



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 8, 2022

Mears Collaborative Teams Build Unity



Earlier this week, Mears Team Eklutna (7th Grade) gathered together for a team photo. Throughout the school year, Team Eklutna, along with Mears' five other collaborative teams, have been working together to create community. With nearly 800 students at Mears, the collaborative team model allows smaller cohorts of students and teachers to get to know one another in and outside of the classroom to build common identity, understanding, and a greater sense of unity.

Go Panthers!

Join Mears for a Great Cause this Friday and Saturday

NJHS Spring Carnival



NJHS Supports Make a Wish Foundation

Come to the NJHS-sponsored Spring Carnival, Friday April 8. All proceeds go to Make A Wish. All students must be accompanied by an adult. Admission is just \$5.

Rummage Sale for Refugee Relief



Community Service Supports Ukraine Refugees Relief Effort, Saturday, April 9

Be sure to come to the Spring Rummage Sale tomorrow, Saturday, April 9. All proceeds will go to supporting refugee relief for Ukraine. The event starts at 9:00am in Mears Multi-use Room.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Note: AK STAR Testing has been temporarily postponed due to technical issues at the state level.

Updated AK STAR Testing Schedule

Tuesday, April 12 – AK STAR Testing 8th Graders ELA

Wednesday, April 13 – AK STAR Testing 8th Graders Math

	Tuesday 4/12		Wednesday 4/13	
	Reading		Math	
	8th	7th	8th	7th
1st	4th (testing)	1st	4th (testing)	5th
2nd		2nd		6th
3rd		3rd		7th
4th		1st Lunch*		1st Lunch*
	2nd Lunch*	4th	2nd Lunch*	4th
5th	5th	5th	1st	1st
6th	6th	6th	2nd	2nd
7th	7th	7th	3rd	3rd

Tuesday, April 19 – AK STAR Testing 7th Graders ELA

Wednesday, April 20 – AK STAR 7th Graders Math

	Tuesday 4/19		Wednesday 4/20	
	Reading		Math	
	7th	8th	7th	8th
1st	4th (testing)	1st	4th (testing)	5th
2nd		2nd		6th
3rd		3rd		7th
4th		1st Lunch		1st Lunch
	2nd Lunch	4th	2nd Lunch	4th
5th	5th	5th	1st	1st
6th	6th	6th	2nd	2nd
7th	7th	7th	3rd	3rd

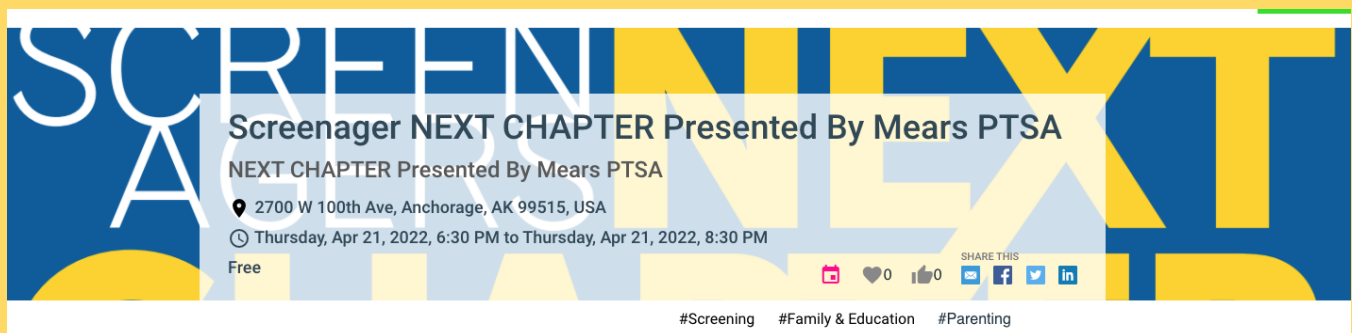
Thursday, April 21 – AK STAR Make Ups

Tech Tips for Students Before Testing:

1. Locate your district-issued Chromebook and make sure it is fully charged.
2. Students should hold down the Chromebook power button for 10 seconds. The screen will go black, hold for a couple more seconds to get to 10.
3. Let the button up, then press/release to turn the computer back on.

Bring Quiet Reading Activity:

4. Be sure to bring a good book, comic, or magazine to read after testing. No electronic devices are allowed during the testing session, and students will need a quiet activity after their test is completed.



Mears Families,

On Thursday, April 21, at 6:30pm, Mears Middle School and PTSA are co-sponsoring an in-person community event, which will feature a showing of the film Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER. In an effort to better equip members of our school community with tools to navigate the challenges of digital and social media, PTSA and Mears are hosting this special in-person event. The event is free to all members of our school community and will be followed by a short discussion facilitated by school staff.

To sign up for the event, please use the “REGISTER” tab in the upper right corner of the event page linked below:

<https://www.eventcombo.com/e/screenager-next-chapter-presented-by-mears-ptsa-45676>

The following is a short summary of the film's focus:

"Filmmaker and physician Dr. Delaney Ruston takes the conversation around screens and teens to the next level with Screenagers NEXT CHAPTER: Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience—a film that examines the science behind teen's emotional challenges, the interplay of social media, and most importantly, what can be done in our schools and homes to help them build crucial skills to navigate stress, anxiety, and depression in our digital age."

Mears Counseling Corner

Future Freshman of Dimond High School Class of 2026!



Current 8th grade students, who will be entering Dimond High School in the fall of 2022, and their parents/guardians are encouraged to attend. We'll share information about 9th grade classes, sports, and activities. Department chairs, counselors and teachers will also be onsite to answer questions. Please see the flier below for more information.

[DHS Transition to High School Resources](#)



Team Echo prepares to depart for their tour at DHS.

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

Mears Health Update

Important Covid Health Reminders:



<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/returntoschoolpolicy/return-to-schoolwork>

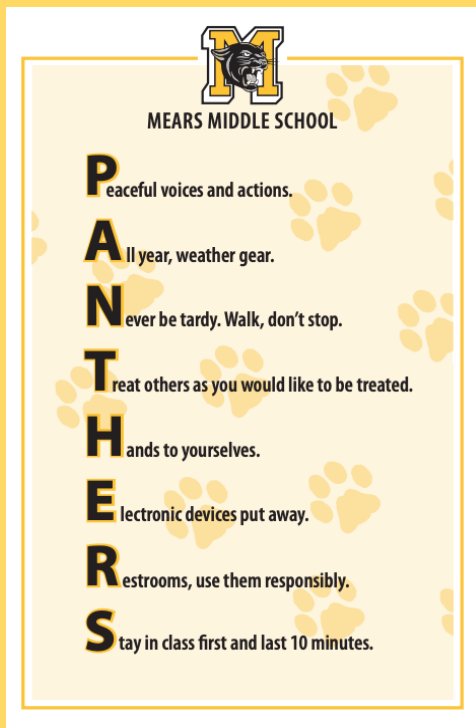
- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

Other Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

New Panther Expectations Poster



Credit to the Mears Foundations team in developing the content of the new poster and Tom Hoffman, local graphic designer, for his donated work on the design and layout. Students can now see these awesome looking posters throughout the building: Thanks, everyone!

Mears Activities Update

Mears Families:

Track and Field season is underway and we already have nearly 100 participants. Please know that we welcome additional sign ups through the first week, so the deadline for sign up is 3:00 pm on Thursday, March 24th. Additionally, we're looking forward to starting **tennis and soccer**; these intramural sports begin on April 18th, which is a week later than initially planned. My hope is that the weather will be just a bit warmer, allowing for more outdoor enjoyment.

If your student is involved in the Track and Field team, the district has published the new schedule. See link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSddovJU77zzzfz298lFwll2rUudSkNID1dSDOs5TLyXX0iEU9mRKGKsKm5k-UEEsrsCJP5cOf4uqBK/pubhtml>

Best Wishes,

Mike Scott, Mears AP

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/1lI5oSifxCsxF-MNIknP6hBp0FPtELfeI/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>

COVID-19 Return To Play

In addition to the standard forms and COVID-19 waiver, if a student has recently tested positive for COVID-19 and seeks to begin or return to a sport or activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form. The school nurse can provide more information; however, it's essentially a form (linked above and below) that requires 2 steps:

1. If the student has a confirmed positive COVID-19 test, a healthcare professional must sign off that he/she is able to return to the sport or activity prior to participation (not required to return to school).
2. Upon submission of this form, coaches will employ the slow re-entry process to ensure safety. **Please view the document to see the transitional return process. (Apologies: Last week I included the wrong link-please view this one).**
 - a. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vsUwRmFJTh5s4ecdD0wJ2PW8ywX2-J5U/view>

Although the form is not new, our employment of the document will be more stringent. All families that agree to participate in sports sign the COVID-19 waiver, which makes the Return to Play documentation part of the process. Our hope is to enhance safety and help students as they restart strenuous activity. If you have any questions please contact Mike Scott, Mears AP, or Karin Richards, Mears Nurse.

scott_michael@asdk12.org
richards_karin@asdk12.org

Mears Library It's a Spring Thing

Library aides Claire Saltzman and Charlotte Church are revamping the library's displays to reflect reading and the change of seasons.





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.

Upcoming PTSA General Meeting -- April 19, 2022 5:30pm

Meeting Dates for Spring Semester: Apr. 19, May 3, 2022

[Mears PTSA Zoom Link](#)

PTA Fundraising Opportunity

We are proud to announce our new Mears PTSA School Store Online! We are able to bring many brand-name items delivered directly to your home!

<https://mearsptsa.squarespace.com/>

Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales

Final Orders Due by April 1st



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

Natural Phenomenon



Receding ice melt has left beautiful flower-like designs on the sidewalks in front of Mears.



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](#)