's 1980s Day!



Next Friday, April 16 is Hawaii/Aloha/Beach Day

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## 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](#)