



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, December 4, 2020

Extra Effort Will Pay Off!



With just 8 school days left until the end of the second quarter, Mears teachers and staff are promoting a school-wide message for all students to **FINISH STRONG** in their second quarter classes. Students are encouraged to put forth their best effort over these next two weeks--study hard, complete all assignments, and make up any missing work. Students are encouraged to check their gradebooks and communicate with their teachers.

Passing all classes in middle school is an extremely important indicator of likely success in high school and beyond.

How to Support Your Student

Parents and Families, your student's grades are continually updated in Q, which is viewable in QParentConnection. If you do not know your pin or password, please call the front office at 907-742-6400 or call your counselor to get that important information.

Parent/Family Tools:

- Q Parent Connection for checking grades: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/1697>
- Canvas Parent Observer (see attachment) Link for detailed class info and student progress in Canvas: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5039>
- Mears Landing Pad (see attachment for Clever access) for Applications being used this year and helpful tech tips: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4940>
- Contact your counselor for tutoring or homework help.

Spirit Week is Here -- Dec. 7-11



Mears Student Advisory Board has been busy planning upcoming events, including next week's Spirit Week and the Holiday Giving Drive. See below for more details.

Monday, Dec. 7 -- Pajama Day

Tuesday, Dec. 8 -- Holiday Hats, Colors, and Traditions Day

Thursday, Dec. 10 -- Ugly Sweater Day

Friday, Dec. 11 -- Mears School Colors Day (Black and Gold)

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 kindness!

[Mears Holiday Giving Drive](#)

Hard Work Pays Off! Celebrating Honor Roll Students

Grade Level	3.0-3.99 GPA	4.0 GPA	Overall %
7th	141 students	90 students	63%
8th	179 students	40 students	64%

Mears Middle School is extremely proud of the high level of achievement that so many of our students are reaching. The chart above shows that a majority of students at Mears have made the Honor Roll for the first quarter. Out of 706 students at Mears (366 7th graders and 340 8th graders), 450, 64% of the total, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. It is also worth noting that the vast majority of students at Mears are passing all of their classes, with many students extremely close to achieving the 3.0 GPA mark.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Dec. 7 --
Pajama Day

Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am
Planning and CT before and after school

Tuesday/Dec. 8 --
Holiday Colors and Traditions Day

Planning and CT before and after school

Wednesday/Dec. 9 --

CT Meetings, 8:00-9:00am
Teacher-led Tech Tips (Optional), 9:00-9:30am
CT Leadership, 10:30-12:00pm
Covid-19 Subcommittees, 12:30-1:30pm
Departments (Optional), 12:45-1:45pm
Student Advisory Board, 1:00-2:00pm

Thursday/Dec. 10 --
Ugly Sweater Day

Planning and CT before and after school

Friday/Dec. 11 --
Mears School Colors Day

Planning and CT before and after school

Get Involved & Stay Connected:

Why Not Wednesdays #5: What's Your Favorite Hobby?

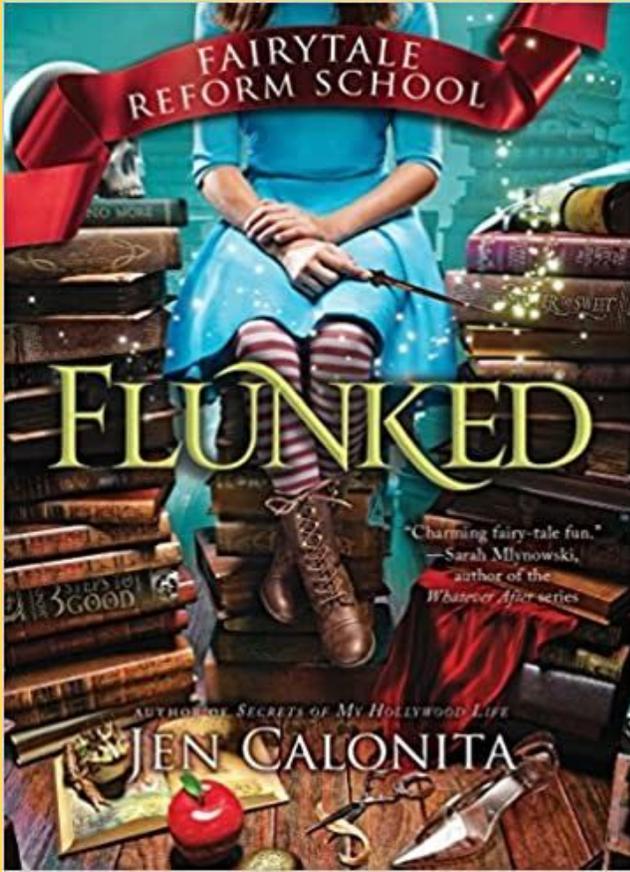


What's your favorite hobby that doesn't involve a screen?

For this week's "Why Not Wednesday" we wanted to focus on Healthy Hobbies that you can do to get you away from the screen for a while. Do you play music or do some other form of art? Maybe have pets that you take care of? Do you play a sport or are a part of some type of club? Show and share with us what you do to stay healthy while not being on the screen! We recommend you make this a part of your daily routine and if you don't have something you do already, you can see what others do and do something similar!

Be sure to take a photo and share it with us on Canvas Pictures!

Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month, on Zoom, and we keep in contact through Canvas. Contact Mrs. Fleming for the Canvas join link. fleming_heather@asdk12.org or call 742-6432.

Each month, we have daring discussions and artful activities around the book, followed by the nomination of books and a vote on what title we will read for the next month. We are currently reading *Flunked*, by Lauren James. It is book one in the Fairytale Reform School series. **Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15th at 2:15 PM.** Come with a title to nominate for January.

Library Curbside Pickup



Students can check out materials from the library and pick them up curbside!

Books can be put on hold through the online catalog and you can borrow puzzles by filling out a quick form.

Directions and more information can be found on the library website:

<https://mearslibrary.weebly.com>

December Writing Contest



Story Guidelines

1. Make your story fit the theme, "Going all out, Going the extra mile, or even Going too far."
2. Tell your story in no more than 4 minutes.
3. The story must be true.
4. The story must be your story, an experience you had, and not a story that happened to a friend or that you heard or read about.
5. While you should write out a draft of your story first, the story entry will be spoken words, recorded using the Canvas studio tool. (See the video tutorial on Canvas studio inside the Canvas module.)



Planning to Tell your Story



- Start with action!
- Organize your story around a beginning, a middle, and an end.
- Write it out. Have another person read it and give you feedback.
- Read your story multiple times, play it in your mind, practice it in front of your dog. Become so familiar with your story that you don't even need notes.
- Perform a timed rehearsal. Remember, no more than 4 minutes.
- Remember to tell your story and not simply read it. Consider volume, pauses, voice, body posture, hand gestures, facial expressions.
- When you are ready to record, watch the instructional video in this module on how to record using Studio and how to submit your completed video.

All of us have stories to tell. All are welcome and encouraged to join in! Feel free to direct any questions to Mr. Pease at pease_thomas@asdk12.org

Visit the link:

[Mears Writing Contest/December, 2020](#)

Congratulations to Ella Wheelles, Mears November Winner, for her story, "Hockey with Heart." Here's an excerpt:

Hockey with Heart

A mix between a short story and a memoir by Ella Wheelles

Watching hockey makes me happy. The rush of energy and adrenaline bounces off the team and into all the fans. The puck glides around the ice and makes me eager, but somehow calm. Seeing everybody I know makes it feel like home. Menard especially, the memories of state years in the past come flowing back. The excitement, the feeling, the happiness. That kind of happiness I haven't felt in a long time, not anywhere near it since hockey season is over.

When Dimond's season is over, I don't have anything to do. this year especially. Since watching Dimond hockey was my only way to step into my own world where I could forget everything around me, now I'm stuck in reality. Hockey was the only time where I could just forget the rest of the world and focus on the Fire on Ice.

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](#)

Mears Counseling Corner

Need Support?

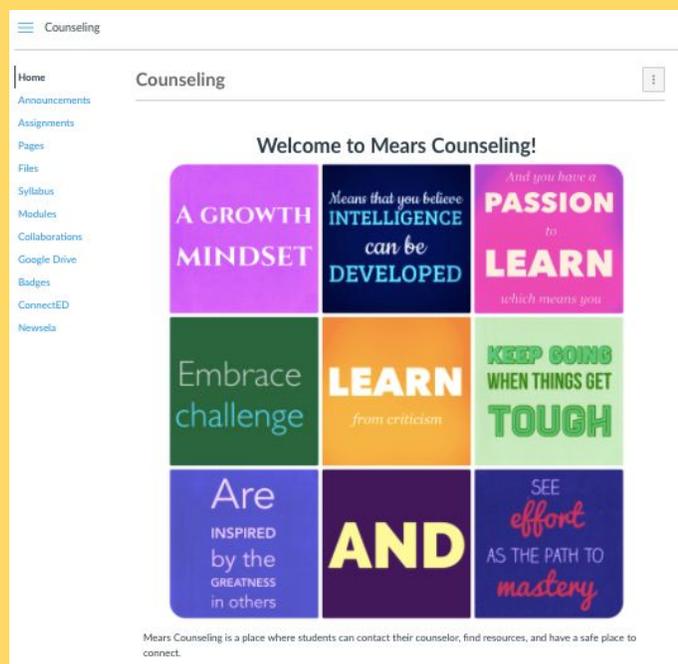
Want to be more Connected?

Interested in student chat groups?

Check out the calming rooms?

Build Lifelong Skills and Habits?

Come to Mears Counseling Corner!



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

We are hoping to start chat groups soon on Wednesdays via Zoom from 12:30-1:30pm. Survey on topics is coming soon.

Plus lots of other cool stuff!!!

Link to the New Canvas Counseling Shell:

<https://asdk12.instructure.com/courses/160428>

Your Counselors

Brent Haugen, 907-742-6428

Caitlin Burr, 907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 907-742-6426

Mears Outreach Counseling Page HELP Ticket <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

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 to ASD's Covid Community Health Matrix: [ASD's Covid Matrix](#)



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.

JOIN FOR YOUR CHILD

National
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.[®]

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 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

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination."

JIMMY DEAN

