



Friday, October 7, 2022

[illegible]

Mears and show the most popular values and attributes we strive for as a school community: Respect, inclusivity, maturity, positivity, helpfulness, kindness, caring, and many others. Going forward, this school-wide social contract will be used as a guide as we continue to build the most positive and supportive school environment possible.

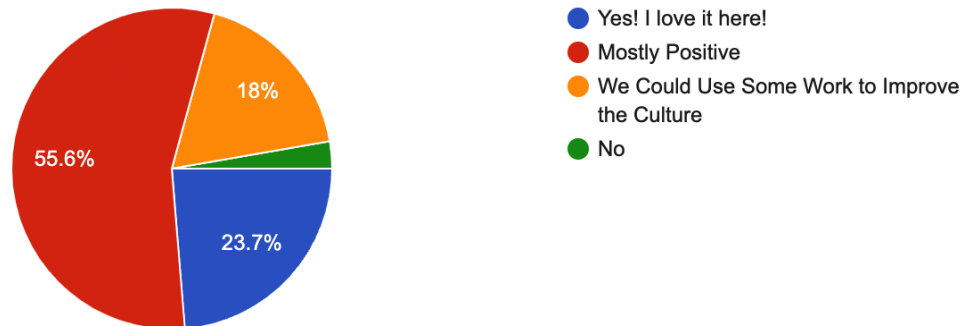
Go Panthers! –Eric

Mears Campus Culture Survey

Do you feel that Mears has a positive culture?

 Copy

367 responses



Last week, Mears counselors conducted a schoolwide survey focused on school culture. Results show a strong majority (79%) of students that “feel Mears has a positive culture.” This is a good sign at this early point of the school year. Still, we all recognize that the other 21% believe that “we could use some work to improve culture.” In the weeks to come, Mears student leaders and staff will be working to identify how best to address these needs.

School Culture Word Cloud



In the same survey, students were asked to communicate what they like best about being a student at Mears. Above is a word cloud generated from the words most commonly used in student responses. Teachers, Nice, People, and Friends are the common words used.

Upcoming Community Events

- **THU 10/6 - 10/31: Trick or Eat 2022 Citywide Food Drive & MMS Team Competition!**
 - **SAT 10-8: TNK Japanese Immersion Annual Dinner, MPR, 6-8pm**
 - **SAT 10/8: Girls Basketball Jamboree; players please get with your coaches as to the location and times you will be playing.**
 - **WED 10/12: Picture Retake Day, during both grade level lunches MPR Stage**
 - **FRI 10/14 Team Day at Mears** A day of fun, team building, and social learning. On October 14th each of the Mears teams will be participating in special activities designed to promote a positive school culture. More information will be coming soon as your Mears' teachers plan for this special day.
 - **MON 10/17: Girls Volleyball: 1st Practice**
 - **MON 10/17: Wrestling: 1st Practice**
 - **MON 10/17 - THU 10/20: Spirit Week (more details to follow)**
 - **THU 10/20: First All School Halloween Dance! Sponsored by the students of the MMS NJHS!**
 - **FRI 10/21: ASD Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!!!**
 - **WED 10/26: Early Dismissal 11:45 a.m.**
 - **WED 10/26: Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences 12:15 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **THU 10/27: Early Dismissal 11:45 a.m.**
 - **THU 10/27: Parent/Teacher Student Led Conferences 12:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
 - **FRI 10/28: ASD Teacher In-Service Day - NO SCHOOL!!!**
 - **10/31: Halloween!**
-

Mears Staff Calendar

- **TUE 10/25: All Employee Staff Meeting 3:00 p.m., MMS Library**
 - **FRI 10/21: ASD Teacher In-Service Day: Quarter Grading**
 - **FRI 10/28: ASD Teacher In-Service Day: Subject Specific Training Districtwide**
-



Come celebrate and support Mears Japanese Immersion Program this Saturday night from 6:00-8:00pm.

PICTURE RETAKE DAY IS COMING!!!

WEDNESDAY 10/12/22

If your student was absent on the original Picture Day 8/31/22, your student has another opportunity to get their picture taken for the Mears MS yearbook, no purchase is required. The Office Staff has reached out to all students that were either absent or new to Mears MS on or after 8/31/22. Information and order forms were provided to each student to take home. Those that were absent or are new to Mears MS will be photographed first. If time permits students who want a “do over” will be allowed to have a new photo done. Understand that if a student gets a *new* photo taken, the student ID card will remain the same.

THU 10/6 - 10/31 TRICK OR TREAT 2022 CITYWIDE FOOD DRIVE & MMS TEAM COMPETITION!

During the month of October Mears MS will be participating in a food drive benefiting the FoodBank of Alaska. To boost support for the month-long event, Mears MS grade level teams will be competing for a prize to be awarded for the team that donates the most food - in pounds! Food collection boxes have been placed in the Science and Social Studies classroom. Boxes will be collected on Tuesday & Friday each week, weighed and the total weight recorded. The school team with the highest contribution by weight will win an Ice Cream Party in November!

Please send non-perishable items to school with your student during the month of October. Should parents or guardians prefer to make a monetary donation instead; please make your checks payable to *FoodBank of Alaska*; each dollar will equate to a pound, and your \$25.00 (or more) check would add that in weight to the team competition! Please indicate in the memo section your student's team name. Monetary donations will be delivered on the same day as the food donations. You can also contribute online by using your credit card:

Please Visit: www.FoodBankofAlaska.org

Click On: **“Donate”** in the browser bar and complete process

Simply provide a copy of your donation receipt and that amount will be recorded into pounds for your student's team competition.

For a complete list of items please go to the Mears MS or Food Bank of Alaska website. Thank you for helping those in need this holiday season! Questions? Please email Ava Goodman @ goodman_ava@asdk12.org

MEARS MS HALLOWEEN DANCE!!!! THURSDAY 10/20/22...MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!



Mears MS will hold its first all school dance on Thursday, 10/20/22, students are encouraged to wear costumes to the dance, not permitted as part of the costume: no face coverings (i.e. no masks), no gore, no fake weapons of any kind, costume must be age appropriate - students must be *fully covered*.

The dance is sponsored by the MMS National Junior Honor Society. **\$2.00 Dance Tickets** go on sale during both grade level lunches Monday 10/12/22. Don't wait to purchase your tickets; the dance will be capped at 400 students to maximize fun and provide safe supervision! No exceptions will be made. Snacks will be available and sold by the PTSA at the school store. **Only Mears MS students are able to attend, school ID required.** Thank you.

IT'LL BE A GHOULISH GOOD TIME!!!

Transportation Update

Average Daily Attendance Rate for the week of 10/3-7:

94%

Busing Service Resumes



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!

Mears families are reminded that buses have resumed their full schedule at Mears.

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 bussing 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

22-23 SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	SEASON START:	SEASON END:
Cross Country Running	August 22nd	October 6th
Basketball - Girls	August 22nd	October 8th
Baseball (Baseball is coordinated by American Legion.)	August 22nd	TBA
Softball (Softball is coordinated by Anchorage Sports Association)	Spring	Spring
Wrestling	October 17th	December 7rd
Volleyball	October 17th	December 10th
Cross Country Skiing	January 12th	March 2nd
Basketball - Boys	January 10th	March 3rd
Track & Field	March 6th	May 8th
Soccer	Spring 2022	Spring 2022
Archery 1	September 12th	October 7th
Archery 2 (same as 1 but with different dates)	January 11th	February 8th
Archery 3	March 20th	April 14th
Native Youth Olympics	TBA	TBA
Tennis	April 18th	May 13th



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.

Archery

Due to popular demand, another session of archery has been added, March 20 - April 14. Be an archer, we're right on target!



Once completed, [scan](#) and email the forms to our AAFP: 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.

Mears Library Lunch



Student Activity Meetings

Many groups and organizations are starting weekly meetings that are held in the library during lunch.

Tuesday, both lunches, Battle of the Books

Every other Wednesday, 8th grade lunch, National Junior Honor Society

Thursday (intermittent), Student Advisory Board

Mears Monthly Writing Contest

What is it?: The Mears creative writing contest is an ongoing writing opportunity throughout the school year with a new prompt introduced at the start of each month and the entry deadline falling near the end of the month. Students who submit winning entries receive recognition, publishing opportunities, and awards. More importantly, the monthly contests provide students opportunities to be creative, to seek audiences for their writing outside the classroom, and to write down stories we all carry within us.

How to participate: Register for the Panther Participation course inside Canvas. (Check for an invitation in your email inbox.) Or, visit the Mears web page and click on "activities," then "creative writing contests" for further details and helpful hints to get started.

October Writing Contest



Bookends are devices we place at the ends of our bookshelves to prop up our books. Bookends can also describe the beginning and ending of a story.

Begin your story with the line: "The voice on the other side of the door cackled a most hideous laugh."

End your story with the line, "So, that's why I no longer go trick-or-treating alone."

What occurs between these bookends is up to you. Be creative, be adventurous, be daring. Judges will analyze stories for clearly developed setting and conflict, as well as rising action (or suspense) throughout the story.

October Contest—continued

Writing Tips:

- Develop the setting to fit the suspenseful tone. Use sensory details (the 5 senses).
- Develop characters through action, dialogue, and detail. Show your characters doing something.
- Consider a surprise or twist at the end, which is often the case in spooky genres.

Stories can be no more than 1,000 words. Deadline to submit is Friday, October 28th.

Waaa-ha-ha-ha!



To begin your story, [click on this link](#).

(Make sure your ASD Googledrive is open first.)



To submit your story in Canvas:

[Click here](#), then perform the steps below.

1. When inside Canvas, click on blue “start assignment” button (top)
2. Click on the “Googledrive” tab.
3. Find your Googledoc entitled “October Writing Contest.”
4. Select it.
5. Click submit at the bottom.
6. Click submit a second time.

Mears Technology

ASD has published the amounts that will be charged as fines for repairing and replacing Chromebooks. When a students’ Chromebook needs to be repaired the fine will be generated in ParentConnect and can also be paid there.

Lost/Missing Chromebook - \$225
Lost/Missing/Damaged Charger - \$25
Screen Replacement - \$50
Hinge - \$15 each
Hinge covers - \$10 each
LCD Top Cover - \$25
Front Screen Bezel (frame around screen) - \$20
Bottom Cover - \$25
Keyboard - \$50
Missing keys - \$5 each up to the price of full keyboard
Top Case - \$75
USB-C Ports/Input Ports - \$150 each
Camera/Microphone - \$25

Please talk with your child about keeping their Chromebook in good condition.

Mears Counseling Corner

7th Graders Kira & Brea to the Rescue!



[Bee Kind-Episode One](#)



October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Teresa Harrison-7th Grade
harrison_teresa@asdk12.org
Direct: 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr-8th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
Direct: 907-742-6424

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

October's National Bullying Prevention Month will raise awareness across the country.

It is important to realize that students, parents, teachers, and school administrators can all play a role in creating positive changes that impact our students at Mears.

The statistics on bullying remind us how important it is to raise awareness for this important social issue. Counselors at Mears work hard to be proactive and encourage a bully-free zone. Last month we created a video about teasing and this month our video will highlight Digital Citizenship, discuss online bullying and [how to be an upstander](#).



Parents, you can assist your student and keep them accountable by putting an app on their phones. Many parents call our office to let us know what is happening because they observed

something concerning using one of these apps: **mSpy, Mama Bear or eyeZy** are just a few apps designed to help keep an eye on smartphone activities as well as the whereabouts of your child. Finally, counselors want to take opportunities to highlight what students are already doing to emphasize respect and inclusion on our campus. Episode One on our "Bee-Kind" series. [Bee Kind @Mears-Episode One](#)



Mears Student Health Update



ASD will be holding flu clinics on October 26th and 27th. 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. 1st 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)

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!

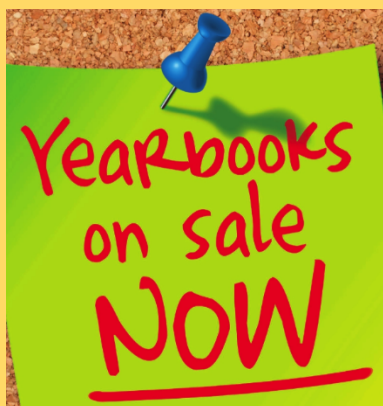


Special thanks to all of our amazing PTSA volunteers!

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 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.ptsa@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://mearspsta.squarespace.com/>

Game On!



A Mears student challenges Ms. Heather Fleming to a game of chess in the library during lunchtime.



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](#)