



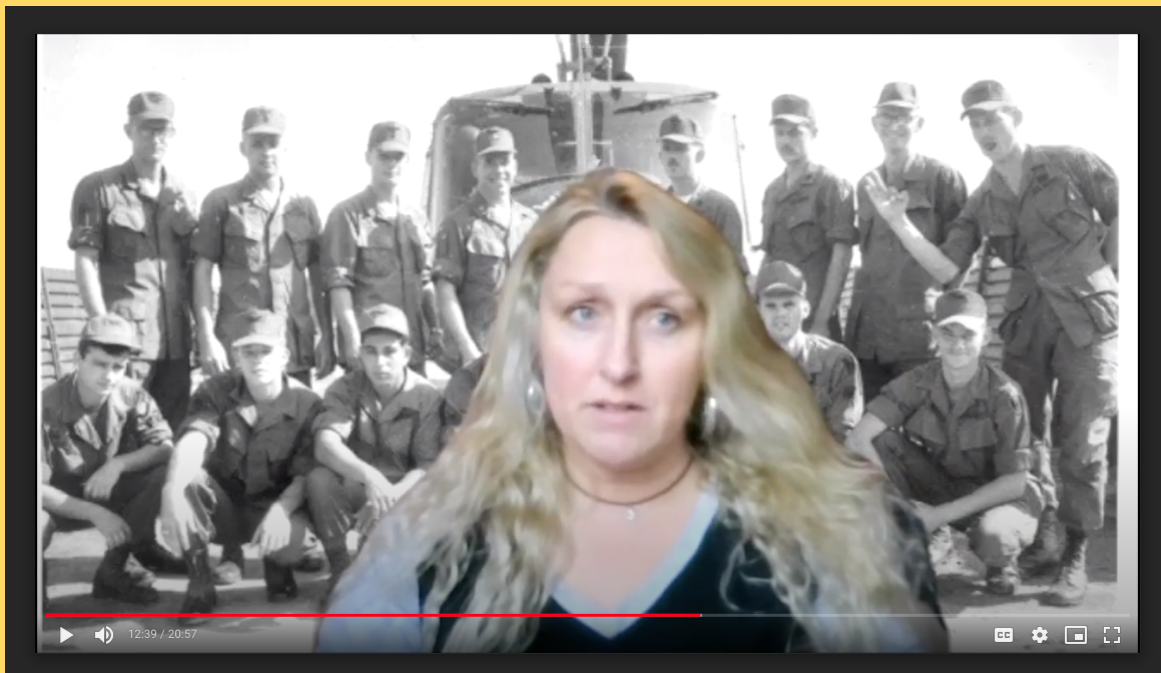
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, November 12, 2021

Mears Honors Veterans

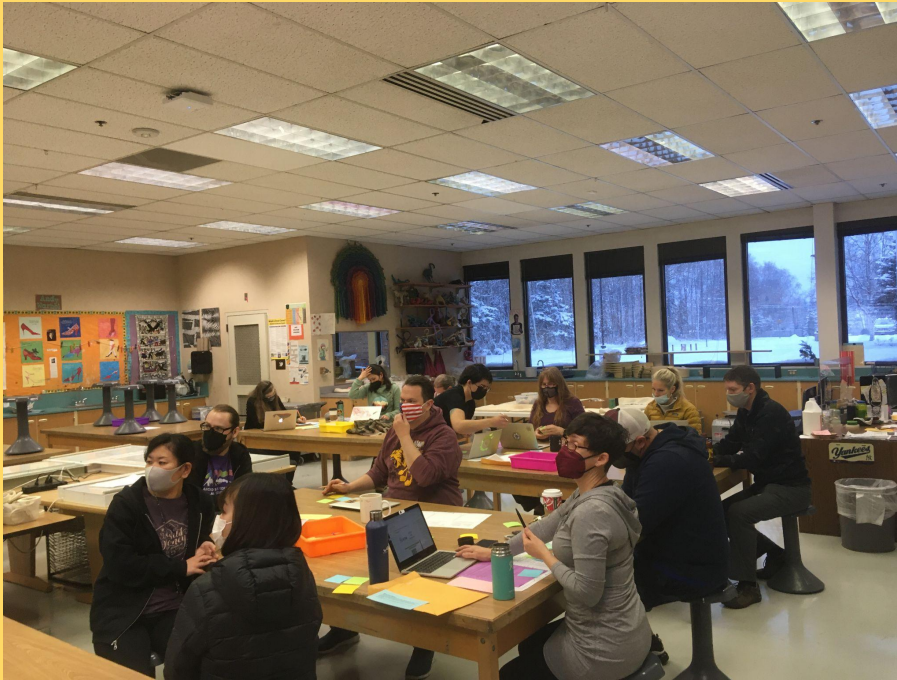


On Friday, Nov. 12, Mears Middle School hosted a school-wide assembly to honor Veterans everywhere. In a video tribute, students and staff watched and listened to an assortment of veterans share their experiences and valuable insights about this important day.

Pictured here is Mears parent, Brandie Radigan, who offered a moving tribute to a family member who served in the US military. All are encouraged to watch the video, which was compiled by social studies teachers and their students.

[Mears Veteran's Day Tribute. 2021](#) **Go Panthers!**

Teachers Explore What It Means to Be College, Career, and Life Ready



Mears teachers and staff gathered in their collaborative teams on Thursday to discuss ASD's new board goal, which is focused on College, Career, and Life Readiness. Specifically, Mears teachers are considering what it means for 7th and 8th graders to be "on track" for success in high school and beyond.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Cell Phone/Electronic Device Policy: Big Changes Semester 2



Beginning on January 3rd, the first day of semester 2, students will no longer be able to use their cell phones or electronic devices in the hallways, multipurpose room, or any other school areas between the hours of 8:00 AM and 2:45 PM. Teachers will remain in complete control of electronic device use in their classrooms.

While we had good intentions in allowing students to use their cell phones in the hallways and MPR this year, we've decided to make a shift in policy for three major reasons. First, we believe that cell phones and electronic devices inspire or increase some of the behaviors we're witnessing in the school building. Second, we recognize that electronic devices stifle in-person student interactions.

Finally, we propose that cell phones and electronic devices distract students repeatedly from their learning and social goals. We will share more details about this change and communicate it repeatedly over the coming weeks, but we ask that you also discuss this huge change with your student to ensure a successful transition to the new policy.

Sincerely,
Mears Administration

Uptick In Physical Behavior

In the interest of maintaining an orderly and safe school, we acknowledge that Mears, like most schools across the District and country, is experiencing an uptick in physical behavior. Recently our own superintendent, Dr. Deena Bishop, communicated this context in a newspaper article directed at the Anchorage community.

While we address each and every one of these events with serious consequences, we want to reassure families that we're increasing our supervision to mitigate this unfortunate national trend. Additionally, we continue to speak to all of the students and provide consequences for recording and standing by during these tremendously inappropriate disruptions of the school day. We also continue to address the behaviors that can lead to these events, and the hardworking staff at Mears has prevented countless altercations with this proactivity.

Finally, we appreciate each of you speaking to your child, reminding him/her that if they see something concerning, they should let an adult in the building know, so we can help.

Thanks for your support and care for our school and students.

Warmly,
Mike Scott
Assistant Principal, Mears

⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒



Here's a great article from Chalkbeat.org about how the impact of 18 months of remote learning and social isolation have created challenges for students as they return to their schools. All members of the Mears community are encouraged to read this article and to have conversations with their students about how best to deal with stress and anxiety, as well as effective ways to resolve conflict with others.

Here's the link: [Stress and Trauma Impact Student Behavior](#)

Building a Positive and Inclusive School Culture Student Leadership Training Opportunity

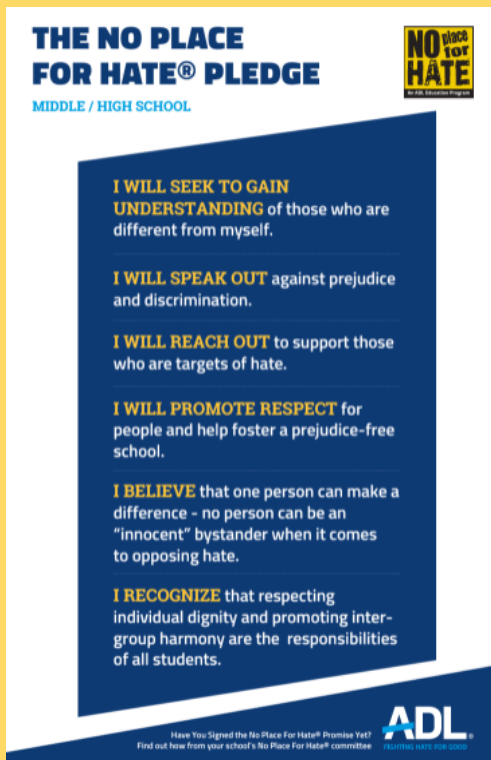
Nov. 17, Jan. 19, March 16

8:15am-10:15am at Mears Middle School

The No Place for Hate Leadership Training Series is limited to 30 students, who will participate in all three training sessions.

Students who participate in the leadership training sessions will focus on the following:

- Building a cohesive, respectful school climate
- Exploring and celebrating people's identities
- Learning strategies to be an "upstander" to address negative stereotypes, bullying, and other hurtful behaviors
- Developing leadership skills in community-building, collaboration, and communication



Here's a link to the application, which are due Monday, Nov. 15

[NPFH Student Leadership Training](#)

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.

To this end, we have plans to distribute some reflective tape to students (Thanks, Ms. Bivins!). We're organizing this process, and it will happen soon. 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. 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.



- 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 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/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>
- Health Examination Form
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1l15oSifxCsxF-MNlknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/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 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](#)

Panthers Write!



November Writing Contest Details:

Since food and conversation are part of any harvest celebration, judges will be looking for stories that contain sensory description (tastes, smells, sights and sounds), along with lively dialogue (characters in conversation). Good luck, and happy feasting!

Deadline for entries is **Tuesday, November 30th.**

Length limit is 1,000 words.

[Click here to write your story.](#) (Be sure you have your ASD Google account open.)

[Click here](#) or go to Panther Participation in Canvas and select the November Writing Contest assignment to submit your story.



October Writing Contest Winners

[The Moose and the Mask](#) by Madden Hamey
[Moose Mask Mears](#) by September Alldredge

Here's September Alldredge with Mr. Thomas Pease.

Library at Mears

Noodletools = Great Bibliography



Students in Mr. Buchanan's 7th grade social studies classes made a trip to the library to learn the basics of Noodletools and how to use it to create a bibliography for their research projects.

Tutorials and guides are available on the Mears library website.

Direct link to [Mears, Noodletools website.](#)

Battle of the Books

The district competition date has been announced! Teams will gather in the West/Romig library on February 1st, 2022 from 9AM to 2PM to determine which school's team will go to the state finals.

Bookmark Contest: Together@our library™

The library has already received several amazing entries for this years' bookmark contest! You have until **December 3, 2021** to submit an entry. The theme for this year is Together@our library. A template of the correct size is available to download from the [library website](#) and paper copies are available in the library.

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

Please contact the Mears PTSA for the Zoom link.

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom.

PTSA Volunteer Needs

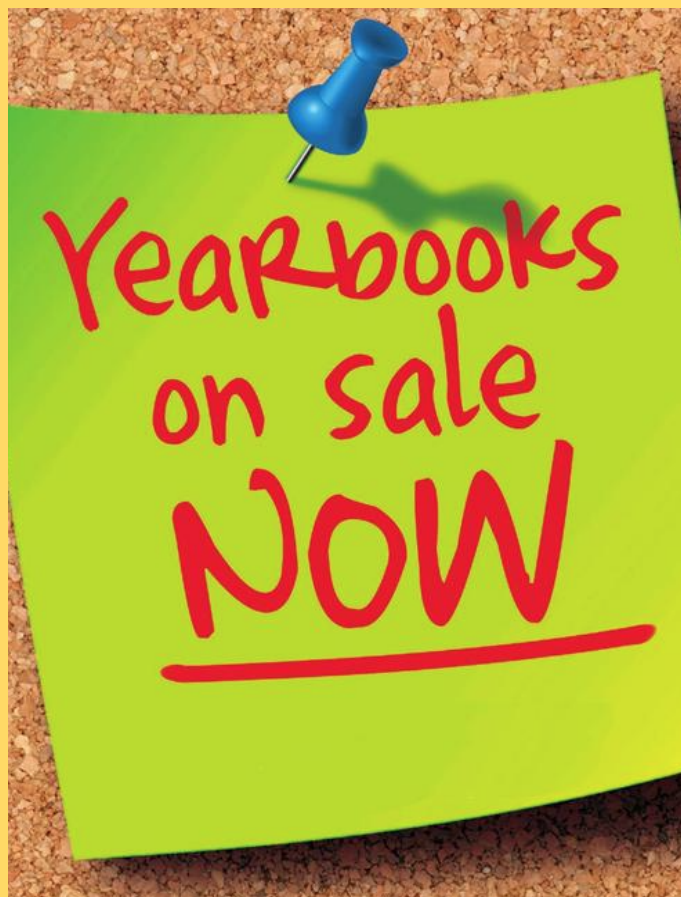
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- 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

Hour of Genius



Students in Mr. Armentrout's 8th grade science classes enjoy their "Hour of Genius" by playing a challenging game of chess.

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](#)