



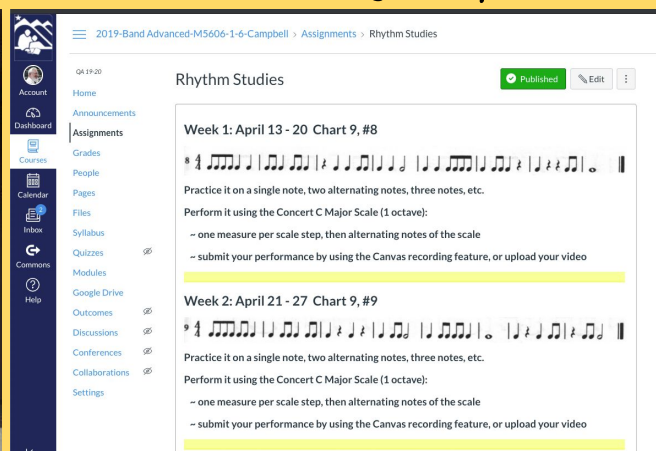
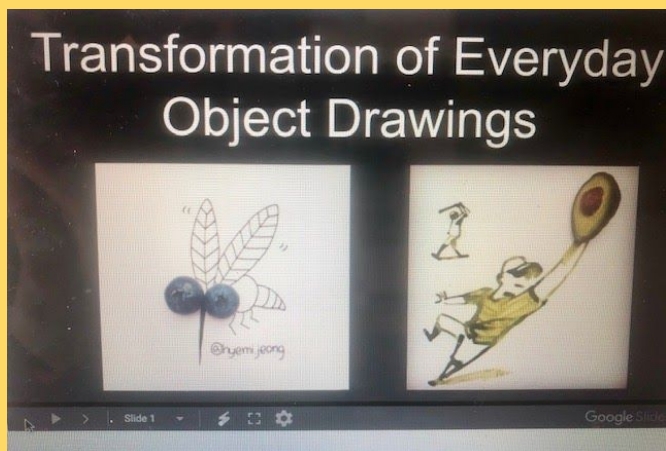
Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 10, 2020

## Mears Introduces Electives on Monday, April 13



### Watch this video



As you watch, listen to the lyrics and repeat the family vocabulary. Think about your good Spanish pronunciation.

Now, record yourself saying the following words:

**la familia**

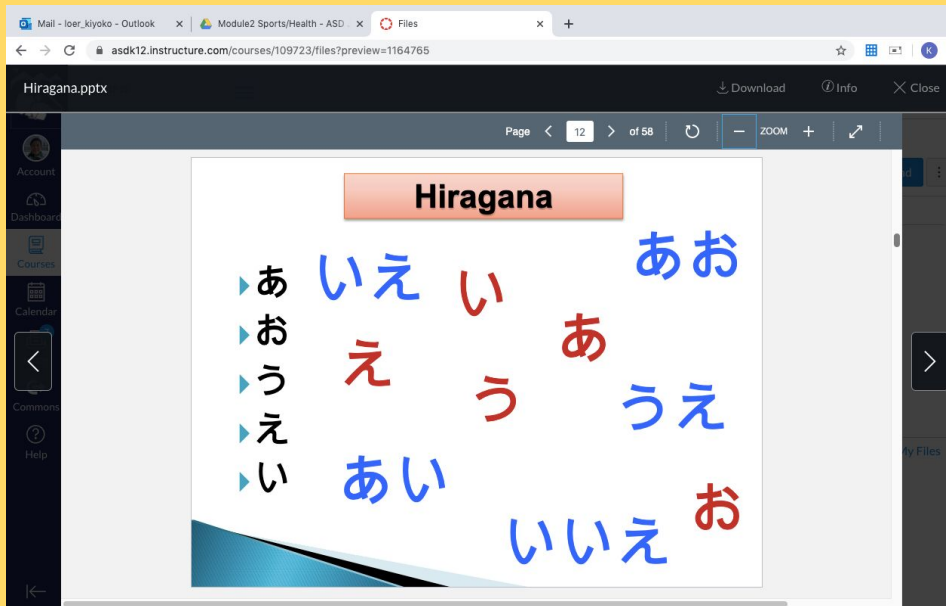
**el padre**



### Design and Modeling

2020-PLTW Design & Modelin...  
S2 19-20





Beginning on Monday, April 13, Mears elective teachers will be introducing their new online curriculum. Students will now have access to their full complement of classes, including all core and elective content. Mears elective courses include art, music, career technical education, world languages, creative writing, cinema, debate, service learning, recreational reading,

and others. Unlike some of the other courses offered online, many of the elective classes will give students the opportunity to engage in more creative and hands-on learning, which during prolonged periods of time at home, will likely come as welcome news. We want to encourage all of our students to get engaged in this new curriculum and enjoy exploring new topics, creative expression, and building new and valuable skills.

## Important Updates:

### Schools Closed for Remainder of Year:



## State Extends School Closure to End of Year

Yesterday during a briefing on State Health, Governor Dunleavy announced that school closures were to be extended through the end of the school year. Though the decision did not come as a surprise to many given the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, it does come with a tremendous amount of disappointment and sorrow. All of us at Mears and throughout ASD are deeply saddened at the thought of not being able to see our students at school again this year.

That said, we remain committed to ensuring the health and safety of young people throughout Anchorage and we are pleased to be able to engage with our students on a daily basis in an online educational setting. All of us at Mears recognize the incredible importance of establishing daily routines that are focused on connecting with our students and furthering their academic, social, and emotional growth. --Eric

### Spring Office Hour Schedule:

This week, Mears introduced the new Spring Office Hour schedule. This schedule is intended to be used for the duration of the online learning program this quarter.

Mears Office Hours Schedule : Mears Office Hours					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9 AM	Tutor Sessions for Sped, ELL, Tier II, and Tier III				
9-10 AM	Japanese/Spanish	P.E.	Japanese/Spanish	P.E.	Japanese/Spanish
10-11 AM	Math	Counselors	Math	Counselors	Math
11-12 PM	Language Arts	Band/Choir/Orchestra/Art	Language Arts	Band/Choir/Orchestra/Art	Language Arts
12-1 PM	Science	PLTW/Computer Tech./Video Production/SBP/FCS/	Science	PLTW/Computer Tech./Video Production/SBP/FCS	Science
1-2 PM	Social Studies	Service Learning/Study Skills/ Health/Unlisted Electives	Social Studies	Service Learning/Study Skills/ Health/Unlisted Electives	Social Studies
2-3 PM	Tutor Sessions for Sped, ELL, Tier II, and Tier III				
Office Hour Time Guide - Student Canvas courses will have the zoom office hour links and any updated office hour ti					

The online version of this schedule is available on Mears website under the "Welcome" sign. <https://www.asdk12.org/mears>

On Thursday, April 2, all Mears families and staff members were emailed the Spring Office Hour Schedule, complete with links, passwords, ID#s for every Office Hour meeting. Students and their families should use this document to participate regularly in Office Hours.

Students and their families are reminded that Office Hours are a designated time for students to get assistance in completing their online assignments. While Office Hours are not required, all students are encouraged to attend as often as possible. Daily routines and schedules can help improve productivity and will serve to keep students connected and engaged.

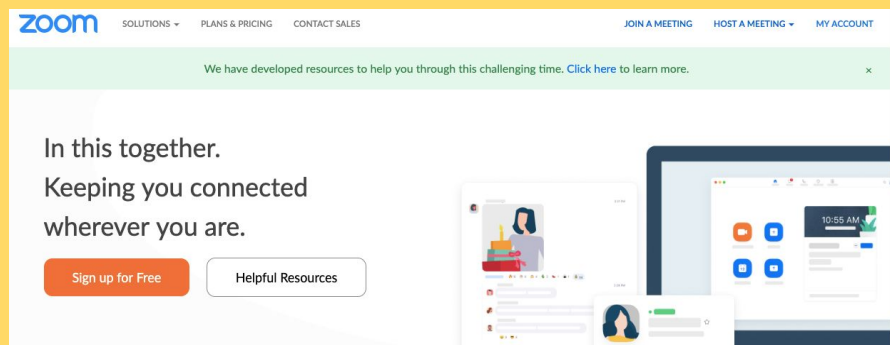
Every Office Hour session will be hosted by a teacher(s) on Zoom. Students have access to all Zoom meeting invitations, passwords, and ID#s in their Canvas accounts.



### Technology Distribution Update:

During this week, Mears has distributed approximately 140 computers to families. We are pleased to provide this needed technology to our students so that they can connect with their teachers and fully access the curriculum. Please visit [Internet Special Offers for Anchorage Students and Families](#) if you are looking to improve connectivity at home.

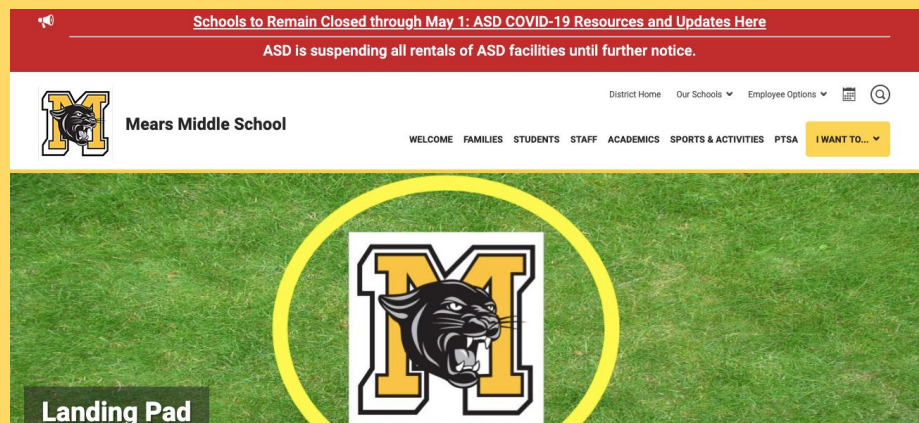
### Communicating with Zoom:



Teachers and staff will be utilizing Zoom for video conferencing with students during Office Hours. Zoom will also be used to communicate with parents and families during this period of school closure. It

is highly recommended that families download Zoom onto your devices to help facilitate communication. Visit: <https://zoom.us/>

### Mears Website:



Mears students and families are encouraged to visit [Mears Middle School Website](#) regularly, as we continue to update information to support our community during this challenging time.


### Mears Counseling Services:



In response to the increased need for counseling support during this challenging time, Mears has launched a landing page of counseling resources and services for our students and families. Please visit [Mears Counseling Services](#) to connect with Mears counselors for any support your student or family may need. We are here to help.

For students requiring nursing support, please coordinate with ASD Health Services at 907-742-4136 or email [healthcareservices@asdk12.org](mailto:healthcareservices@asdk12.org). The District wants to provide any support possible to students who may be high risk according to CDC guidelines.

ASD Student Nutrition will continue food distribution of pre-packaged breakfast and lunch meals for any child 18 or younger at established food service sites. Mobile food service routes will remain scheduled to accommodate students and families unable to access the school distribution sites. Information on feeding sites and mobile bus route meal drop off can be accessed at this link: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15121>.



**Anchorage School District**  
*Educating All Students for Success in Life™*

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## Remote Education

- Family Portal
  - Education FAQs
  - Help
  - Educational Resources
  - Family Guidelines for Online Learning
  - Learning Applications

## Supported Tools



**Apex**  
 Learning®



**Canvas**

### GOALS

- Provide opportunities to deepen learning
- Gain experience with online educational tools
- Receive peer and teacher support to engage with content
- Increase SEL skills

### PARENT ROLE

- Parents as partners

### STUDENT ROLE

- Student as self-advocate to learn for learning's sake to prioritize content for self betterment

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15214>

The Family Resources link (<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15108>) on the ASD COVID-19 website includes important information for families during the period of school closures.

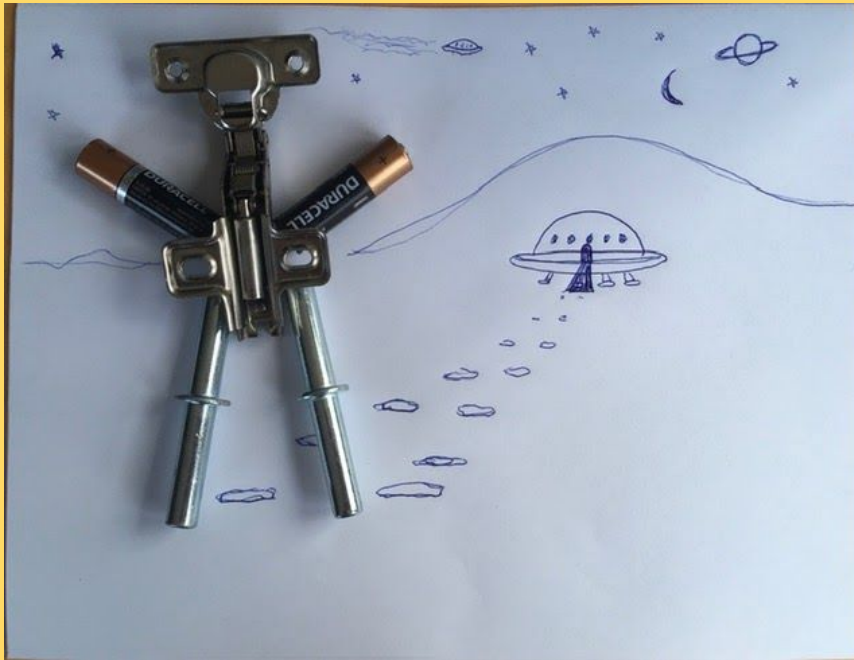
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Beginning next week, Mears elective teachers are introducing their new online curriculum. Ms. Kat Yackel, Mears art teacher, will begin with a fun and ingenious project that everyone can participate in, parents included.

Let's see what you can come with!

Mr. Backman's Transformation of Everyday Object Drawings:

## **“Robots are Coming”**



## **“Green Trees on a Lake”**







## Order Your Copy Today!

### **Memory Books** online ordering [www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com) \$35

Order today. Don't delay and be the parent that your student didn't get a memory book. NEW this year - you can personalize the memory book with your student's name. Its an additional \$5. Order online and receive a free wall calendar or easel from Shutterfly.

**Personalization deadline is April 6.** Pre Orders without personalization are due May 15th. We will only have 400 books for sale. This includes the presales. Currently, we have sold 170 books.



Make checks payable to Mears PTSA or pay with a credit card online [www.ybpay.com](http://www.ybpay.com)

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## Mears PTSA Leadership Positions Available

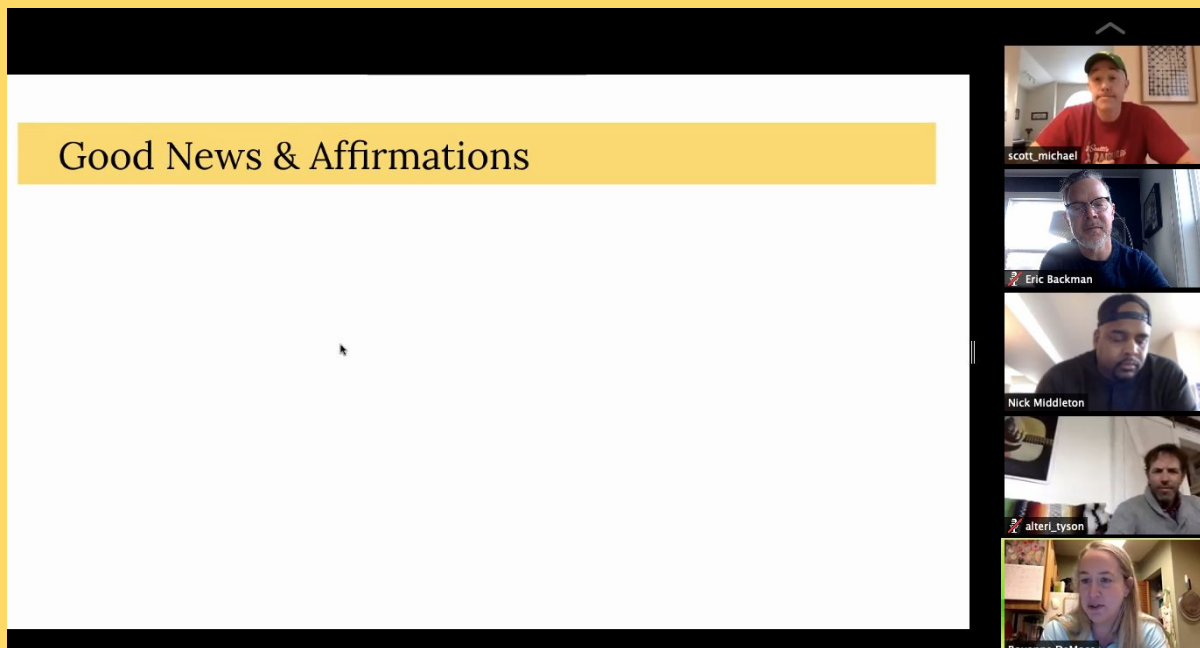
One of the best ways you can support students and teachers at Mears is to volunteer for PTSA Leadership.

WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? 1ST VICE PRESIDENT? 2 VICE PRESIDENT?  
SECRETARY? TREASURER?

Nominations for next year's board are now being accepted. If you are interested, email us your 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.

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## Good News & Affirmations



As part of the Capturing Kids' Heart Program, which is practiced throughout ASD, Mears teachers and staff begin every meeting with "Good News & Affirmations." We are committed to this practice because we like to begin all of our gatherings with positivity and appreciation. Here are members of Mears staff in a Zoom meeting Friday morning celebrating important achievements of the week, big and small, and recognizing the good work and accomplishments of their colleagues.

Mears families are encouraged to embrace the practice at home. --Eric



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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](#)