



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride

*Respect, Responsibility, Creativity
and Academic Excellence*

Special Summer Edition: Friday, July 26, 2019

Mears Welcomes New Principal



Last week on July 18, Mike Perkins, Mears' celebrated principal of fifteen years, handed off the keys to the school to Eric Backman, Mears' new principal.

Letter of Introduction:

Dear Mears Parents, Guardians and Community Supporters,

I hope summer finds you all well, enjoying the good weather and some quality time having fun with your children, family and friends.

My name is Eric Backman and I would like to introduce myself as Mears Middle School's new principal. I am pleased to inform you all that my fiancée and I recently drove the entire trek from Northern California to Anchorage, which included the historic Alcan Highway. It was an incredible journey, filled with countless breathtaking and memorable sights. The trip served as a wonderful transition as I now settle into life in Anchorage.



It is a tremendous honor to have been hired at such a fine school in the Anchorage School District. After over twenty years in education, including the last four where I served as principal of a large comprehensive public high school in Northern California, I am extremely proud to join the Mears team. The school is home to a widely experienced and inspired staff, along with a community of enthusiastic and supportive parents. Most importantly, I am thrilled to begin the important work of supporting the education and growth of all students at Mears, a wonderfully diverse group of intelligent, creative and fun young people who are the lifeblood of the school!

A long stretch of the famous Alcan HWY.

With the 2019-20 school year set to begin on Tuesday, August 20th, I am very excited to begin the work of preparing for the new school year. Among my highest priorities this year will be to establish clear, consistent and open lines of communication with the entire Mears community. It is essential that a school community--including its parents, students, teachers and staff--all have a sense of knowing what is going on, how to get involved, and how best to support the success of all of our students.

In order to establish strong communication with the community, I will be sending out the *Panther Pride* newsletter, every Friday throughout the school year. Parents, guardians, school staff and students can check the newsletter for important weekly updates related to school activities, news and upcoming events. Each week I will work to include exciting information and photos about what our wonderful students and their incredible teachers are up to in classrooms and throughout the school.

The 2019-20 school year promises to be a great one. I am thrilled to begin my work as principal at Mears Middle School in service to this exceptional school community. When the opportunity presents itself, please be sure to introduce yourself and do not hesitate to let me know how your student is doing and how the school might best support their success. --Eric Backman, Principal

Contact: backman_eric@asdk12.org, 907-742-6400

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 Professional Development Day at West High School, 8:00am-3:30pm

Monday, August 19 -- Mears PD and Teacher Work Day, meet in the library at 8:30am

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

Tuesday, August 20 -- First Day of School

Mears Parents and Guardians

Tuesday - Thursday, 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 - 6:30pm 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 23rd. 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:

Wednesday August 6th - 8am-3pm or Thursday August 7th - 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.

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 8th 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 to go 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.

All forms are available on the ASD website or the student service office.

⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒

Mears Parents and Guardians,

Here are a couple of articles that outline a few simple things you can do to help ensure a strong, successful start to the school year. If your student is a new 7th grader or you are new to Mears, each of these articles provides strategies that can help with a successful transition to the new school year.



Also, be sure to visit the link: [Plan Ahead for a Successful Start at Mears.](#)

On behalf of all the teachers and staff at Mears, we are thrilled to welcome you to this wonderful school community!
--Eric

<https://www.teachhub.com/how-parents-can-prepare-back-school-time>

<https://www.education.com/magazine/article/10-things-discuss-new-school/>

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](#)

