



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, February 19, 2021

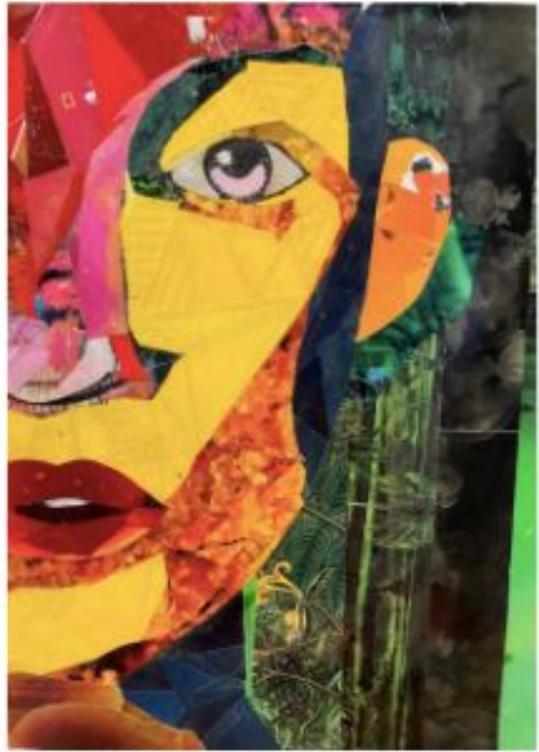
Mears Students Shine at ASD's Youth Art Show



Artwork created by seven Mears students in Ms. Kat Yackel's art classes have been selected for ASD's Youth Art Showcase, 2021. This exquisite painting of the Anchorage skyline by Mears student, Evelyn Hernandez, is one example of the artwork on display at ASD's Education Center from March 5 - April 3, 2021. The art show is part of the district's celebration of National Youth Art Month. Congratulations to our many exceptional artists! --Eric



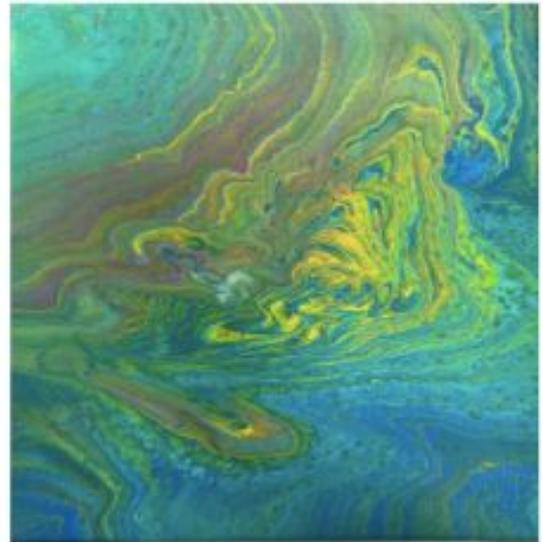
Painting, by Kinsey MacDonald.



Magazine collage, by Chloe McKay.



Magazine collage, by Victory Brumlow.



Painting, by Jillian Dolph.



Owl Collage, by Sophia Scott.



Shoe Drawing, by Sophie Kendall.

New Mears Family Survey for Quarter 4

Mears Parents and Families,

This is a brief reminder to be sure to fill out the new Mears Quarter 4 Options Survey, which was created for Mears families to select your preferred educational option for the 4th quarter.

So far over 30% of our families have completed the survey.

If you have not done so already, please fill this survey out at your earliest convenience. The survey window will close on Wednesday, Feb. 24th.

Survey Link: [Mears Quarter 4 Options Survey](#)

Your selection on the 4th Quarter Options Survey will be used by administrators, counselors, and teachers to prepare for the beginning of Quarter 4.

Again, many thanks! Go Panthers! --Eric



**AT A GLANCE:
Mears Q4 Options, 2021**

| | Mears At-School | Mears Online | ASD Virtual | ASD Homeschool |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Teachers and Staff | Mears certificated staff | Mears certificated staff | ASD certificated staff | Parents, ASD Certificated Online Instructors, Paideia, Frontier |
| Curriculum and Platform | ASD teacher designed Canvas | ASD teacher designed Canvas | APEX and eDynamics | Highly customized, determined by the Homeschool |
| Learning Environment & Instruction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-school Synchronous, in-person instruction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At home, remote learning Some courses will be synchronous with live lessons, while others may be primarily asynchronous Weekly Office Hours support with Mears teachers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At home Asynchronous/remote learning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At home Asynchronous Virtual |
| Schedule | Mon-Tues & Thurs-Fri with Mears teachers and staff 8:45am - 2:00pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mon-Tues & Thurs-Fri for some synchronous classes Wed. Office Hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, flexible schedule | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open, flexible schedule |
| Online Platform | Canvas | Canvas | APEX and eDynamics | APEX and eDynamics |
| Course schedule | 3 classes (2 core, 1 elective) | 3 classes (2 core, 1 elective) | 3 classes (2 core, 1 elective) | Determined by family and school |

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any assistance in preparing for the 4th quarter, please fill out a HELP Ticket: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>



COUNSELORS

Brent Haugen,
907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr,
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen,
907-742-6426

Visit this link to meet Mears Counselors:

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/mearsteachervideointros/home>

Mears Promotes Middle School Pledge Be an Upstander, not a Bystander



At Mears, we want all of our students to be “upstanders” and to actively support a campus culture that is safe and welcoming for all.

In order to promote our school-wide commitment to creating a hate-free environment, Mears Middle School is adopting the No Place for Hate Pledge.

Beginning this week, the Pledge will be promoted by Mears Student Advisory Board and in all 2nd block classes at Mears. In time, we will strive to have all students and staff sign the pledge to show their support for these important values and practices.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Upcoming Dates for Families

Thursday, Feb. 25, 6:00-7:00pm

- **6th Grade Family Welcome and Orientation** -- This online event is for all families of 6th graders planning to attend Mears next school year, 2021-22. We are excited to welcome new and returning families by introducing members of our incredible staff, along with an overview of Mears exemplary core and elective course offerings and extra-curricular activities.

Join Zoom Meeting

Please contact the Mears office for the Zoom link, meeting ID, and password. 907-742-6400



Teachers and Staff Meeting Schedule

- Monday/Feb. 22 --** Staff Meeting, 8:00am
Planning and CT after school
- Tuesday/Feb. 23 --** Planning and CT before and after school
- Wednesday/Feb. 24 --** Collaborative Teams, 8:00-9:00am
Canvas Open Hours Support Session, 9:00-10:00am
CT Leadership Training, 10:30am-12:00pm
Departments, 12:45-1:45pm
- Thursday/Feb. 25 --** Planning and CT before and after school
6th Grade Family Welcome and Orientation Event, 6:00-7:00pm
- Friday/Feb. 26 --** Planning and CT before and after school

Mears 10-Point Safety Plan for Students



10-Point Panther Path of Safety

- 1 When on the Mears campus, keep your mask on at all times.
- 2 Maintain 6 feet of distance between yourself and your fellow students.
- 3 Please always walk the one direction indicated by the hallway arrows.
- 4 Do not gather or socialize in the hallways: go directly to your class each period.
- 5 Do not touch your face.
- 6 Frequently wash your hands and use hand sanitizer.
- 7 Request to use the restroom and place your restroom marker outside.
- 8 Lockers will not be used.
- 9 No guests in the building: students and staff only.
- 10 Be safe for yourself and others.

The small in-school program at Mears will support students, while at the same time allow school personnel the opportunity to fine tune safety protocols and build community confidence as we prepare for a broader reopening of school at the beginning of 4th quarter on March 15.

Here is a link to the [ASD School Safety Plans](#), where you will find all the details for Mears' Covid safety protocols.

As always, I will continue to provide our school community with updates in this newsletter, which is published every Friday. Go Panthers!

Students Encouraged to Join National Junior Honor Society



Attention: Current National Junior Honor Society Members

8th graders who were inducted into National Junior Honor Society last year will have our next meeting February 24th at 2pm. We will begin working on our first service project, and we will have our officer elections.

All current members should have received an invite to our NJHS Canvas Page.

Email Mrs. Lambert if you have not received the invite:
Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org



Are you interested in joining National Junior Honor Society?

Here is the NJHS application link:

<https://forms.gle/wWGhnUtPbjBMC9AA>

Applications are due: February 15th

Contact Ms. Sison or Ms. Lambert if you have questions!

Sison_Mia@asdk12.org Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org

Requirements:

- 3.5 Average GPA (Q1 and Q2)
- Love for Community Service and Leadership



Panthers are Writers

Write It Like Amanda!

Amanda Gorman is the youngest poet/writer to read at a presidential inauguration. She's also our nation's first youth poet laureate. And she's only 22! You can watch her perform again at this year's Super Bowl.



In this month's contest, you will write a poem while experimenting with some of the same techniques Amanda Gorman used in her poem, "The Hill We Climb." Select a line from Ms. Gorman's poem to use as the title or first line of your poem.

Submit in Panther Pictures
Course inside Canvas.

Advance to slide 2 for more information.

Entry deadline: Friday, Feb
26th.

For all contest details go to: [Mears Creative Writing Contest Information](#)

January Flash Fiction Winners:

Winner: Ella Wheelles for her story, "A January Night."

Runner-up: Molly McBride for her story, "Tik Tok Gone Viral."

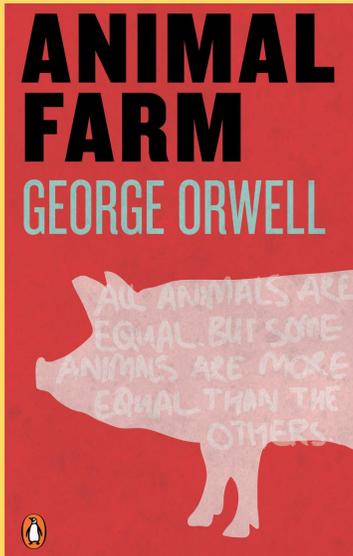
Links to January's winning entries:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uMD4jPhZ_3JA77417HWEv7AEYUDee5RP/view

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hfwwsoak9_IXTH9n90Lf7geYC-1RBDXN/view

Panthers are Readers

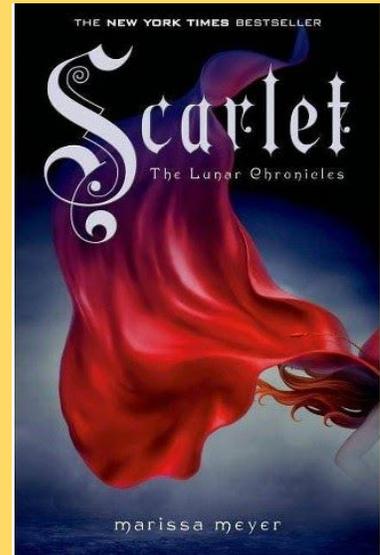
Mears Reads Book Club



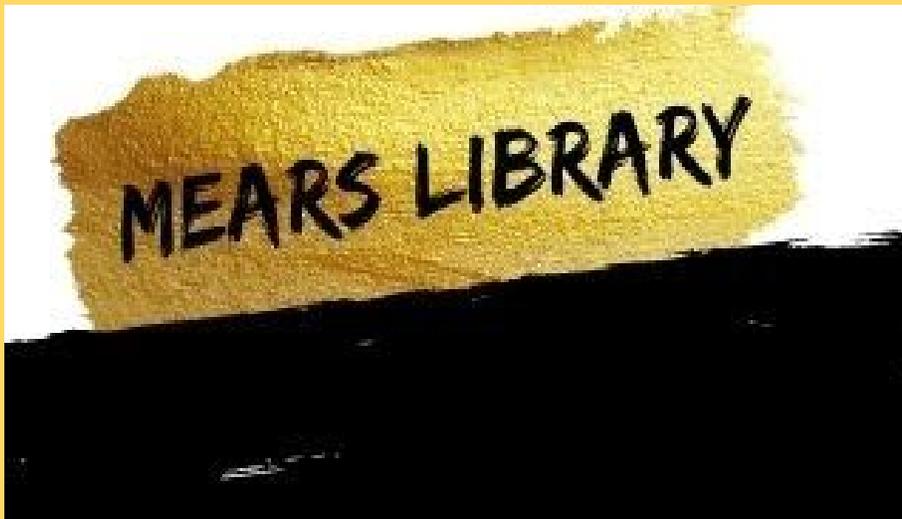
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

March will have TWO meetings and TWO books! We are reading *Animal Farm* by George Orwell for March 2nd and then we will continue the Lunar Chronicles series by reading *Scarlet* by Marissa Meyer for March 23rd. Both meetings will begin at 2:15PM.

If you would like to join us for one or both meetings contact Mrs. Fleming at 742-6432, fleming_heather@asdk12.org, or through a student's Inbox in Canvas.



Library at Mears in Canvas

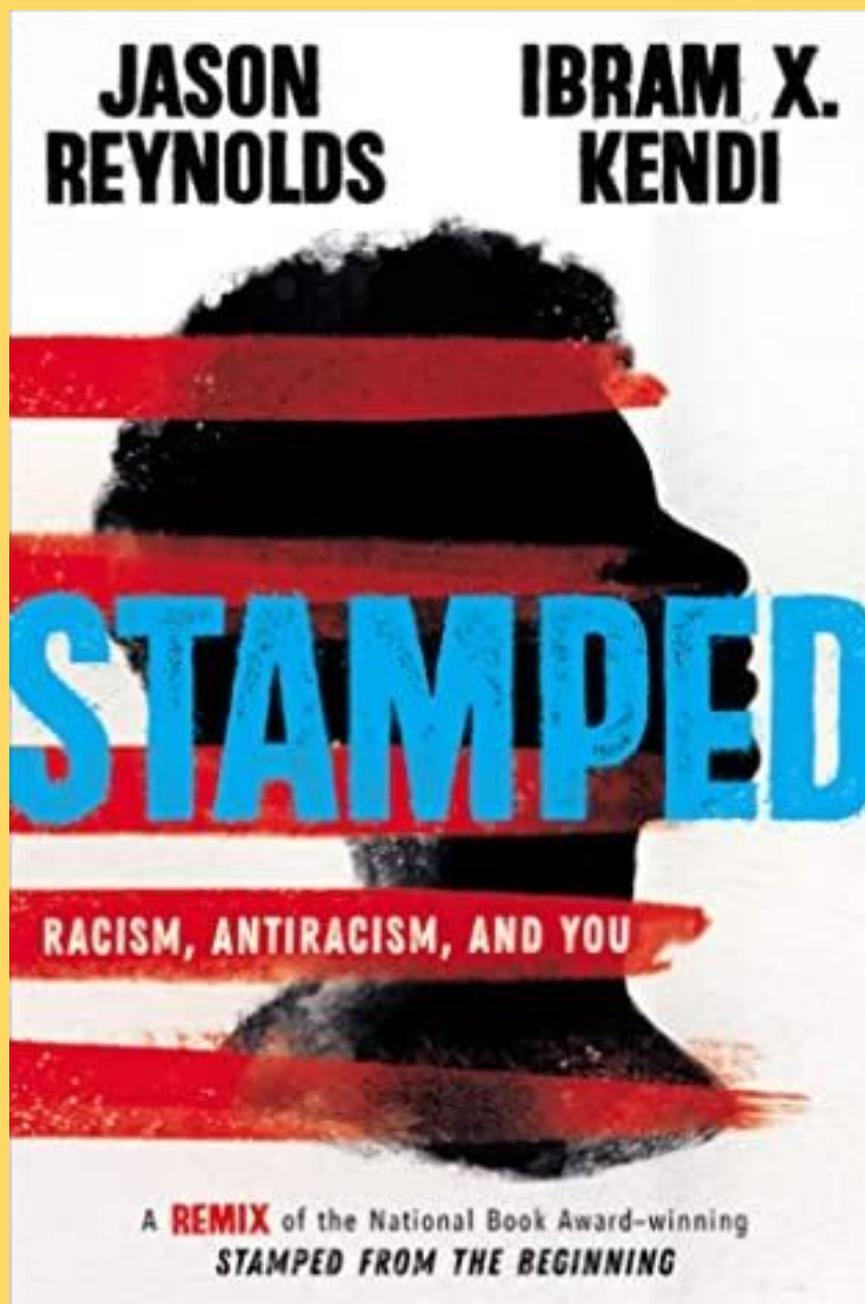


Students received an invitation to add the Library at Mears to their Canvas dashboards.

The Canvas shell for the library allows students to link directly to the catalog, get tutorials on SORA, access to databases (and their passwords), Noodletools, research skills, and more.

There are no assignments associated with the Library at Mears Canvas.

Anchorage Reads



The annual Anchorage Reads project kicked off on February 1st. The description from the [website](#) says, “Anchorage Reads is a community led program to promote reading, literacy and community-building by inspiring people of different ages and backgrounds to talk about the same book.”

The title chosen for 2021 is *Stamped from the Beginning: A definitive History of Racist Ideas in America* by Ibram X. Kendi, and the young adult version, *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds.

Copies of the young adult version are available at Mears.

Information on virtual activities and

discussions, and other resources, is available on the [Municipality of Anchorage Public Library website](#).

Recently Updated: ASD's Health and Safety Covid Matrix

ASD's planning and decision-making process for determining the District's risk level for conducting school takes multiple community factors into consideration. The District conducts this process in close conversation with the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

In recent months, organizations such as the Center for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization have expanded their guidance and resources regarding safely providing public education. This new information includes a range of metrics and other criteria that allows districts, in close coordination with state and local health officials, to revise and adapt school opening guidelines based on the unique context of their community.

Here is a link: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



Mears PTSA still has open leadership positions, including Vice President and Secretary. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to support this great organization and our wonderful school community.

PTSA Fundraising Opportunity



2020 was a rough year for all businesses; the Black Cat Cafe is no exception. The lack of income means we need to get creative with our fundraising. Let me introduce my nominee: "Ducks 4 Bucks"!

Event Description:

We are selling Ducks for \$4 on our school store at the following link:

<https://mearsptsa.memberhub.store/store/items/671092>

We will securely attach your order number(s) to our yellow rubber duckies. These ducks will be fired from a student built [trebuchet](#) at target 200 ft. away. If the duck can successfully hit the target, you will be awarded a hoodie from our school store!



a
will

We currently sold more ducks than anticipated and we **need** PTSA assistance for this event.

I'm currently in **need** of

- social media type person
- graphics person
- writer
- few camera operators that are not afraid of flying ducks

More information at the **next** PTSA meeting. *By the way, did you pay this year's dues?*



<https://twitter.com/MearsPtsa>

First person to retweet my “Ducks 4 Bucks” post gets a free [20 oz Metal Water Bottle](#).

The school store now has masks!

Order online and you can pick up at the school while supporting the PTSA!

<https://mearsptsa.memberhub.store/store/items/123659>



Thank you for the continued support of the Mears PTSA. Our school store sells PE approved clothing, beanies, baseball caps, hoodies, and more is online www.MearsPTSA.com.

Join Mears PTSA Membership and become part of an organization that is the leading Child advocacy group in the Nation. You not only become a member of Mears. But Alaska PTA and National PTA. Membership benefits include Office Depot/Office Max, Hertz, and more. Learn more at www.MearsPTSA.com

Ways you can help us raise funds doing your day to day shopping and holiday shopping.

Amazon Smile smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999
Shutterfly <http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com>



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](#)