



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, December 18, 2020

Happy Holidays From Our Family to Yours!



Mr. Dennis Sorenson's holiday card to Mears includes a photo of him playing hockey on Lake Eklutna last week.

Mears Teachers and Staff would like to wish all of our amazing students and their families a very happy holiday season and a joyous new year. We appreciate the opportunity to serve this wonderful community and to educate and support all the students who attend Mears Middle School. 2020 has brought so many challenges that have had an extremely disruptive impact on all of our lives, for some far more than others. All of us at Mears have been inspired every day by the support we have received from our parents and families. Most of all, we are so proud of all of our students, who have shown tremendous resilience, creativity, intelligence, teamwork, and great humor. Thank you all! --Eric

Go Panthers!

Students Reflect on the Year



Over the course of this week, a number of Mears teachers gave students the opportunity to reflect on the past year and to consider a range of experiences they have had. From the “best things that happened” to the “biggest surprises” and that which you “will be glad to leave behind,” students offered thoughtful and honest responses. Given all that our students have experienced this year, it is truly incredible how well so many of our students have done since the start of school.

So far this year, attendance rates have been quite strong, with over 82% of our students attending school 90% of the time. Strong attendance is the best indicator of academic success. Therefore, it makes sense that the vast majority of our students have passed all their classes. Moreover, over 60% of the student body are currently on the Honor Roll with GPAs of 3.0 or higher.

Our students have truly accomplished great things this school year. We are extremely proud of them and look forward to the second semester with real excitement.

Looking Ahead to Quarter 3

As we look ahead toward the beginning of 3rd quarter, here are a few important point to make note of:

- Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 -- School begins for all students

Quarter 3 Student Support Programs:

There are several programs starting in Quarter 3 to give students the opportunity to finish classes they did not receive a passing grades in during Quarters 1 and 2.

- If you are interested, please complete this survey:

[Student Support Programs for Q3](#)

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any assistance in preparing for the 3rd quarter, please let our counselors know by filling out a HELP Ticket:

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Mears counselors, along with the rest of Mears staff, will return to school on January 4, 2021.

Welcome to Mears Counseling!

Counselors: Caitlin Burr, Brent Haugen, & Crysta Svendsen



Mears Counseling is a place where students can contact their counselor, find resources, and have a safe place to connect.

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen,
907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr,
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen,
907-742-6426

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

- Monday/Jan. 4 --** **First Day of Classes/Begin Q3**
Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am
Planning and CT before and after school
- Tuesday/Jan. 5 --** Planning and CT before and after school
- Wednesday/Jan. 6 --** Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am
Canvas Open Hours Support Session, 9:00-10:00am
Departments, 12:45-1:45pm
- Thursday/Jan. 7 --** Planning and CT before and after school
- Friday/Jan. 8 --** Planning and CT before and after school

Mears Promotes Holiday Giving Drive



This year, Mears continues to support giving to those less fortunate; however, since COVID-19 prevents in-person collection, we encourage students and families to share with others and record that act of kindness on this form. Our emphasis for giving this year will be non-perishable food items, including canned foods and dry goods. Please select from the list of charities provided below or drop the food off at your favorite giving location.

Thanks for your generosity!

[Mears Holiday Giving Drive](#)

Does Your Family Need Some Extra Support?

CARES Act Voucher (Gift Card) Program Application

Introduction

The Voucher Program is made possible through CARES Act funding from the Municipality of Anchorage. This program will provide vouchers to individuals and/or families living within the municipality to help them with certain daily expenses such as groceries, diapers, medication, gasoline, etc. The vouchers will be made up of non-transferable gift cards from local participating stores that can be redeemed for those daily expenses. You will receive one voucher per address with the exception of those living in a residential program that requires sharing a physical address. Households including minor children are eligible for an increased benefit.

[CARES ACT Voucher Application](#)

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 Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

Congratulations to Mears' New President Curt Ehrhart and Sheila Hill as our new Treasurer.

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.

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 about the benefits at www.MearsPTSA.com

**JOIN
FOR
YOUR
CHILD**

**National
PTA**
everychild.one voice.®

Ways you can help Mears PTSA

Raise funds doing your day to day shopping and holiday shopping.

Help bring joy this season
Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates



Dear Mears Middle School PTSA (FT042),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to

01-Jul-2020 to 30-Sep-2020

**21
Households**

\$ 90.99

Total Donations

Make a difference this holiday and support Mears when you shop for the holidays.

Shop for gifts at
smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0138999
to generate donations for Mears PTSA.

<http://mearsptsa.shutterflystorefront.com>

Mears Celebrates Ms. Christa Brown



On the eve of her retirement, Mears teachers and staff would like to congratulate our esteemed colleague and friend, Ms. Christa Brown. She has had an incredible career and is a truly gifted and remarkable educator. Intelligent, creative, highly collaborative, extremely funny, and always an enthusiastic champion for students, Ms. Brown has been an inspiration to staff and students alike for over two decades at Mears.

Ms. Brown, we are extremely grateful for all that you have contributed to the Mears community and you will be dearly missed. We wish you all the best as you embark on this next exciting chapter of your life.

Once a Panther, Always a Panther!

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](#)