



*Mears Middle School*

# **Panther Pride**

*Respect, Responsibility, Creativity  
and Academic Excellence*

Special Summer Edition: Friday, August 2, 2019

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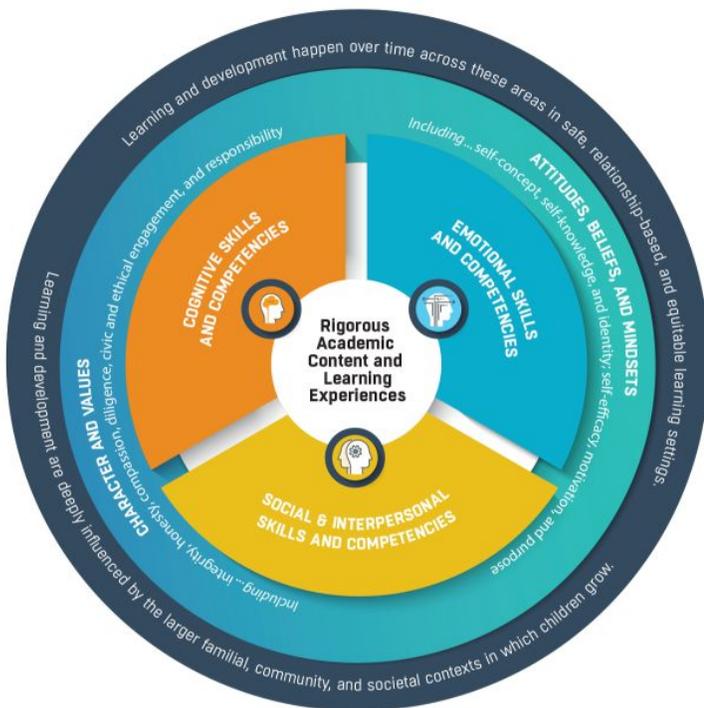
## *Teaching the Whole Child*



Last Friday, July 26, Superintendent Dr. Deena Bishop, addressed Anchorage School District leaders during an annual education summit. The audience included teacher leaders, counselors, school and district administrators and school board trustees. During her address, Dr. Bishop emphasized the importance of ensuring that all ASD schools support education that teaches the whole child, which must include cognitive competency, along with social and emotional skills.

At Mears Middle School, teachers and staff are committed to building and maintaining strong and positive relationships with all of our students. Strong relationships are the foundation for a variety of programs at Mears that address students' social and emotional growth. The following programs offer a few important examples of ways that students at Mears are given opportunities to learn and practice essential social, interpersonal and emotional skills, which support the development of the whole child.

#### The Evidence Base for How Learning Happens



**Capturing Kids Hearts:** This building-wide Social-Emotional-Learning (SEL) program encourages teachers and students to work together to build classroom expectations and create an inclusive culture of learning.

**Reset Room:** The Reset Room provides a quiet place for students to step away from class, with teacher permission, to speak with another staff member and “Reset” their behavioral arc.

**PASS:** The PASS program is a collaborative effort led by caring adults to provide students with strategies to find success in school.

**Foundations:** The Foundations team creates initiatives, voted on by the staff, to improve the SEL and behavioral outcomes within the school community.

**Lions Quest:** This engaging SEL curriculum, taught by their core teachers at strategic times throughout each quarter, provides students with opportunities to discuss and learn about issues important to young people.



# Stay Informed/Get Involved

## Mears Teachers and Staff

Thursday, August 15 -- Teachers First Day Back, meet in the library at 8:30am for Principal's Welcome and PTSA Welcome Back Breakfast

Friday August 16 -- ASD Cross District Professional Development Day at the following locations:

- ELA, Math, SS, SPED Resource, ELL, AKSD, CTE Teachers, Indian Ed Community Tutors and Counselors: West High Auditorium: 8:00-11:00 AM (remainder of day at school site)
- Secondary World Language Teachers: Bartlett High School, Band Room, 8:00-3:30 PM
- SPED Special Program teachers (Structured learning, Life Skills, Affective Education: Bartlett High School (tentative), 8:00-11:00 AM (remainder of day at school site)
- Librarians: East High Library and East High Library Annex, 8:00-3:30 PM
- K-12 Nurses: ASD Ed Center Tech 1 and 2; Bartlett HS room 225; Wendler; Hanshew (tentative: check with administration on August 15th)
- Fine Arts: Service High School Auditorium, 8:00-3:30 PM
- Related Services: See schedule for elementary and secondary PD

Monday, August 19 -- Mears PD and Teacher Work Day, meet in the library at 8:00am

Monday, August 19 -- Staff Photos, 9:00-12:00

Tuesday, August 20 -- First Day of School

## Mears Parents and Guardians

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 6 and 7 -- In-Person Registration at Mears, see details below

Tuesday & Wednesday, August 13, 14 -- Panther Camp, see details below

Tuesday, August 20 -- **First Day of School!**

Thursday, August 22 - PTSA Meeting - 6:30 pm in the Library

Thursday, August 29 - School Photos

## School Registration has begun!!

All students must register prior to the beginning of school!!

**If your student is returning**, registration is available online through Q ParentConnection, until August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Password and pin numbers are available by calling the school office, 742-6420, 7am-3pm daily.

**If your student is new to the district or you do not have computer access**, you will need to enroll in person at Mears:

Tuesday August 6<sup>th</sup> - 8am-3pm or Wednesday August 7<sup>th</sup> - 8am-7pm

**Documents to bring for New-to-the-District students are:** current immunization records, birth certificate (copy), unofficial transcripts from former school, and proof of residency, such as two utility bills or a purchase agreement with your residence address. Person other than the legal guardian who is registering children should bring proof of temporary guardianship. Current IEP and Eligibility Reports required if applicable.

**Documents to bring for Current ASD students transferring schools:** proof of residency, such as two utility bills or a purchase agreement with your residence address. Anyone other than the legal guardian registering students should bring proof of temporary guardianship.

**Returning students must clear all fines/charges incurred in any ASD school before they can activate their class schedule.** Please be prepared to return books or pay fines/fees.

Be sure to visit the link: [Plan Ahead for a Successful Start at Mears](#)

## Panther Camp Information

It is time to sign up for Panther Camp!

What is Panther Camp? Panther Camp is an opportunity for seventh graders and new to Mears eighth graders to get to know all the ins and outs of attending Mears Middle School. Most students that attend Panther Camp feel much more at ease and confident with starting this new and exciting time in their educational career.

Students attending Panther Camp receive their class schedules and get to meet other students who will be on their team. They will also learn where their classes are located as well as other important places such as the nurse's and counseling offices. The students will practice using the lockers, understand the lunchroom and open gym procedures, gain knowledge on how to have a successful year at Mears from fellow 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and much more. Students will also get to know many of the Mears staff and make new friends.

The one day Panther Camp sessions will be offered on Tuesday (8/13) and Wednesday (8/14) from 9:00 to 11:30. Our new Principal, Eric Backman, will also have a "meet and greet" session for parents from 11:00 to 11:30.

To sign up for Panther Camp, please go to the Mears webpage (<https://www.asdk12.org/mears>), click on the Panther Camp icon and follow the instructions. There is a \$10.00 fee which needs to be paid on-line by going to your "Zangle Parent Connect, Online Payments." This fee covers the costs of the camp and also includes students receiving a Mears T-shirt (that can be worn for Physical Education class) and a snack.

We are looking forward to seeing your student at camp.

## Fall Sports....

Cross Country Running - 8/22-10/11

Soccer (no fee) - 8/26-9/20

Girls Basketball - 8/26-10/11

Archery I (no fee) - 9/16-10/11

**If your student is participating in a fall sport** the following items are required:

1. Current physical (within the last 18 mos.)
2. A completed participation form
3. Fee for interscholastic sport, \$110 (cash/check) or a receipt of payment made online  
OR a completed and approved fee waiver.

All forms are available on the ASD website or the Mears office.

## PTSA News

It's a new year and new and PTSA welcomes new and returning families to Mears Middle School. Help us reach our goal with over 300 supporting PTSA members. PTSA will be hosting family education nights during most months throughout the school year. We have been listening to the requests of community members and are working to include educational opportunities that are most relevant to the Mears community. Please stay tuned for more information.

To sign up to be a PTSA member, please visit our website at [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com).

An added benefit of being a PTSA member is school supply shopping. When shopping at Office Depot/Office Max just mention Mears Middle School as part of the Give Back to Schools Program and Mears will receive a small portion of the proceeds.

Exciting news! Office Depot OfficeMax has partnered with us on a savings program to provide discounts in-store and online, plus fantastic new benefits for all PTA members.

Savings include:

- 100 Item School Supply List Discounted 5-84% less than retail
- 260+ Item Office Supply List 20% to 55% less than retail
- 200 Item Technology Solutions Average 10% less than retail
- Ink & Toner 10% off Branded / 20% off Private Brand
- 427 Item Cleaning and Breakroom 20% to 55% less than retail
- Store Assortment - 10% OFF Over 6,395 items discounted

Special Pricing on Copy and Print 2.5¢ Black & White copies 22¢ Color copies 40% off finishing services.

To Sign up for Office Depot Discounts you need to be a PTSA Member. How to sign up for the Office Depot Discounts will be emailed after becoming a PTSA Member.

The PTSA will be taking pre-orders for school supplies. Pre-orders can be done online at [www.mearsptsa.com](http://www.mearsptsa.com) or at registration.

Pick up can be done at Panther Camp or during the first week of school.

Pre-order school supplies from the PTSA and 5% of all purchases from Office Depot will be given back to Mears as part of the Give Back to Schools Program.

If you choose to go to the store and purchase supplies, please inform store employees at check out the Mears ID: 70000079 for the Give Back to School Program. If you purchase online, simply enter the same ID number on the confirmation page. Go to:

<https://www.officedepot.com/cm/school-supplies/give-back>

April Eide

PTSA-President

[Www.mearsptsa.com](http://www.mearsptsa.com)

[Www.facebook.com/mearsptsa](https://www.facebook.com/mearsptsa)

<https://www.remind.com/join/mearsptsa>

We're also on Twitter!

## ⇐ Backman Recommends ⇐⇒

### Top 7 Benefits of Extracurricular Activities For High School Students

Posted 2 years ago



Mears Parents and Guardians,

With the beginning of a new school year fast approaching, now is a great time to talk to your student about opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities. At Mears Middle School, we are excited to offer students a wide array of extracurricular activities that are of interest to our wonderfully diverse student body. Be sure your student is aware of the many benefits that can come from participation in extracurricular activities. According to this article from Crimson Education, benefits include higher academic achievement, broadened

interests and new perspectives, better self-esteem, development of communication and cooperation skills and a healthy break from homework. The article also points out some of the potential downsides of extracurriculars. --Eric



Pictured above: Girls Varsity Basketball, Mears' Robotics Team, National Honors Society.

<https://www.crimsoneducation.org/us/blog/benefits-of-extracurricular-activities>

## *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](#)

