



Mears Middle Schools

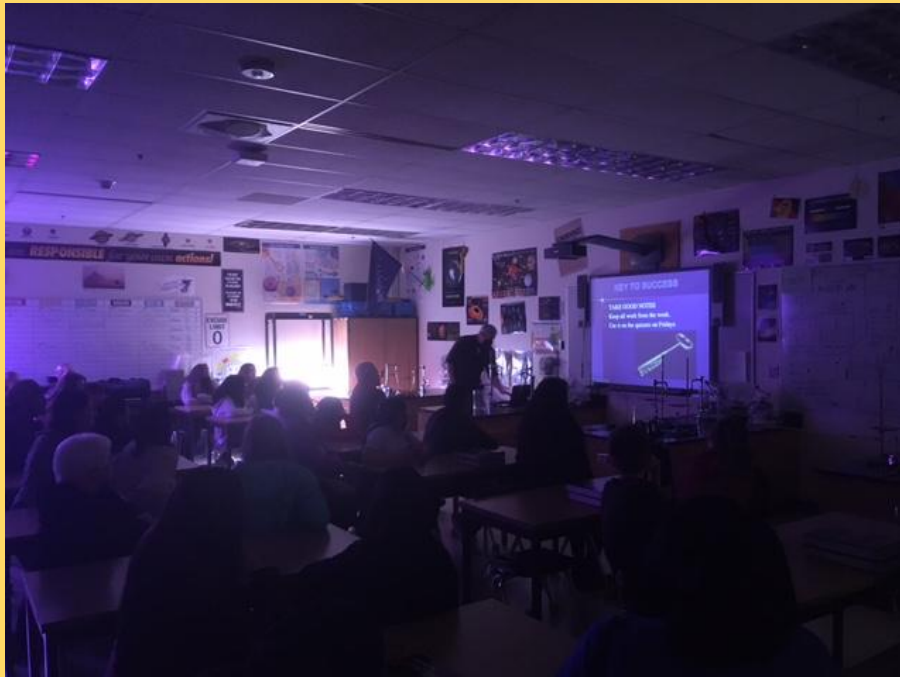
# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 23, 2022

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*Thank you, Mears Families*



Last night, Mears proudly welcomed hundreds of parents, family members, and students to its annual Back-to-School Open House. The event was very well attended by families who came to visit classrooms and meet their student's incredible teachers. Pictured above is Mr. Dwane Anderson's science classroom during a presentation to a packed room of interested and supportive parents and their students. Throughout the event, parents and families expressed their appreciation for Mears teachers and staff and all they are doing to educate and advocate for our young people. Go Panthers! -Eric

If you attended the event, please take a moment to fill out a brief survey:

[Back to School Night Feedback Form](#)

# Mears Back-to-School Video



Special thanks to Ms. Teresa Harrison, Mears 7th grade counselor, who produced this fun video of highlights from the beginning of the school year.

Check out the video here: [Mears Back-to-School Video](#)

## Back to School Presentation



*Mears Middle School*

*Respect, Responsibility, Creativity and Academic Excellence*

**Back-to-School Open House**  
**Thursday, September 22, 2022**  
**6:00-8:00pm**

*Mears Middle School Mission*

*Through teamwork and cooperation, all students become partners in their own educational progress, fostering self-respect, responsibility and integrity.*

## Link to Presentation:

 [Back to School, Sept. 22, 2022](#)

# Upcoming Events

- **FRI 9/23: Girls Basketball Games: J V & V @ Begich MS. Games begin @ 5 p.m.**
  - **FRI 9/23: FRI 9/30: Moose Loop Run! See MMS website for more info.**
  - **TUES 9/27: Mears Staff Meeting, 3:00pm, Library**
  - **THU 9/29: Girls Basketball: Teams C1 & C2 @ Mears MS. Games begin @ 5 p.m.**
  - **SAT 10/1: FGirls Basketball Jamboree**
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## Reminder: Behavioral Expectations



Cell Phones/Electronic Devices - No cell phone use from 8:00 am -2:45 pm in Hallways or at Lunch. Teachers will determine use in classrooms.

Dress Code/Decorum - School appropriate to maintain safe, focused, and respectful learning environment

Backpacks,Purses, Handbags or other assorted personal storage items must be stored and locked in individual lockers. They cannot be carried about during the day, with the EXCEPTION of Mears Tote Bags. These can be purchased in the main office or at the school store.

Video: [Mears Schoolwide Expectations](#)

# Transportation Update

Average Daily Attendance Rate for this week: **94%**

This week, Mears students have raised the average daily attendance to 94%! Congratulations on a job well done! Thank you parents and families for all that you are doing to get our students to school on time and every day. Strong daily attendance is one of the key indicators for success in school. Let's keep up the good work!

## Busing Service Begins, Oct. 3



Mears families are reminded that buses will resume their full schedule at Mears beginning on Monday, Oct. 3.

Please note that student drop-off and pick-up zones will not change once busing resumes. Parents may continue with the routines they have already established.

All Mears busses #80-87 will run during Cohort 3. See below for Cohort busing schedule:

Cohort 1 (Bus #1-38): Aug. 18-Sept. 9

Cohort 2 (Bus #39-77): Sept. 12-Sept. 30

Cohort 3 (Bus #78-116): Oct. 3-Oct. 20

ASD has made available individual bus schedules and information for all students. Please visit [Q ParentConnect](#) to see your student's schedule.

Here's a step-by-step guide for accessing Q Parent Connect:

<https://confluence.asdk12.org/x/QQP6Cg>



# Mears Activities & Sports



*XC Girls warm up to race.*

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year, which will provide our students with many incredible opportunities to learn and grow through academic and extracurricular activities.

Middle school is a great time to try new things and meet new people. Here at Mears we have an amazing array of activities & sports for everyone. Below is a list of the upcoming Interscholastic and Intramural options. Here is a direct link to our Sports & Activities on our [Mears Website](#) for more information on signing up. You can find the sign up forms on our website. Once completed, [scan](#) and email the forms to our AAFP: [spartz-hays\\_robin@asdk12.org](mailto:spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org) or forms can be dropped off at the main office between periods 1 & 2 \*Fee waivers are granted based on need.



*Archery - Three amazing archers!*

Many of our archers had never held a bow before Monday and soon they will all be amazing archers. Space is still available in the January session of archery.

# Mears Library



## Battle of the Books!

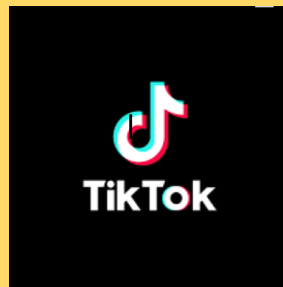
Battle of the Books meetings will be held on Tuesdays, in the library. All meetings will take place during lunch. More copies of the books have arrived and are available for checkout.

Links to official lists, bookmarks, and more are available on the [Mears Battle of the Books](#) website and in the Mears Battle of the Books Canvas shell.

# Mears Counseling Corner

***"...there has been an uptick in peer-conflict visits in the counseling office stemming from social media platforms."***

**Social Media Information-What Every Parent Should Know**  
(5 min read)  
[Link Here For Article](#)



**If you see something, say something.**

Teresa Harrison-7th Grade  
[harrison\\_teresa@asdk12.org](mailto:harrison_teresa@asdk12.org)  
Direct: 907-742-6428

Caitlyn Burr-8th Grade  
[burr\\_caitlin@asdk12.org](mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org)  
Direct: 907-742-6424

Questions, comments, concerns? Email or [Contact Request Form](#)

The counseling office is busy with student check in's, lunchtime visits, grade checks and opportunities to build student rapport. Although much of the time spent with students in the counseling office is positive, there has been an uptick in peer-conflict visits in the counseling office stemming from social media platforms. Mears parents are supportive and engaged so counselors want to provide the best resources to help parents navigate the responsibilities that come with [social media \(and Smartphone\) use](#).

**Not sure how to monitor your child's phone, device or screen time?**  
**Check out these Apps: Qustodio, Net Nanny-Family Protect Pass, MamaBear & mSpy**



# Mears Student Health Update



ASD will be holding flu clinics on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Please stay tuned for more information regarding times and locations for the clinics.

## Links to important information:


"When to Keep Your Child Home From School" policy:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/6622>.

[Here is a link to ASD's "Return/Stay at School Protocol"](#)

I hope everyone is staying healthy. Please reach out to me with any health-related questions you have. -Nurse Karin Richards

# Community Health Events




**Don't Get the Flu. Drive on Thru!**  
ROLL DOWN YOUR WINDOW, ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE,  
-THEN ROLL ON DOWN THE ROAD-

**WHO**  
Participants 9 years and older

**WHAT**  
Free flu shots and windshield or headlight washing

**WHEN Sep - Oct 2022**  
**5:30 - 8 p.m.**  
Tuesday, September 20  
More dates to come as vaccine arrives  
*(No appointment necessary)*

**WHERE**  
Alaska Regional Hospital  
Parking lot of Building C  
2801 Debarr Rd.  
Anchorage, AK, 99508

  
alaskaregional.com

**BENEFITS OF FLU VACCINATION**

- Getting a flu shot is more important than ever, but it does not protect against COVID-19
- It's especially important if you have heart disease, diabetes, pulmonary or other chronic diseases, are pregnant, immunocompromised or over 50.
- The vaccine may make your illness milder if you do get sick.
- Flu vaccination may reduce the risk of serious flu outcomes, like hospitalization.

**VACCINE INFORMATION**

- The standard and high doses are quadrivalent: designed to protect against four different viruses.
- They do not contain latex or thimerosal.
- The high dose vaccine (for people 65+) will NOT be available at the drive-thrus.
- There are many flu viruses. The vaccine protects against those believed to be most common and is updated each year.
- You cannot get the flu from the vaccine.

**Everyone in vehicle must be masked!**  
Questions? Call Ruth: 264-1823



## Mindful Mammograms

As October gets closer, the color pink begins to appear in stores, nudging you to be proactive in the fight against breast cancer. One in eight women will develop invasive breast cancer in her lifetime. Don't be one of them.

If you are 40 or older, schedule your mammogram now!

We have planned a special day to get your mammograms in a soothing atmosphere with extra benefits! Relax with a chair massage, practice some yoga postures and participate in a calming practice of mindfulness before or after your appointment.

Enjoy refreshments and relax while doing something positive for your health.

**Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Alaska Regional Imaging Alliance  
Medical Office Building E, Suite #180  
Alaska Regional Hospital, 1200 Airport Hts. Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Schedule your appointment by calling (855) 226-9105  
(masks required)

  
**ALASKA REGIONAL**  
HOSPITAL

*(Insurance will be billed. Self-pay screenings will be discounted)*

# Great Employment Opportunity at Mears

## Parents are Perfect Hunger Healers

**Join our dedicated team of School Nutrition professionals!**



### **Benefits of Working for Student Nutrition:**

- ✓ **Take your kids to work!**
- ✓ **Work with incredible people.**
- ✓ **Weekends, holidays & summers off!**
- ✓ **Retirement benefits with the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).**
- ✓ **Up to \$2,500 hiring bonus!**

### **Full, part-time and temporary positions available:**

**School Cafeteria Assistant - Café Assistant Manager - Café Manager  
Mobile Manager - Substitute Cafeteria Assistant**

**Apply now at: <https://www.asdk12.org/cafejobs>**

Click on box halfway down page: "View Current Employment Opportunities"  
In the left column, look for the categories that start with Food Service.

**Questions? Call 907-348-5185**



**PTSA General Meeting Schedule: All Mears Community Members are Welcome -- Second Wednesday of each month**

Semester 1: Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14

Semester 2: Jan 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10

Topic: Mears PTSA General Meeting

[PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 981 2989 0912

Passcode: 986530

Parents and Family Members, please consider supporting Mears PTSA by becoming a volunteer, which is a fun and valuable way to support our students and teachers.

**The Student Store is Now OPEN!**



Special thanks to all of our amazing PTSA volunteers!

Join Team PTSA: Volunteer Interest Form:

<https://forms.gle/P8yYKMPSuwzPR2ZU8>



# The 2022-23 Mears Yearbook is Now on Sale



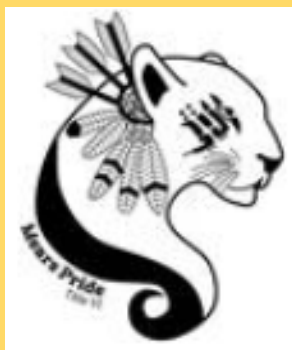
Mears families can also order online by going to: [ybpay.com](https://ybpay.com) using access code 13921123 (see the attachment). Please be certain to print and keep a copy of your receipt after completing and paying for the online purchase. Please do not wait to submit your yearbook order(s). Understand that orders made online after 11:59 p.m. on night of March 26, 2022 are not guaranteed a yearbook order. Questions? Please contact the Mears MS PTSA via email at: [mearsms.pts@gmail.com](mailto:mearsms.pts@gmail.com)

## Be Sure to Get Your Mears Gear for 2022-23!



PTSA is proud to announce its new online store. Items can be purchased online and delivered directly to your home.

<https://mearsms.ptsquarespace.com/>



## 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](https://mearsmiddle.org/)