



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 29, 2021

Live Music Performance Returns to Mears



Mears Middle School was thrilled this week to reintroduce live music performance to the community. For the first time in 20 months, Mears music program hosted a concert featuring its advanced jazz, orchestra, and concert bands. The school's student-musicians performed exceptionally well under the inspired direction of Mr. Matthew O'Connor and Mr. Jason Edwards. Hundreds of parents and family members relished in the sound of young people performing music together again.

Go Panthers!

Nutrition Unit Includes Cooking



This week in Mears Health class, Mr. Jason MacDonld taught cooking lessons as part of a larger unit focused on nutrition. Students were excited to work in small groups, as they learned how to make tacos and chimichangas.

Celebrating Heritage Month



Students in Mears Indian Education program enjoyed a program this week that celebrates Native American Heritage Month. Facilitated by Ms. Benita Holt, Mears Indian Education Coordinator, students decorated cookies, painted birch trees and watched a salmon demonstration.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Wednesday, Nov. 3 -- Collaborative Team Leaders, 3:00-4:00pm

Planning Ahead:

Thursday, Nov. 11 -- Cross-District Professional Development Day for Teachers and Staff; No School for Students

New Bathroom Pass Procedures



Mears will institute a new plan for restroom/out-of-classroom passes. Students will sign out and use a link. They will also leave their cell phone when they sign out of class in a secure place. The intention is to better quantify student time spent outside of class. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call.

Safety Minute:

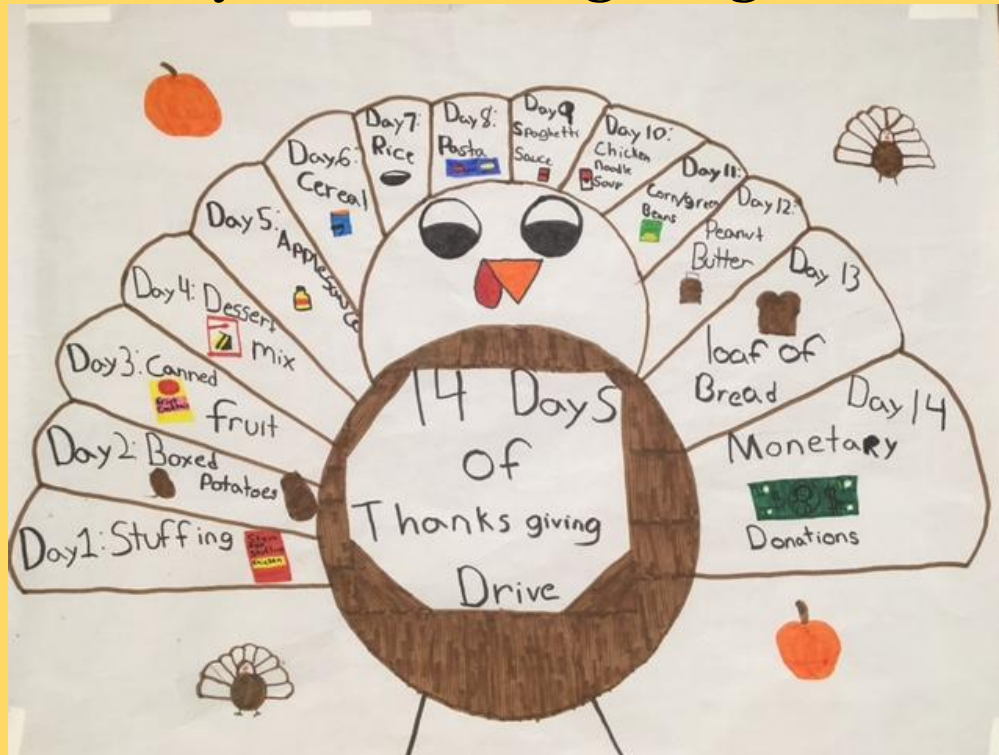
Warm Clothing and Safe Walking-Reflective Clothing

Mears Families:

Remember, students should wear **suitable footwear; students may not wear open-toed shoes 2nd and 3rd quarter for safety reasons.** Additionally, students should be certain to wear school-appropriate clothing: warmth is key. Finally, bright, **reflective clothing should be considered if your student walks to school,** for it's tough to see students on these dark mornings. I'll continue to remind students in the announcements, too.

Enjoy the start of winter! --Mike Scott, Mears AP

The 14 days of Thanksgiving Donations



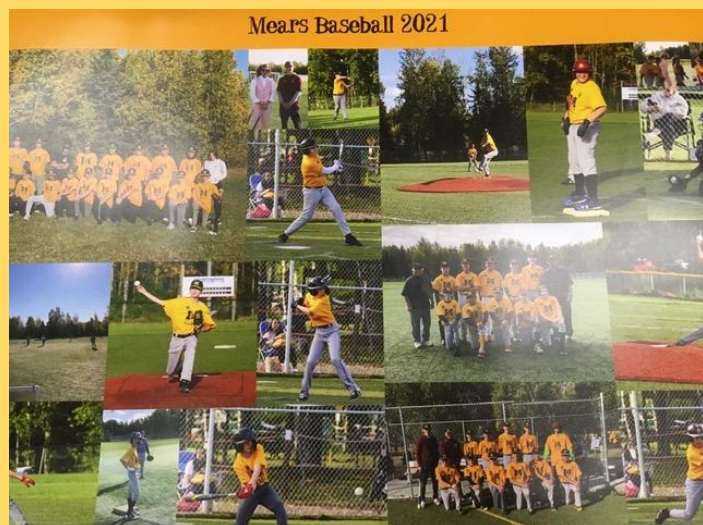
Students in Mears Community Service class are busy organizing a school-wide Thanksgiving Drive to collect food items for families in our community. Please consider donating the following items over the next two weeks. Students on the Mears Team that bring in the most items will celebrate with a school-sponsored Team party. The Thanksgiving Drive is a wonderful opportunity for us to give back to the community.

Things to bring:

- Day 1 (November 1) - stuffing mix
- Day 2 (November 2) - boxed potatoes
- Day 3 (November 3) - canned fruit
- Day 4 (November 4) - dessert mix
- Day 5 (November 5) - jar of applesauce
- Day 6 (November 8) - box of cereal
- Day 7 (November 9) - package of rice
- Day 8 (November 10) - package of pasta
- Day 9 (November 12) - spaghetti sauce
- Day 10 (November 15) - chicken noodle soup
- Day 11 (November 16) - can of corn/green beans
- Day 12 (November 17) - peanut butter
- Day 13 (November 18) - loaf of bread
- Day 14 (November 19) - Monetary Donations (money will be used to buy turkeys or hams.)

Mears Activities Update

At this point, students can get involved in wrestling or volleyball. These are wildly popular activities. Volleyball, for example, has well over 100 participants. It's great to see students having fun and interacting with each other. See below for information about getting involved. As a reminder, Cross Country Skiing and Boys Basketball start right after the break, so if you're interested, please submit your paperwork in advance.



Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:

- Middle School Participation Form
 - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xnIL0dz4uKW6YsMk_MrWGZd4mjAkPMj5/view
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
 - <https://www.asdk12.org/cms/lib/AK02207157/Centricity/Domain/4260/COVID-19%20Waiver.pdf>
- COVID-19 Return To Play
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmEJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>
- Health Examination Form
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lI5oSifxCsxF-MNlknP6hBp0FPtELfEl/view>

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>

Upcoming Activity Events

Wrestling

- November 2nd @Mears: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- November 9th @Mears: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- November 16th @Clark: 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- November 23rd @Romig 5:00 PM-8:00 PM
- December 1 @ Goldenview Unseeded Tourney-1:30 PM-8:00 PM
- December 2 @Goldenview Seeded Tourney-1:30 PM-8:00 PM

Volleyball

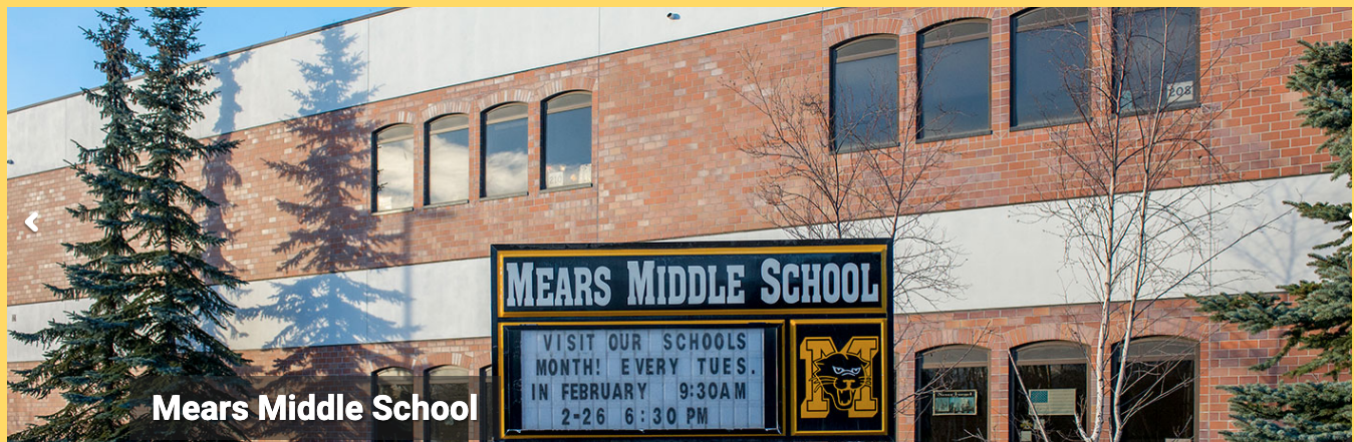
Link for Middle School Volleyball Schedule: [2021 VB Schedule Tentative.pdf](#)

Exciting Exterior Renovation is Planned for Mears Middle School

Community Input is Still Welcomed
Survey Feedback Window is Open Until Friday, Nov. 12.

Link: [Community Feedback Form for Mears Exterior Design Project](#)

Planned for summer, 2022, the Mears Exterior Design Project will provide new replacement siding to the entire school. To update the school building to current energy efficiency codes, a construction team will remove all existing siding and add 2" of continuous exterior rigid insulation outside of the existing studs. New construction will also include a new rainscreen exterior siding, which are offered in two distinct, separate concept options. Both concept construction plans have similar costs for materials and construction.



Mears Middle School's current brick exterior is in need of repair and provides poor insulation throughout much of the building.

Concept A: Kincaid Tree Facade



Concept A: Exterior Tree Facade, inspired by vintage photos of Jane Mears. Tree images are based on photographic replications of the Kincaid Park treeline and are created by perforating holes into the siding.

Key elements:

- Modern and unified design
- Aluminum siding with higher gauges down low for maintenance and longevity
- Monochrome panels to aesthetically tie into remaining indoor and outdoor elements
- Underside of entry soffits (hidden at a distance) are painted brightly in vibrant school colors, so building remains appropriate to middle school feel
- Option to add a textual historic recollection about Jane Mears or a Jane Mears quote
- Option to add a textual Dena'ina quote or visual tribute in recognition of Dena'ina land in Anchorage

Concept B: Traditional Mears



Concept B: Inspired by original colors and proportions of the school's exterior design.

Key elements:

- Red wood veneer bands on fiber resin panels visually connect to some brick tile that remains on exterior and interior
- Flexible color selection possibilities
- Dark metal steel siding with higher gauges down low is used for longevity and maintenance
- Subtle reference to Mears' school colors of black and gold through contrast of dark siding and bright painted soffits above entryways.
- Concept B offers flexibility of color choice for wood veneer bands.

Honoring Veterans

Veterans Day Photo Form

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thursday, November 11, 2021, is Veterans Day. Mears Middle School will observe Veterans Day on Friday, November 12th where we have a virtual assembly honoring all our veterans. Additionally, part of the virtual assembly will include a slideshow. If you would like a photo of a veteran in your family included in the slideshow, please email the photo and the required information to hannam_leslie@asdk12.org (**Email Subject: Veterans Day**). Forms need to be submitted by Monday, 11/1, and cannot be accepted after that date.

Sincerely,
Mears Staff

Please send the following information and a photo to Mrs. Hannam by Monday, 11/1/21.

Student name and relation to veteran: _____ Grade: _____

Veteran's title and name: _____

Example

Student name and relation: Jon Smith's Grandpa

Grade: 8

Veteran's title and name: Col. Archie Sykes

National Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is an international student organization that promotes the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Students are required to have at least a 3.5 GPA to join. Every 8th grade student who achieved this GPA first quarter is invited to apply! 7th graders will be invited to apply in the spring.



Please use the following link/QR code to complete the google form application: <https://forms.gle/CVuUWdYMw2xHqBts8>

Applications are due Friday, November 5th!

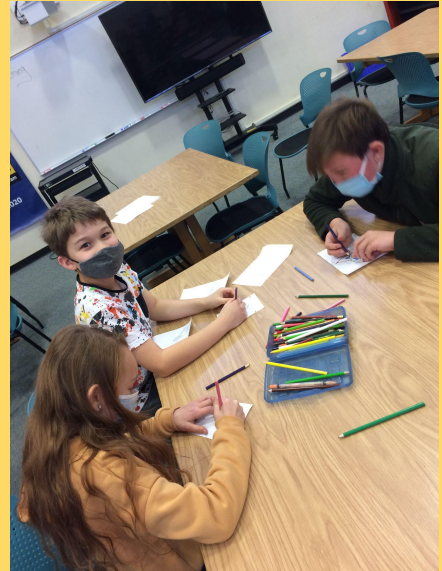
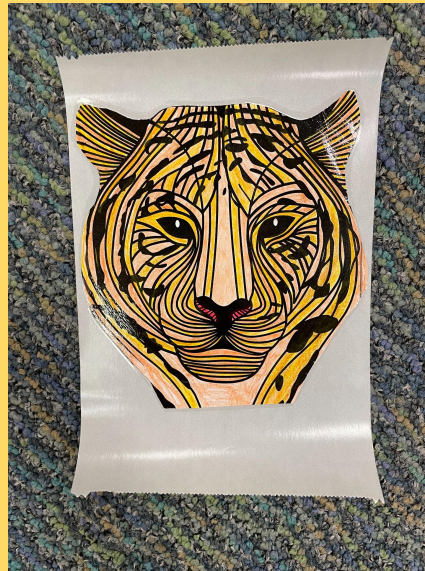
Library at Mears

Bookmark Contest: Together@our library™

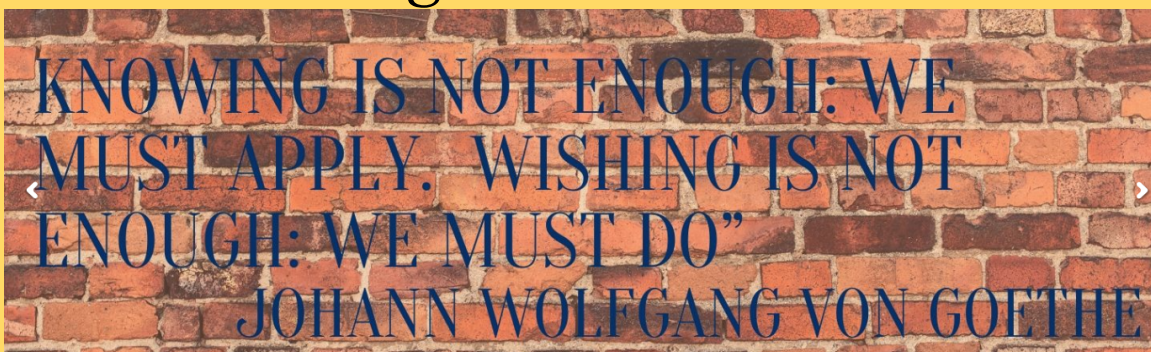
The annual Anchorage School District library bookmark contest is here! Every year there is a new theme. Entries are due **December 3, 2021**. Submit your entry to Mrs. Fleming, the school librarian. A template of the correct size is available to download from the [library website](#) and paper copies are available in the library.

Create a Sticker Library Makerspace Activity

Students have been drawing, coloring, and cutting out designs that are then laminated and turned into stickers.

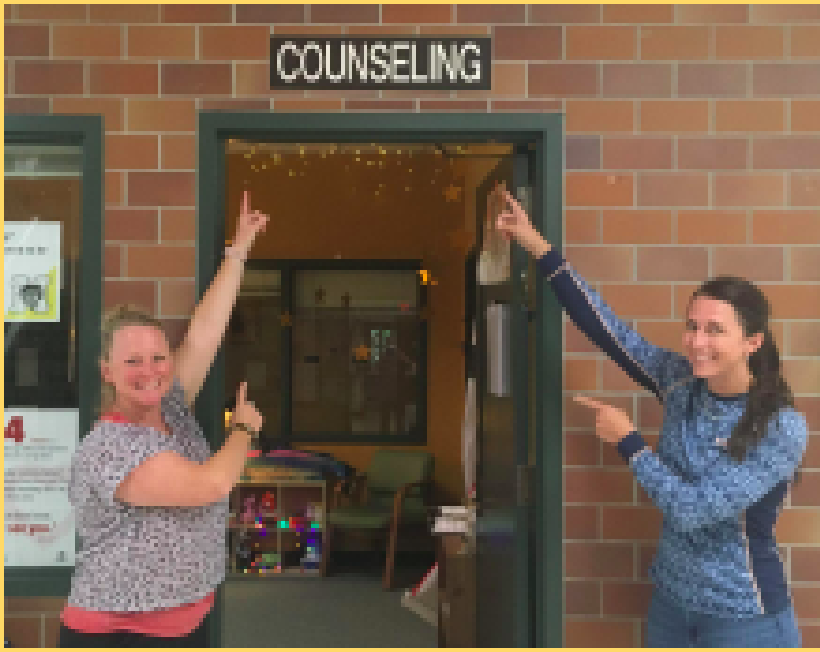


Mears Counseling Corner



Make sure your student has joined the counseling canvas page. Updates from the counseling office will be made throughout the year on Canvas. If students have not done so already, please have them click the invite link below.

Invite link: [Mears Counseling Canvas Page](#)



Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade
svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org
907-742-6428

Nurse Dan's Health Update Important Covid Health Reminder:



Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



PTSA Meeting Schedule

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

Email the Mears PTSA or check the newsletter that was emailed to parents on 10/01/21 for the Zoom link and access information for the meeting.

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.

PTSA Volunteer Needs

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:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

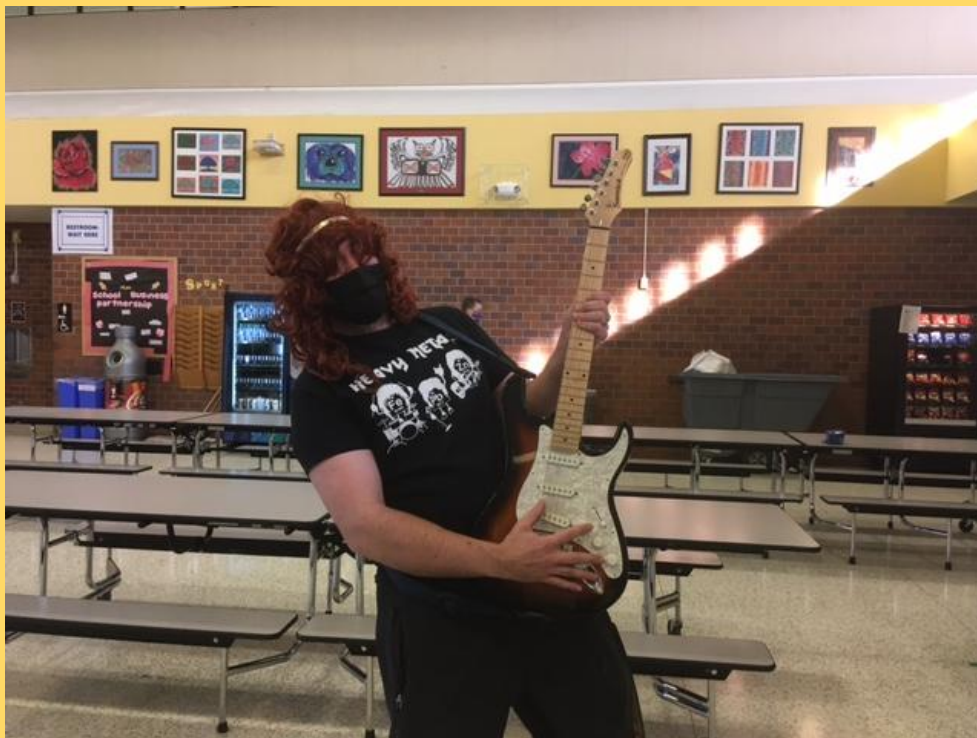
[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 – 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now! Purchase your yearbook at www.ybpay.com use Yearbook ID: 13921122 Mears PTSA

McDonald Rocks Dress Up Day

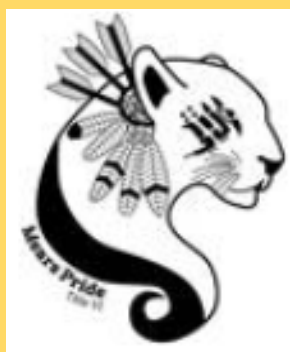


Mears science teacher, Mr. James McDonald, rocked Halloween spirit day in his Heavy Metals t-shirt and electric guitar!

Team Mario



Teachers on Team Muir went above and beyond for today's school spirit Halloween Dress Up Day. So much fun!!! **Go Panthers!**



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](#)