



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 22, 2022

## *Mears Students Celebrate Uniqueness*



This week, students in Ms. Sally Pak's classes completed a large-scale collaborative art project that celebrates the uniqueness of each student here at Mears. Each panel of the mural was created by a different student. This beautiful art piece now hangs in Mears library. Special recognition goes out to Mears student, Bethany Peronto, 8th grade,, who designed the mural. Mears also wishes to thank the Anchorage Schools Foundation, who funded this ambitious project.

**Go Panthers!**

# Stay Informed/Get Involved

## Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age

Through the generous support of Mears PTSA, the original Screenagers film is available for free to all members of the Mears school community for the next two weeks.



Film viewing available for the Mears school community, April 22-May1

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

### MAP Testing Schedule for Math and Language Arts

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Math MAP</b> | Mon. 4/25 -Wed. 4/28 |
| Math Makeups    | Fri. 4/29            |
| <b>ELA MAP</b>  | Wed. 5/4- Fri. 5/6   |
| ELA Makeups     | Mon. 5/9             |

## The Importance of MAP Testing

Mears Families, please note that MAP test results are a very tool for measuring student academic progress. The assessment is given three times each academic year and the results are used by teachers to identify important areas of needed academic focus and support for individuals and groups of students. MAP assessment results are also used by counselors, department chairs, and administrators to ensure that students are scheduled in the most appropriate classes in math, language arts, and science.

# April Creative Writing Contest

## Song Lyric Poems

And we gonna let it burn, burn, burn  
burn.

Being the way you are is enou ou ough.

WE ARE NEVER EVER EVER GETTING BACK  
TOGETHER.

April is poetry month. To honor our poets and their poetry, this month's writing contest will require you to write a poem. What? You say you don't like poetry? Wait! Song lyrics are poetry, and I bet you have a favorite song or two. So give it try!

**Here's April's prompt: Select a line of lyrics from your favorite song. Make those lyrics the first line and the last line of your poem.**

Hey I just met you and this is crazy.

Out on your corner in the pouring rain.

This is the part when I say I  
don't want ya.

So get ready, it's go time.

Deadline: Friday, April 29th.

**See writing tips on the next slide.**



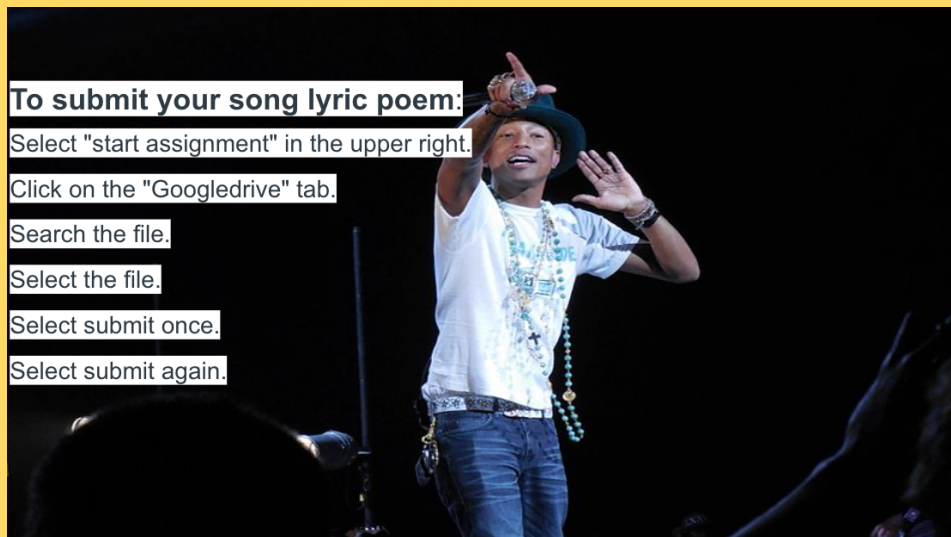
### Lyrics-to-Poetry Tips

- Consider what the line you chose means to you.
- Once removed from the song, can the line take on a new and different meaning?
- Experiment with different poetic devices: rhyme, repetition, alliteration (the repetition of sound), simile, metaphor or personification.
- Poems can be rhyming or non-rhyming but must begin and end with the same line from a song.
- At the end of your poem, give credit to the musician whose line you borrowed.
- Suggested length: 8-20 lines.

[Click here to begin writing.](#)







Congratulations to the  
March Writing Contest  
Winners!

First Place:  
Imari Navarro

Runner Up:  
Coe Benito

## Mears Library

### Recognizing Awesomeness



## ASD's Bookmarks Have Arrived!



## Mears Health Update Important Covid Health Reminders:



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

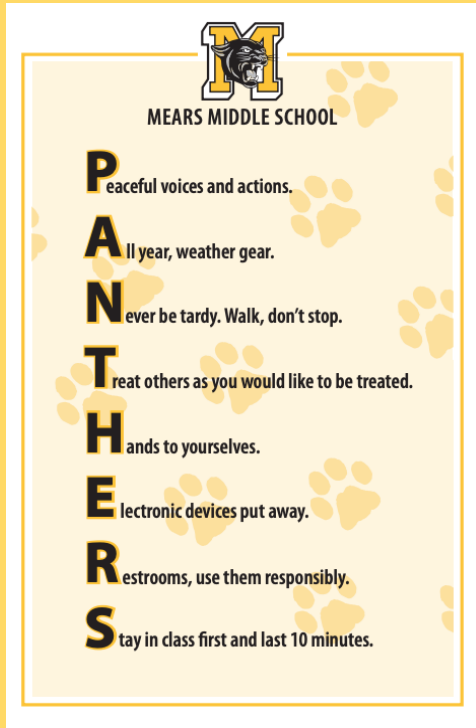
- [COVID 19 Updates Home Screening Guidelines](#) (All languages may not be updated, but communications is working on this)
- [Return-to-School/Work Policy](#)

Other Important Links:

[Anchorage Covid Vaccination Info](#)

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

# 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:

We have only a few track and field meets remaining, so if your student is involved, consider attending. We have a meet next Wednesday at Mears, 5:30 PM. Also, the ASD schedule for track is below.

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

Students are also enjoying soccer and tennis/pickleball. Thanks to Mears families for encouraging students to join in the fun!

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](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/11I5oSifxCsxF-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](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>

## 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](mailto:scott_michael@asdk12.org)  
[richards\\_karin@asdk12.org](mailto:richards_karin@asdk12.org)

# 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](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade  
[svendsen\\_crysta@asdk12.org](mailto:svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org)  
907-742-6428





### **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 26, 2022 5:30pm**

Meeting Dates for Spring Semester: May 3, 2022 Final Meeting of the Year!

[Mears PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

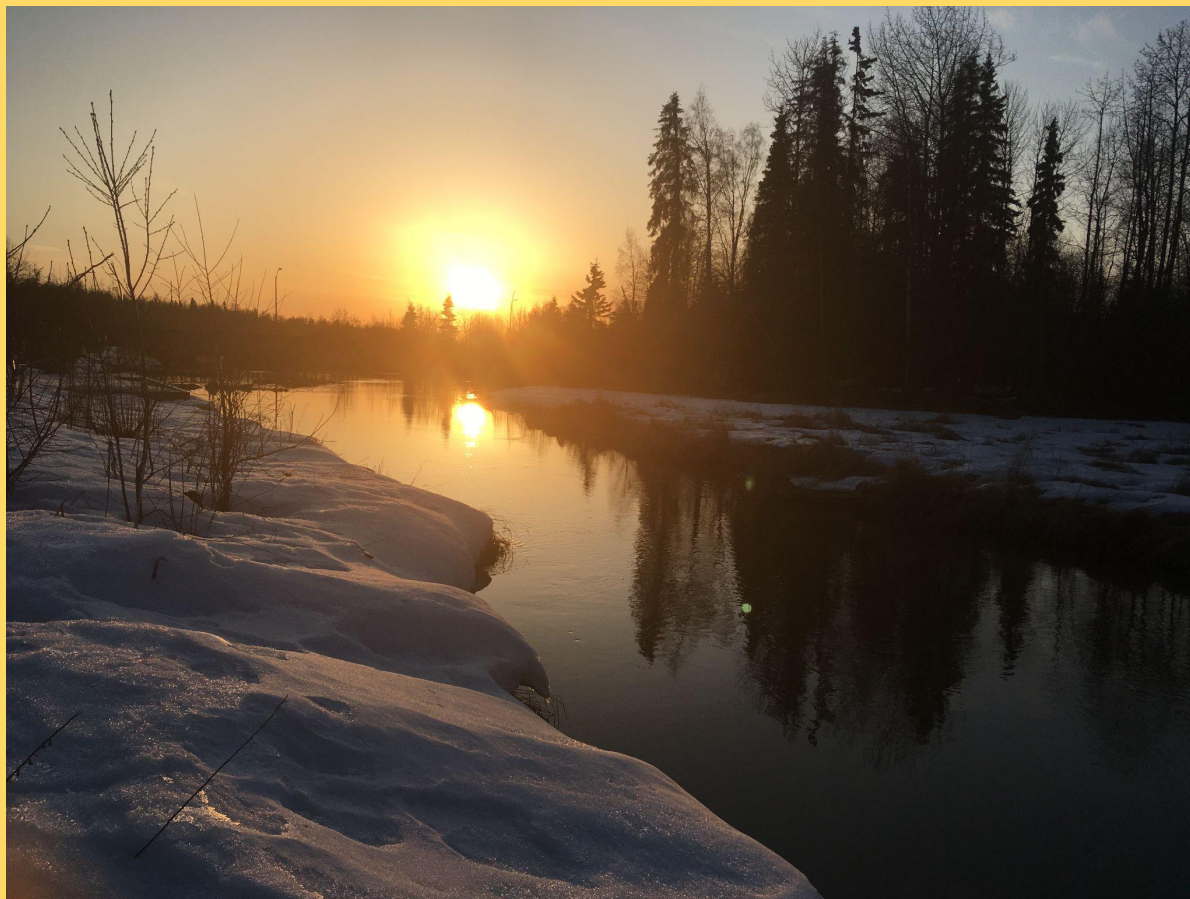
### **7th Graders-Be Sure to Get Your Mears Gear for Next Year**

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/>

## Earth Day, 2022





Sunset on Chanshtnu or Chester Creek. Before English speaking settlers, the Dena'ina inhabited the area and were known to use Chanshtnu, or "Grass Creek," as a salmon fishing camp. **The word Chanstnu was later transcribed to Chester, giving us the name we now use.**

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## 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](#)