



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 16, 2021

## *Yearbook Commemorates Historic School Year*



Mears is excited to announce that the 2020-21 Yearbook is nearing completion and its creators are thrilled to share it with the school community. This yearbook is unlike any other as it chronicles school life through this most historic year of distance learning and the Springtime return to school. Be sure to order your yearbook today. Proceeds benefit Mears PTSA and all the school programs they support.

Purchase your Mears yearbook at:  
[ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com)

Use school code: 13921121

# Exploring Photo in Digital Media



Students in Mr. Joshua Perry's Digital Media classes are learning how to use the powerful tools of Photoshop. Pictured here are students working in Mears computer lab on a blending technique using Photopea.

# Woodworking in Design and Modeling



Mears Design and Modeling teacher, Ms. Diane McLaughlin, is instructing students on the safe use of power tools. This week, students in her classes used table saws, sanders, and drills on a woodworking project.



# The Law of Motion



Students in Ms. Callie Wilder's Science 7 classes are studying the law of motion this week. Here students collaborate as part of a competition to see who can make a model car go the furthest distance using air propulsion from balloons.

# Friday Fun -- 80s Day!



Students and staff at Mears are having lots of fun dressing up on Fun Fridays. Here is Aniah Harris, Mears 8th grader, dressed up in neon on 80s Day.

Here are the upcoming Friday Fun themes:

- April 16 -- Hawaii/Aloha Day
- April 23 -- Colorful Covid Mask Day
- April 30 -- Favorite Animated Character Day
- Tuesday, May 4 -- Star Wars Day
- May 7 -- Crazy Hair/Crazy Socks Day
- May 14 -- Springtime Celebration Day
- May 21 -- School Spirit/Team Color Day

# 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.

ASD Summer Learning Information Link: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/18096>

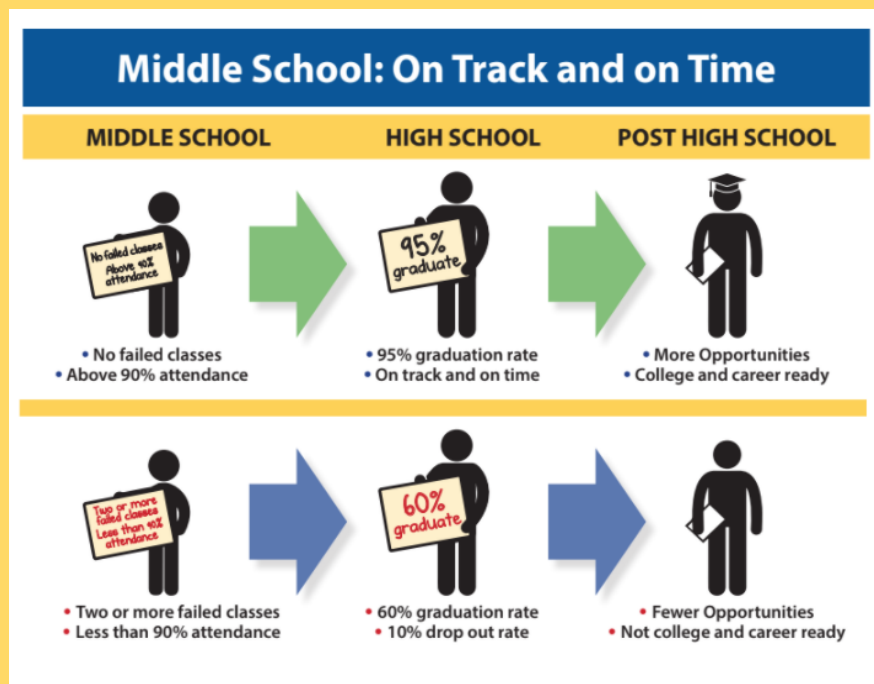
### Session 1: June 2-30 and Session 2: July 12-August 6

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.



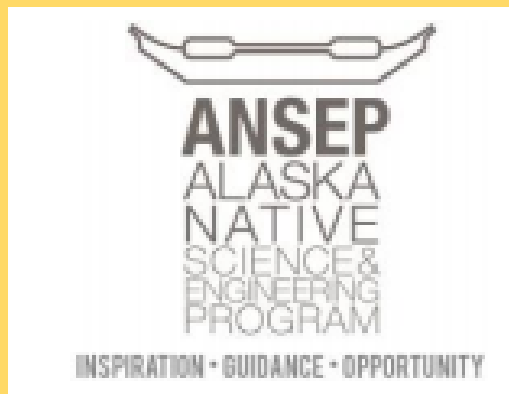
*Start planning now and make sure your student is On Track for High School Success!*

# ASD Career Exploration Program

## Open to all Current ASD 8th Graders this Summer

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>

## ANSEP Summer Career Exploration Program



The Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) Career Explorations is organized to provide project exploration for current and past ANSEP participants who have yet to enter high school (i.e., students currently in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in the 2020 – 2021 school year). This experience promotes education and careers focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Career Exploration sessions include a five-day, academic, hands-on experience that emphasizes increasing knowledge and skills while re-engaging students with ANSEP. Career Explorations activities will involve hands-on, exploratory projects led by industry professionals, University faculty, or ANSEP staff.

Each Career Exploration session will focus on a STEM subject area such as: ENGINEERING, BIOLOGY, MARINE SCIENCE, HEALTHCARE, ENERGY, or CODING BUSINESS.

All Career Exploration sessions will be remote so that students can participate from anywhere.

Tentative session dates are: - June 7-11 - June 14-18 - June 21-25 - July 12-16 - July 19-23 - July 26-30

Online Information Link:

<https://www.ansep.net/component/stem-career-exploration/>

If you have questions or need additional information, contact us at (907) 786-0905 or [ansep\\_msa@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:ansep_msa@uaa.alaska.edu).

The application due date, April 23, 2021

# Activities at Mears Middle School

## Activities 2nd Session: April 26th-May 20th

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. Please sign up soon, as all activities have enrollment caps.

### 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>

## Dimond High School Football Announcement



If you're interested in playing football at Dimond high in the fall, Coach Dennis holds DHS football weight training sessions, Tuesday's and Thursday's at 3-4:45 PM. An additional session occurs on Wednesday's at 1:45-4:45 PM. He emphasized that incoming freshmen are welcome and he will have any parental-permission documentation needed at the sessions.

If you have additional questions, please visit the DHS Football Facebook page or contact Coach Dennis directly via email: [miked@CHIALASKA.com](mailto:miked@CHIALASKA.com)



# Mears Staff Meeting Schedule: April 19-23

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 21 -- Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am  
Mears Leadership Team Meeting, 9:15-10:00am

Friday, April 23 -- Friday Fun Day Theme/Colorful Covid Mask Day

## ⇐Backman Recommends⇒



Here's a compelling read from the *NY Times* about how to help young people process and think about the last year. It urges us--parents and educators--to focus on valuable lessons learned and avoid considering it a "lost year."

[How to Help Your Adolescent Think About the Last Year](#)

# Mears Counseling Corner

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>

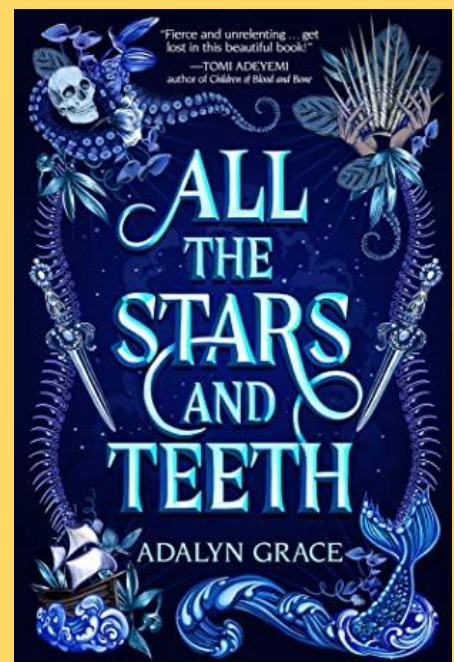
## Panthers are Readers Mears Reads Book Club

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

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 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

- Tuesday, 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>

# Supporting Each Other



Students are having a blast learning to inline skate in PE class this week.

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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](#)