



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 30, 2021

Discovering and Celebrating Diversity



Students at Mears, and throughout Anchorage School District, are among the most diverse in the entire nation. ASD's students reflect a wide array of backgrounds from around the world. Such diversity adds a rich multitude of perspectives and experiences to school culture. Currently, a number of classes at Mears are engaged in a project designed to allow them to discover and celebrate diversity at school. Working in pairs, students are interviewing one another, inviting their classmates to articulate what characteristics make them special and unique. These conversations allow students to share valuable information about their family background, languages, ethnicity, values, and traditions. Pictured above are students Logan Brown and Sophia Scott, both members of Mears Student Advisory Board, who are engaged in a Celebrating Diversity interview.

Coding Challenge



Students in Mr. Tony Lewis' Robotics class are currently engaged in a coding challenge. They are learning to program a sphero device to change colors when it is tossed up into the air. The project offers students a difficult programming challenge.

Music Made In-Person



Mears young musicians and their amazing teachers are appreciating the opportunity to finally make music together in-person. After nearly a year of practicing together online and virtually, Mears' musicians are now performing every day in class.

Friday Fun Day

Favorite Animated Character Day



Team Muir teachers are Among Us...



Sponge Bob!

Upcoming Friday Fun themes:

April 30 -- Favorite Animated Character

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

Links to Fun Day Photos:

[Mears Friday Fun Day 1980s Photos](#)

[Mears Friday Fun Day Hawaii-Beach Photos](#)

[Mears Friday Fun Day Colorful Covid Masks/Crazy Socks Photos](#)

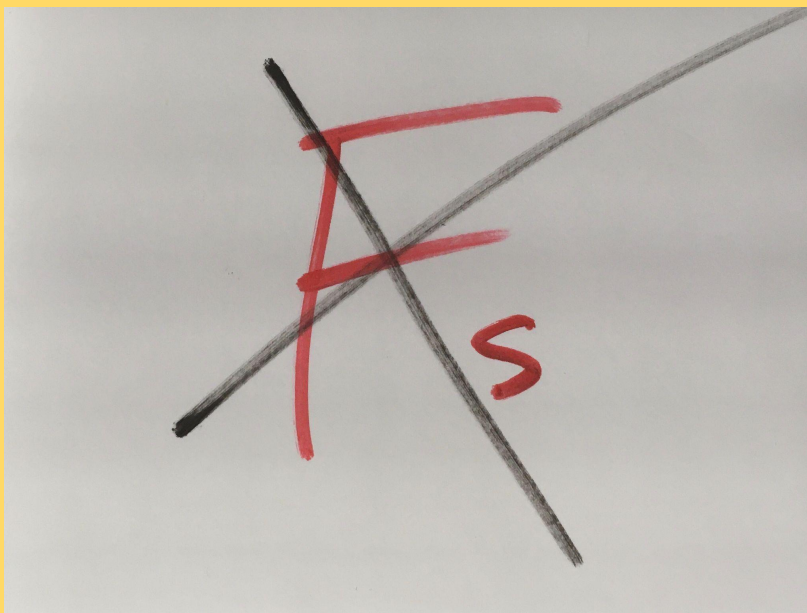
BEST EFFORT -- Finish Strong!



There are just 14 days left of school and at Mears we want to be sure that every student finishes the school year having worked hard to do their very best.

Beginning last week, Mears teachers and staff have launched the end of year FINISH STRONG Campaign, which is a school-wide effort to encourage every student to give their best effort and to pass all of their classes.

To support students, teachers in Mears six Collaborative Teams are offering students in jeopardy of failing classes individualized support to help them improve their final grades for the year. Teachers supporting students in this PUSH-TO-PASS effort will be reviewing gradebooks, identifying missing assignments, and promoting good study habits and work completion. In certain instances, teachers will be reaching out to families for additional support.



Parents and families are strongly encouraged to join us in encouraging all Mears students to give it their all for the next month of school.

Go Panthers!

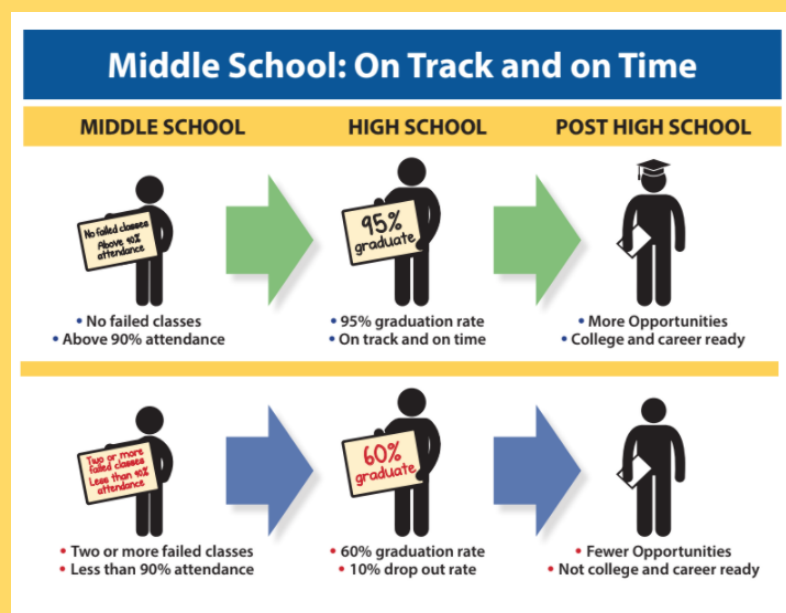
ASD Summer School Opportunities

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



Middle school counselors will work with individual families to finalize the registration process and answer individual planning questions. Link: [Contact Mears Counselors](#)

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>

8th Graders Interested in DHS ROTC



If you are an 8th grader interested in joining the United States Army Junior Officer Training Corps, check out the [DHS JROTC Informational Video](#)

Dimond High School Football Announcement



If you're interested in playing football at Dimond high in the fall, once school is out, Coach Dennis will hold DHS football weight training sessions, Tuesday's and Thursday's at 3-4:45 PM. An additional session will occur on Wednesday's at 1:45-4:45 PM. He emphasized that incoming freshmen are welcome, but not until May 25th. 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

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 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>

Student-Athletes Hit the Court



Ms. Callie Wilder and Ms. Crysta Svendsen co-coach a large and enthusiastic group of tennis players at Mears.

Mears Staff Schedule: May 3-7

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.



Tuesday, May 4 -- "May the 4th be with you!"/Star Wars Day

Wednesday, May 5 -- Mears Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am

Friday, May 7 -- Friday Fun Day Theme/Crazy Hair & Crazy Socks Day

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>

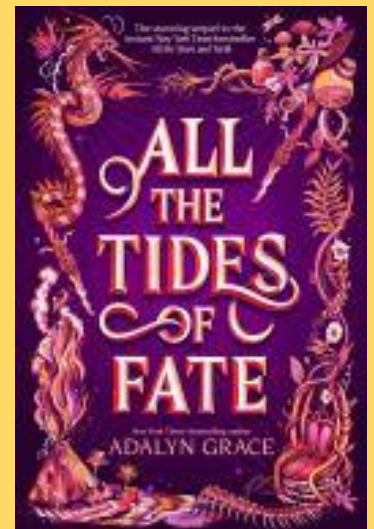
Panthers are Readers Mears Reads Book Club

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

The May book that we chose is: ***All the Tides of Fate*** by Adalyn Grace, book two of the series we started in April.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, May 19th. We will meet using a Zoom, and we will start at 2:45PM.


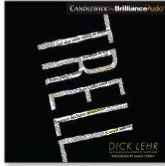
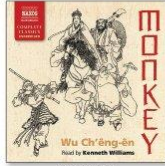
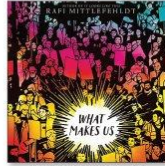
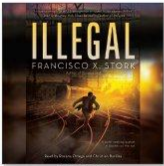
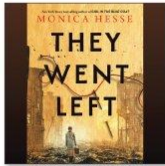
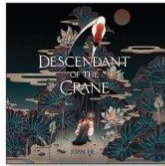
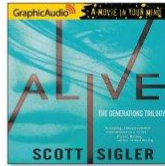
Contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through the Canvas Inbox to get the Zoom information.



Summer Reading Opportunities

AudioFile Sync AUDIOBOOKS FOR TEENS

WANT ALERTS ABOUT FREE AUDIOBOOKS ALL SUMMER LONG? For title releases, TEXT syncya to 866-984-0598 or visit audiobooksync.com

APRIL 29 - MAY 5	MAY 6 - MAY 12	MAY 13 - MAY 19	MAY 20 - MAY 26
 COME ON IN by Adi Alsaid (Recorded Books)	 TRELL by Dick Lehr (Candlewick on Brilliance)	 MONKEY by Wu Ch'eng-en, Arthur Waley (Naxos AudioBooks)	 WHAT MAKES US by Rafi Mittlefehdt (Brilliance Audio)
 ILLEGAL by Francisco X. Stork (Scholastic Audio)	 THEY WENT LEFT by Monica Hesse (Hachette Audio)	 DESCENDANT OF THE CRANE by Joan He (Dreamscape Media)	 ALIVE by Scott Sigler (GraphicAudio)

AudioFile Sync offers FREE audio books for teens throughout the summer. Every week, two new audio books are offered. The first set of two books became available yesterday, April 29th. These two are only available until May 5th!

Register with an email address at audiobooksync.com, then use the SORA app to access and listen to the books. This is the same app that the Anchorage School District uses for electronic books. Just add Audiobook Sync as a library.

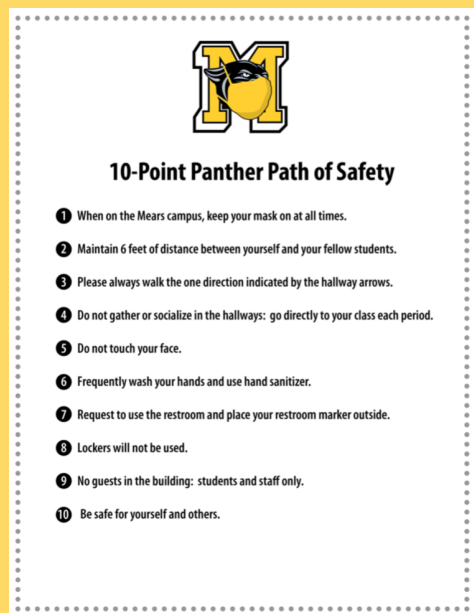
Battle of the Books

The tentative list of titles is now available for the 21-22 Battle of the Books season. Start reading now and get a head start for next year!

More information is available on the [Mears Battle](#) web page or join the [Mears Battle Canvas Hub](#).



Covid Safety Update



After six weeks of in-person school, I am pleased to continue to report that our students and staff are doing 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)

Join Zoom Meeting

Contact the mears ptsa for the Zoom information.

Email: MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com



Mears Yearbooks on Sale Now!

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

Purchase your yearbook at:

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”!

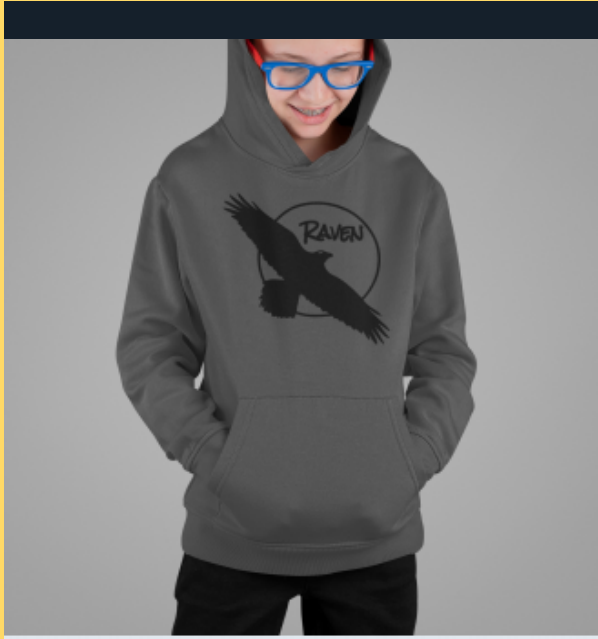


Event Description:

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!



[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.

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

Ways you can help us raise funds doing your day to day shopping and holiday shopping.

Amazon Smile smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999

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



<https://twitter.com/MearsPtsa>

Wingardium Leviosa!



Nurse Dan and Principal Backman enjoy Friday Fun Day dressed up as students from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.



We are on Dena'ina Homeland

Mears Middle School acknowledges that we operate and gather on the traditional land of the Dena'ina Peoples and honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

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](#)