



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, May 22, 2020

## *Tribute to the Class of 2024-- Words of Inspiration and Wisdom*



As a tribute to Mears 8th graders, who have just completed their middle school education, Mears teachers and staff have made a video compilation of specially selected quotes to encourage, inspire, and offer guidance for the journey ahead.

Enjoy the video: [Words to Take With You](#)

# To all the Wonderful Students at Mears,



You are a fantastic group of young people. You are intelligent, kind, funny, diverse, creative and strong. Each of you is important, valued, and unique. Each of you has important gifts to share with the world.

Thank you all for your patience, persistence, good humor and, of course, for sticking with us and staying engaged with school through the global pandemic. We thank you for your hard work throughout the year, and especially during these last six weeks from your very own homes!

Have a wonderful summer. Enjoy your friends and families and the beautiful scenery outdoors. We wish our 8th graders all the best as they head into high school and we look forward to seeing our 7th graders return in the Fall as the new 8th grade class, The Class of 2025! --Eric

# Congratulations Super Panthers!



Congratulations to all the 7th and 8th graders who completed their studies yesterday and finished a truly historic school year. Mears teachers and staff would also like to congratulate our three incredible retirees: Ms. Tina Arend, Ms. Lani Royland, and Ms. Donna Keese. All three have been pillars of educational greatness and have made significant contributions to their respective departments and to the entire school community. All three are wonderful colleagues, exceptional human beings, and will be dearly missed. Congratulations to you all! --Eric

## A Moving Tribute



Mears teachers and staff celebrated the retirement of Ms. Arend, Ms. Roylance, and Ms. Keese with a caravan of cars, decorated with signs and balloons. This was a moving (literally) tribute to our stellar colleagues.



# All the Best to Our Good Friends



Mears also extends its heartfelt thanks to Ms. Bronwyn Haynes (Spanish), Mr. Tyson Alteri (Family Consumer Science), Ms. Jennifer Palinko (Campus Security), and Ms. Paige Daniels (Mears Accountant). Each of these wonderful Mears staff members is moving on to pursue other opportunities. Each has done truly exceptional work in and outside the classroom. Each will be dearly missed.

# Important Updates:

## **Congratulations: The School Year is Over!**

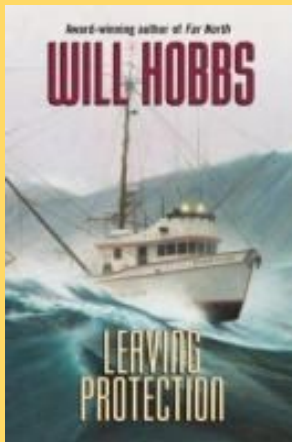
The school year officially ended last night, May 21, at midnight. Congratulations to you all, especially to those who stuck with us and gave their best effort to complete the online course of study.

We are pleased to report that throughout the period of distance learning, Mears maintained one of the highest engagement rates in the district, averaging close to 90% of the student body.

## **Thank you parents and families**

Because so many on our staff are parents themselves, we know first hand how difficult it has been balancing all facets of life during this period of distance learning! We are also keenly aware that many of the families in the Mears community continue to face significant challenges. Please know that ASD will do its best to continue to be a resource of support throughout the summer months, and Mears teachers and staff will be here for you in the Fall.

## **Summer Book Club**



**You are invited to the Mears summer book club! We are reading *Leaving Protection* by Will Hobbs. The meeting will be on June 24th at 1:30PM through Zoom. *Leaving Protection* is a Battle of the Books title for middle school next year and is available as an ebook and an electronic audio book from the Anchorage School District's digital library and from the public library's digital library. Both libraries can be accessed through the SORA app on any device. Students can also join the Mears Book Club Google Classroom using code: koudai5 The Book Club Classroom is available to get more information, activities, and help with SORA.**

Ms. Lambert and Mrs. Fleming look forward to seeing everyone on the 24th!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/198602793?pwd=NEkyQjhoaEVYbVpNKzVEZys0SHd3QT09>

Meeting ID: 198 602 793

Password: readbooks

## Honor Roll and 4.0 GPAs Celebrated:



Thanks to the great work of Ms. Ava Goodman and Ms. Paige Daniels at Mears, students will be recognized for achieving Honor Roll status during the 3rd quarter. We will also be celebrating the academic achievements of all students who have received a 4.0 GPA. Certificates and Letters of Recognition are being mailed out directly to the families of these young scholars.

## Memory Book Delay:

Unfortunately, due to complications caused by the pandemic, Life Touch is unable to ship Mears Memory Books prior to the end of school next week. Mears administration will work with the PTSA to organize a distribution plan, once the books arrive in early June. Once the books arrive, we will communicate directly with all the families who have ordered a book. We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Summer School Sign Up (Free):

A flyer for Summer Learning Opportunities. It features a green header with the text "Keep the momentum to ensure a solid start next fall with Summer Learning Opportunities for all grade levels". Below the header is a photo of a student using a laptop. To the right of the photo is a list of bullet points: "Self-directed online or paper and pencil options", "Core subjects: English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies", and "Free for ASD students". At the bottom left is a QR code and the website "www.asdk12.org/summerlearning". At the bottom right is the logo for Anchorage School District and a small icon of a person at a computer.

Keep the momentum to ensure a solid start next fall with

### Summer Learning Opportunities

for all grade levels

- ▶ **Self-directed** online or paper and pencil options
- ▶ **Core subjects:** English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies
- ▶ **Free** for ASD students

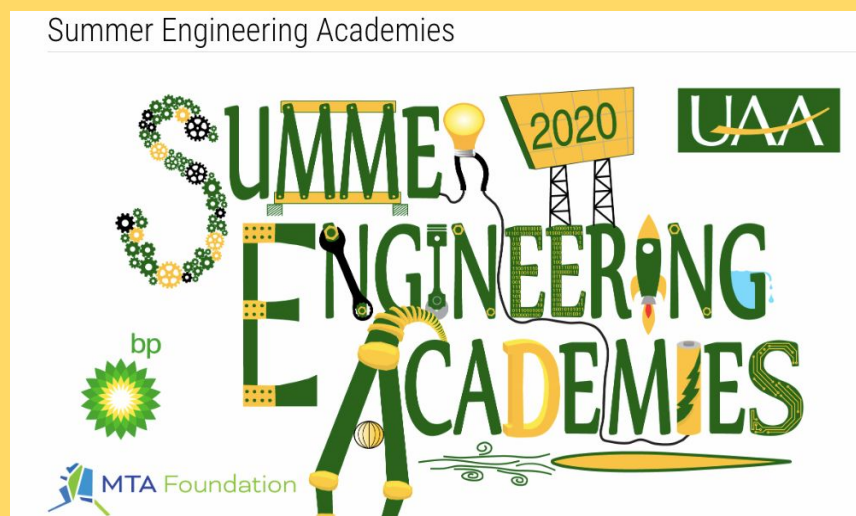
 [www.asdk12.org/summerlearning](http://www.asdk12.org/summerlearning)  
For questions and support call 742-HELP (4357)

  
Anchorage School District  
Educating All Students for Success in Life



ASD is providing free summer school opportunities for middle school students. Signing up is easy. Just go to the website above or call 907-742-HELP. Stay connected and keep learning during summer!

## Summer Engineering Academy



The UAA Summer Engineering Academies are a series of fun, hands-on, and engineering-themed summer camps for middle school and high school students. This summer, the Academies have moved completely online, with week-long camps focused on coding, 3D modeling, and videography. This is a great way to flex those learning muscles over the summer and

increase interest in science, technology, engineering, and math.

The camps cost \$100, but tuition waivers are available for families who need them. The application is now open. You can learn more at [www.uaa.alaska.edu/sea](http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/sea) or by emailing [sea@alaska.edu](mailto:sea@alaska.edu).

### Student Personal Items Pick Up:

Any student's personal items not picked up last week will be safely stored until the Fall; to help ensure the health and safety of everyone, there will not be an additional opportunity for these items to be picked up this school year.

### ASD Technology Equipment Loans:

If your student has a computer or an internet mifi device on loan, you may hold on to it through the summer months. Please take care of this important resource. ASD and Mears will provide further information to families in the Fall about computers and mifis on loan.

### ASD Educational Resources and Support

For support of any kind, please call 907-742-HELP





# Mears Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA



Mears/PTSA will notify families soon about distribution plans for the Class of 2024 T-Shirts. Thank you to all who sent in the shirt size requests.

## IT'S TIME TO RECRUIT A NEW PTSA BOARD.

DO YOU WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? 1ST VICE PRESIDENT? 2nd VICE PRESIDENT? SECRETARY? TREASURER?  
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE THAT WOULD BE INTERESTED?

Nominations for next year's board are now being accepted. If you are interested, fill out the nomination form which can be found on our website [www.mearsptsa.com](http://www.mearsptsa.com) Our current board is termed out and has students that are moving on to High School. We need great leaders to help keep Mears PTSA running strong. [Nomination Form](#)



# Once a Panther, Always a Panther



*Have a wonderful summer break!*

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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](#)