



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, May 8, 2020

Thank you, Mears Teachers and Staff!

“

**Education is improving
the lives of others and
for leaving your community
and world better than
you found it.**

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN

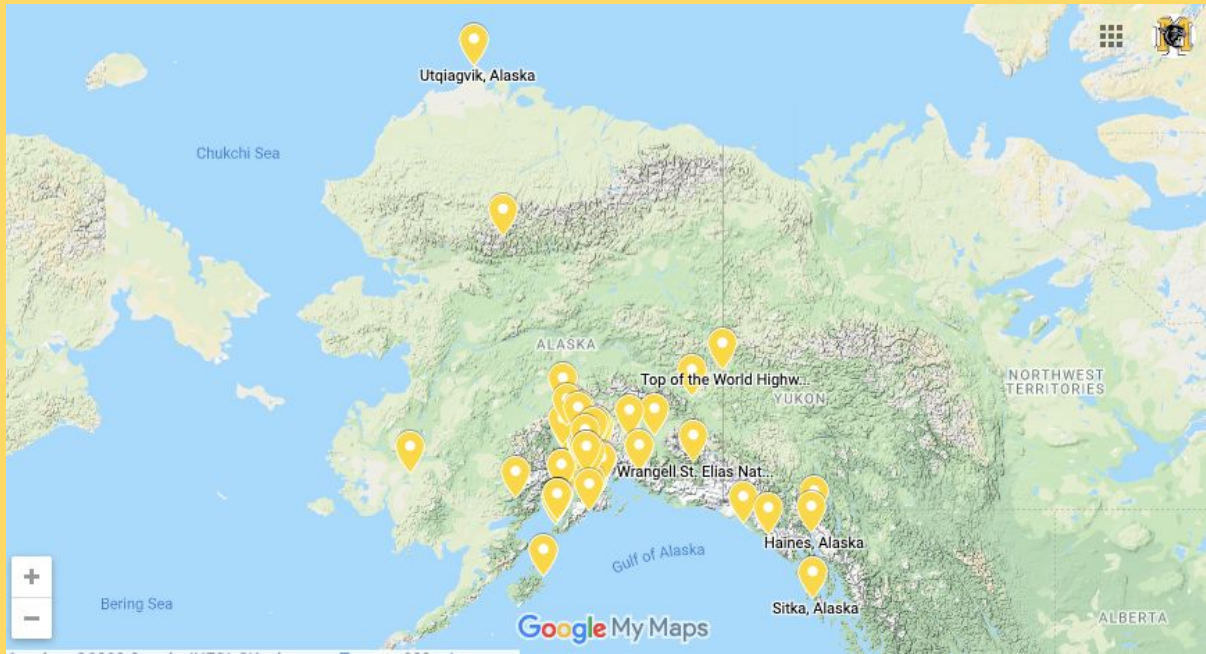
Today marks the end of National Teacher Appreciation Week, so on behalf of all who make up our wonderful school community, I wish to say thank you to the teachers and staff at Mears. The value of your contributions to the young people of our community is immeasurable. Indeed, as Marian Wright Edelman reminds us, the work of educators not only improves the lives of our students, but also strengthens our community and the world. During these challenging times, Mears teachers and staff have shown us all the depths to which they will go to serve and support our young people and their families. Thank you all for your dedication, creativity, and professionalism, and for the tremendous care you show for each and every one of our students! --Eric

PTSA Honors Mears Staff



Posreated by Jocelyn Smith and members of the PTSA Board. Thank you!

Mears Staff Creates Interactive Travel Map



In yet another expression of staff unity and creativity, Mears teachers and staff have created the [Mears Travels Alaska Map](#). Check out where Mears staff members love to go in Alaska. Thanks to Ms. Heather Fleming, Ms. Joanna Hubbard, and Ms. Tina Arend for their work on this fantastic project.

Examples:



Mrs. McCubrey

Favorite Place: Homer, AK

“This is one of my favorite places because I get to hear the ocean and see the mountains. Beauty all around!”



Ms. Callie Wilder

Favorite Place: Matanuska Valley, AK

“The Bomber Traverse is one of my favorite backpacking adventures...up mountains, across glaciers and bolder fields...stunning views.”

Important Updates:

Finish Strong!

Education is vitally important to every one of our students. Academic engagement at school or at home strengthens us as individuals and as a community. School enriches our lives and makes us more thoughtful, creative, and empowered.

With just two weeks of the school year remaining, we need to do everything we can to promote Mears online learning program. Here are a few helpful talking points to continue to promote effort and engagement at home.

- ❖ **For the next two weeks, we are all working to prepare students for the next grade level, which will be more challenging than the last.**
- ❖ **It is critical that we take full advantage of the limited time we have left this school year.**
- ❖ **Teachers will continue to offer encouragement and valuable feedback to support critical learning and growth.**
- ❖ **Be patient. Be kind. Do your best every day!**

Student Personal Items Pick Up:

Earlier this week, hundreds of Mears families picked up their students' personal items at school. Hundreds of families were afforded this opportunity in large part because of the hard work of a few Mears staff members. At all times, throughout the operation, Mears staff members strictly adhered to social distancing rules.

Special thanks goes out to Ms. Jennifer Palinko, Mr. Thomas Fisher, Ms. Megan Perkins, Mr. Dennis Sorenson, and Mr. Jason MacDonald, all of whom worked to clean out lockers in the hallways and PE lockers rooms. Student items were placed in bags and were distributed to families who came to school on their assigned pick up day. Thanks to Mr. Mike Scott, who coordinated the entire operation.

Any items not picked up this week will be safely stored until the Fall; there will not be an additional opportunity for these items to be picked up this school year.

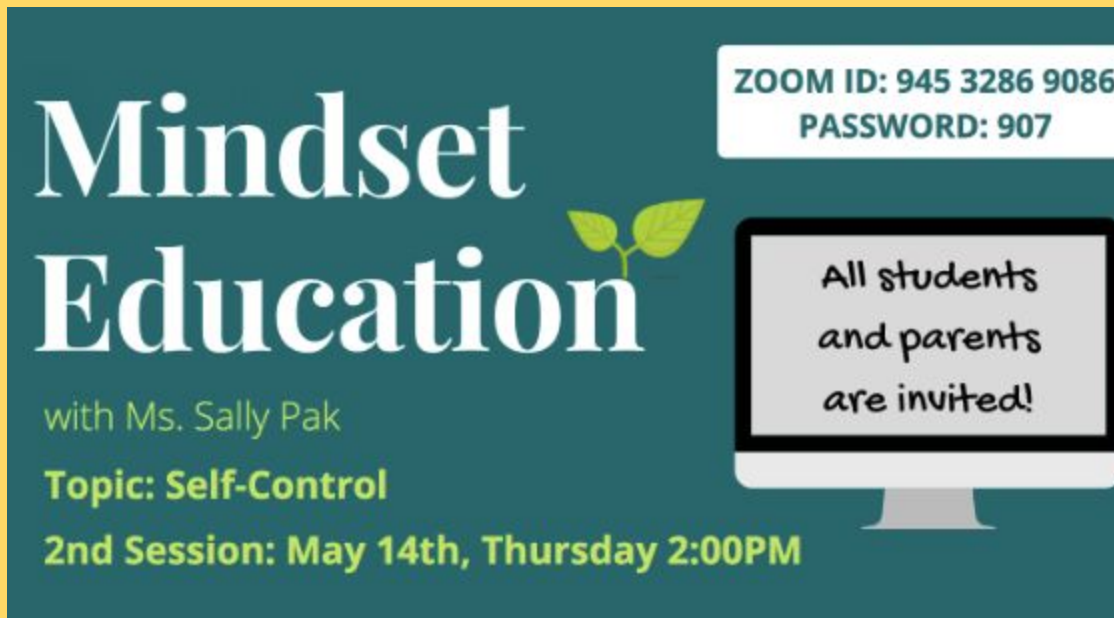
Online Elective Course Sign-ups

Again this week, Mears sent out a google form survey for current 7th graders to sign up for their 8th grade electives. Students must select their top choices for electives for the coming school year. Parents/guardians will be required to review their student's selections and sign off on the form.

If you have not done so already, please use this link below to select elective course choices for your 8th grade student: [Mears 8th Grade Elective Course Choices, 2020-21](#)

Similarly, a letter to families of current 6th graders has been sent to communicate information about a few updates made to the elective courses offered to incoming 7th graders.

Mindset Education Series



The poster features a teal background. On the left, the text 'Mindset Education' is written in large white font, with a small green leaf icon above the 'i' in 'Education'. Below this, it says 'with Ms. Sally Pak' in a smaller white font, 'Topic: Self-Control' in green, and '2nd Session: May 14th, Thursday 2:00PM' in green. On the right, there is a white box containing 'ZOOM ID: 945 3286 9086' and 'PASSWORD: 907' in teal. Below that is a computer monitor icon with a grey screen displaying 'All students and parents are invited!' in black text.

Ms. Sally Pak, Mears Language Arts teacher, will lead the second session of the Mindset Education series. Students, families, teachers, and staff are all invited to attend. This week's session on the topic of isolation was extremely informative and uplifting.

Here's a preview of this week's session:

Make the most of your youth with the safety device of life: Self-Control
Owning the brake pedal means you control the way the car moves and how fast it goes. The same way, the ability to control yourself will give you structure when pursuing bigger, greater things in life. In order to do the things you want, you must nurture your ability for self-control. In other words, you must hold back from what you want to do, and do the things you don't want to do. That kind of training to discipline the heart is absolutely necessary. Please join Ms. Pak on the topic of Self-Control May 14th, Thursday at 2PM.

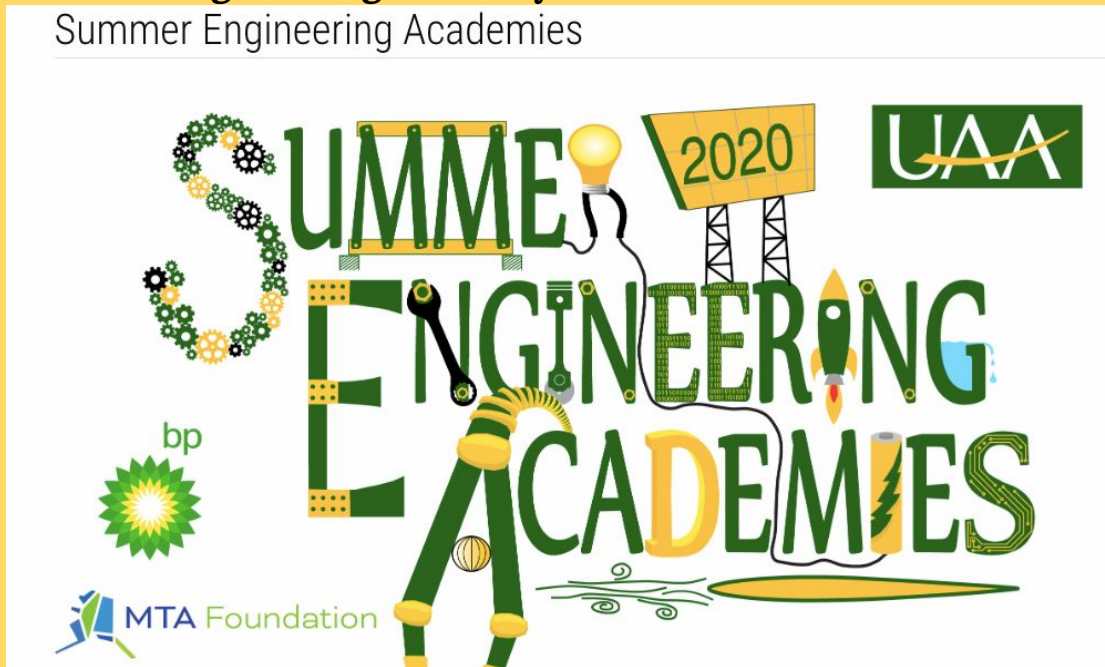
<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/94532869086?pwd=RE1Td2V2b0F3NzY0SWMwNDE0UGIXZz09>

Meeting ID: 945 3286 9086

Password: 907

Summer Engineering Academy

Summer Engineering Academies



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 or by emailing sea@alaska.edu.

Mears Counseling Services



**Mears Community
Outreach - Counseling
Department**

Please visit [Mears Counseling Services](#) to connect with Mears counselors for any support your student or family may need. We are here to help.

Mears counselors host Office Hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00-11:00am.

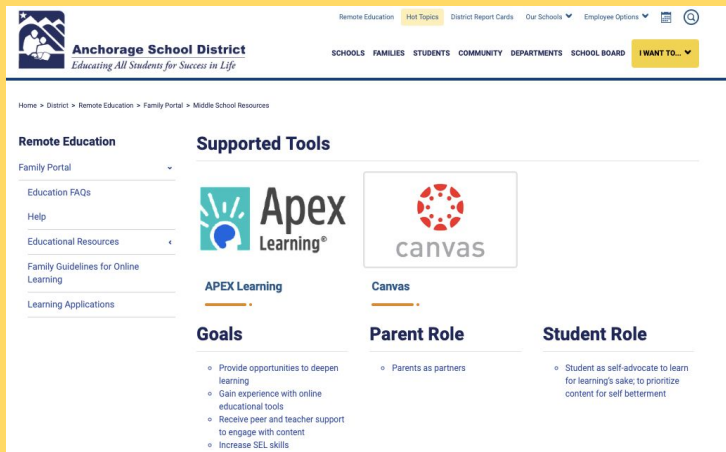
Student Activities -- 10:00-10:30am
Next Week's Theme is "Share Something Special." Students are invited to send in photos or short videos that showcase the special things in their lives.

Tech Support -- 10:30-11:00am

ASD Family Nutrition

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>.

ASD Educational Resources and Support



ASD Middle School Online Learning Resource Page:

<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.

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



ATTENTION 8TH GRADE STUDENTS we need your T SHIRT SIZE

The PTSA every year throws an 8th Grade Bash. This is a big event for our hard working 8th Graders. With the current events and social distancing, the PTSA has had to change it up. This Year we will be **GIVING EVERY 8th Grader ONE FREE T Shirt**. Please fill out this form that way your 8th grader gets the size they wear. Distribution will be determined once shirts are ordered.

The deadline to order your shirt size is Monday, May 11.



[T-shirt Size Selection Form](#)

You can purchase an additional T-shirt for \$15 or a Hoodie for \$30 . visit www.mearsptsa.com

Mears PTSA Hosts Zoom Meeting with the Principal,

Thursday, May 14, 3:00pm. After a successful meeting with parents and families this last week, we have decided to continue to schedule weekly check in meetings with Mears Principal and PTSA President.

Eric Backman is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Mears/PTSA Parent and Principal Get Together

Time: May 14, 2020 03:00 PM Alaska

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://asdk12.zoom.us/j/99847618395?pwd=L250cm5lZ09GdFBpellUkRlSE5HQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 4761 8395

Password: 902508

Memory Books online ordering \$35

<https://ybpay.lifetouch.com/Order/SelectStudent?isAdvertisementOnly=False>

Order today. Don't delay and be the parent that your student didn't get a memory book.

ONLY 30 Left! (as of 4.30.2020 12:03 pm)

Once they are all sold they're gone.

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 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](#)

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](#)