



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 30, 2020

Schoolwide Halloween Photo Contest



Can anyone guess who the Grinch in the photograph is?

To celebrate this Halloween weekend, all students are invited to participate in Mears' Schoolwide Photo Contest.

Categories include:

Best Costume Photo

Best Carved Pumpkin Photo

Photos can be submitted through Canvas or emailed to Mrs. Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org. To submit through Canvas, enroll in the Panther Pictures Canvas course here:

[Panther Pictures Canvas](#)

After the judging, all submitted photos will be available to view in Panther Pictures. There are instructions for using the camera on a Chromebook and how to submit, in the Modules.

Deadline for submissions is Monday, November 2, at 3:00pm.

Veteran's Day Assembly, 2020



DHS Color Guard, Veteran's Day Assembly, Mears Middle School, 2019

Mears Parents and Guardians,

Wednesday, November 11, 2020 is Veterans Day. Mears Middle School will observe Veterans Day on Tuesday, November 10th where we have a virtual assembly honoring all our veterans. Additionally, part of the virtual assembly will include a slideshow. **If you would like a photo of a veteran in your family included in the slideshow, please email the photo and the required information to middleton_nick@asdk12.org (Email Subject: Veterans Day).** Forms need to be submitted by Monday, 11/2, and cannot be accepted after that date.

Sincerely,

Mears Staff

Please send us your family's Veterans Day Photo

Please email the following information and a photo to Mr. Middleton by Monday, 11/2/20: Student name and relation to veteran, student grade level, and Veteran's title and name.

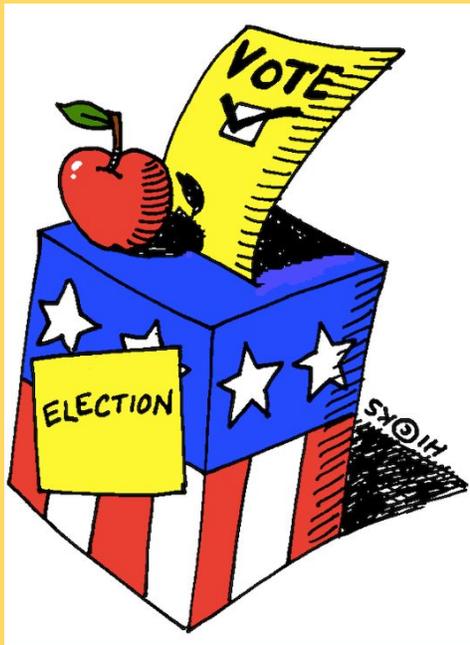
Example

Student name and relation: Jon Smith's Grandpa

Grade: 8

Veteran's title and name: Col. Archie Sykes

Youth Vote



Students will learn about the election process on Friday, October 30 and then will have the opportunity to participate in a mock election on Monday, November 2. The students will vote on the presidential candidates, Alaskan candidates for the U.S. Senate, Alaskan candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives, 2 ballot measures, and a student poll question.

Ballot Measure 1: Should Alaska hold an Open Primary rather than a Political Primary?

Ballot Measure 2: Should Alaska establish “ranked-choice voting” for the general election?

Student Poll Question: Do you feel like your voice has been meaningfully included in decision making during the pandemic?

We encourage students to discuss candidates and ballot measures with their families over the weekend!

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Nov. 2 --	No Staff Meeting, 8:00-8:30am
Tuesday/Nov. 3 --	Election Day/State Release Teacher Work Day
Wednesday/Nov. 4 --	Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am Mears Leadership Team Meeting, 9:15-10:15am Departments, 12:45-1:45pm Student Advisory Board, 1:00-2:00pm
Thursday/Oct. 29 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Friday/Oct. 30 --	Planning and CT before and after school
Nov. 10 --	Veteran’s Day Assembly held during 2nd Block, 10:25am
Nov. 11 --	State Release Professional Development Day

Parents and Families

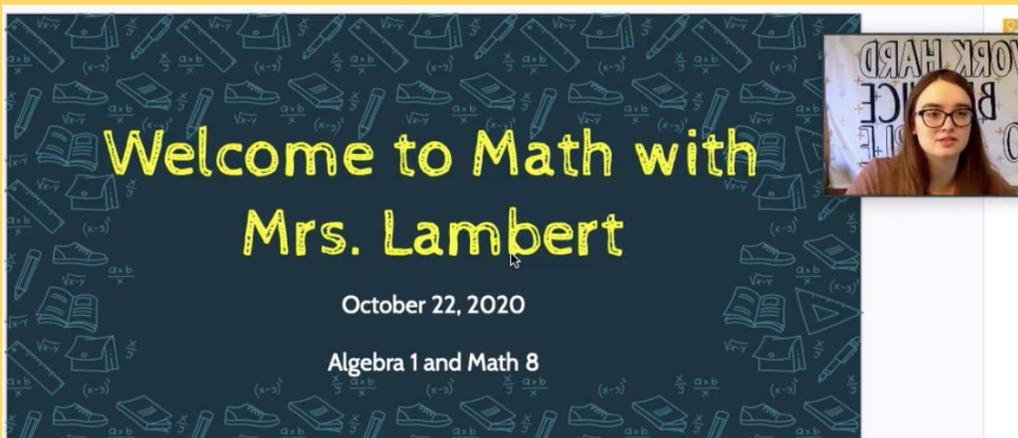
Tues., Nov. 3 -- No classes/Election Day/State Release Professional Development Day

Tues., Nov. 10 -- Veteran's Day Assembly held during 2nd Block, 10:25am

Wed. Nov. 11 -- No classes/State Release Professional Development Day

Get Involved & Stay Connected:

Be Sure to Watch Your Teacher's Quarter 2 Welcome Video



Mears Families,
If you were unable to attend last week's Welcome to Quarter 2 Teacher Presentations, be sure to take some time to watch the videos.

Ms. Marah Lambert, Mathematics, welcomes new students and their families.

[Mears Quarter 2 Teacher Welcome Videos](#)

Access to Your Student's Canvas Account



ASD Families can access their student's Canvas account by referring the directions provided here:

[Canvas Parent Observer Guide](#)

Bookmark Contest Is Underway

Go Virtual@your library™

2020 – 2021 Bookmark Design Contest

sponsored by the ASD Librarians

This contest is open to all ASD students in grades K-12. There are four levels: Primary (K-3), Intermediate (4-6), Middle School, and High School.

Entries must:

- fit the theme and include the phrase **Go Virtual@your library™**
- be the original work of the student, whether hand drawn, digital art, or computer generated
- be the correct size: 7" x 2 ¾" either horizontal or vertical
- be submitted with the student's full name and grade

No copyrighted characters may be included on the bookmark.

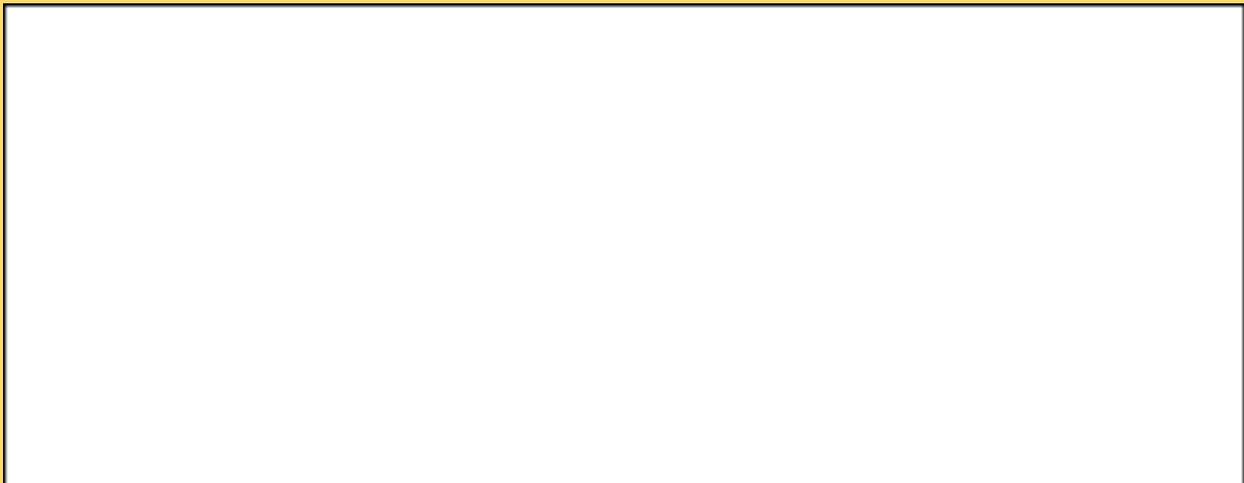
Use your imagination and any ideas relating to reading, literacy and the love of the library!

Submit your entry to your school librarian through Google Drive, email, USPS, or drop it off at the school during curbside pickup hours. Entries are due November 30, 2020. The winning school entries will go to district judging. **Entries become the property of the Anchorage School District and may be used in other advertisements.**

The winning designs will be reproduced and distributed to ASD schools!

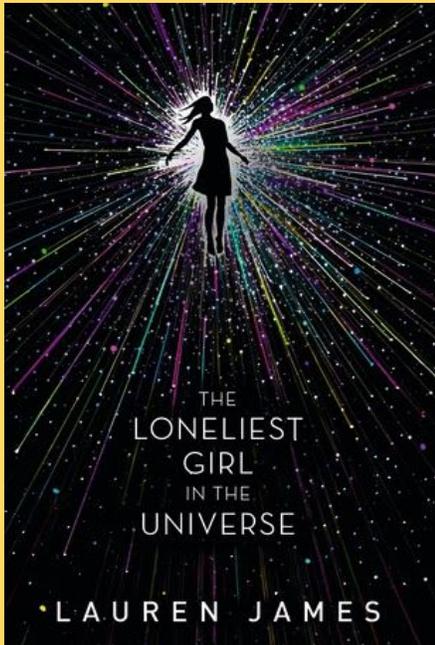
There may be more information available on your school's library website.

Sample size of bookmark is below (7" x 2 ¾") which may be used vertically or horizontally.



Panthers are READERS!

Mears READS Book Club



The book club meets once a month and we keep in contact through Canvas.

Each month, we have lively discussions around the book and then students nominate, and vote for the novel to read for the next month. We are currently reading *The Loneliest Girl in the Universe*, by Lauren James. Our next meeting will be on November 11th at 12PM. Come with a title to nominate for December.

Mears Battle of the Books has Begun



Battle meetings will be on Wednesdays, at 1PM through Zoom. Access Zoom links, discussions, activities, participate in the leaderboard, earn badges and more by joining the Mears Middle School Battle of the Books Canvas course.

There won't be assignments or lessons, I promise. Use the link below to join:

<https://asdk12.instructure.com/enroll/NXKT7C>

Contact Mrs. Heather Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

Panthers are Mathematicians!

MATHCOUNTS Competition Series

Calling all students who want to be challenged in mathematics in a fun and competitive environment! All students are welcome to join Mears' MATHCOUNTS club! We will meet weekly on Tuesday's (beginning October 20th) from 3pm-3:45pm (on Zoom for now). The goal is to grow together with our math skills while building confidence—and compete!

Are you in? Questions? Contact this year's sponsor:
Mrs. Marah Lambert (Mears Math Teacher):
Lambert_Marah@asdk12.org

MATHCOUNTS®

SPRINT TARGET
TEAM VS COUNTDOWN

MATHCOUNTS provides engaging math programs to US middle school students of all ability levels to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving.

our mission

Panthers are Writers!

Mears Creative Writing Contest

Write a personal narrative in which you describe a challenging situation you experienced recently. Include your reactions and responses to the situation as you write about it. Finally, at the end of the personal narrative, make it clear to the reader what discovery or lesson you learned from this experience. Remember, even unfortunate situations can yield positive

Your personal narrative should be no more than 1,000 words. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, October 30th**.

Welcome to the launch of the 2020-21 Mears creative writing contest. At the start of each month between now and May, Mears students will be presented with a new writing prompt. Students will have all month to brainstorm, craft and polish their writing before submitting it to the contest. Take advantage of this opportunity to explore your creative side by checking out the October writing

prompt below. More information, examples, writing tips and submission instructions can be found by clicking in the links and slides on the Mears landing pad.

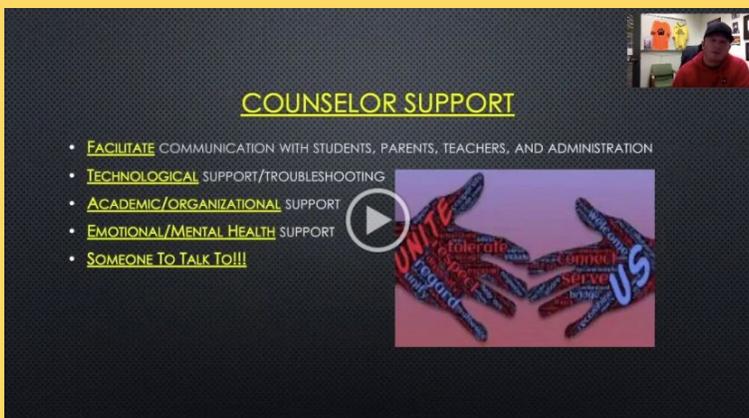
Be sure to visit the [Mears Creative Writing Contest Landing Page](#)

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

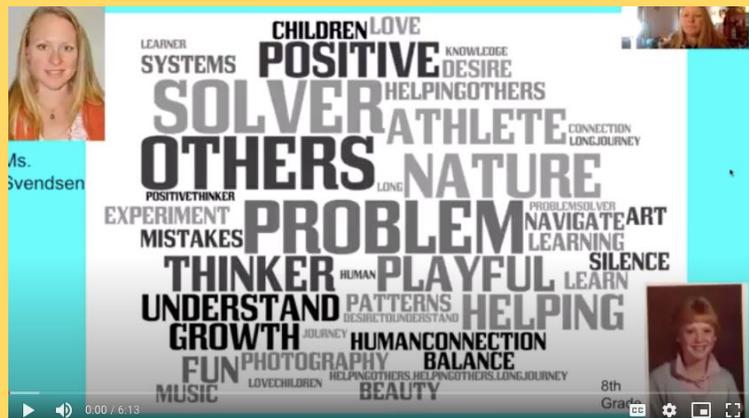
Check out Mears Counselors' Videos



Ms. Caitlin Burr
[Counseling Department Overview](#)



Mr. Brent Haugen
[Student Supports](#)



Ms. Crysta Svendsen
[Best Practices Habits for Success](#)

Questions about school work or your class schedule?
Need help with organization or test preparation?
Are you feeling like you need some additional support during distance learning?

Mears students, parents, and guardians should fill out the [Counselor Help Ticket Link](#) anytime you need assistance.

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

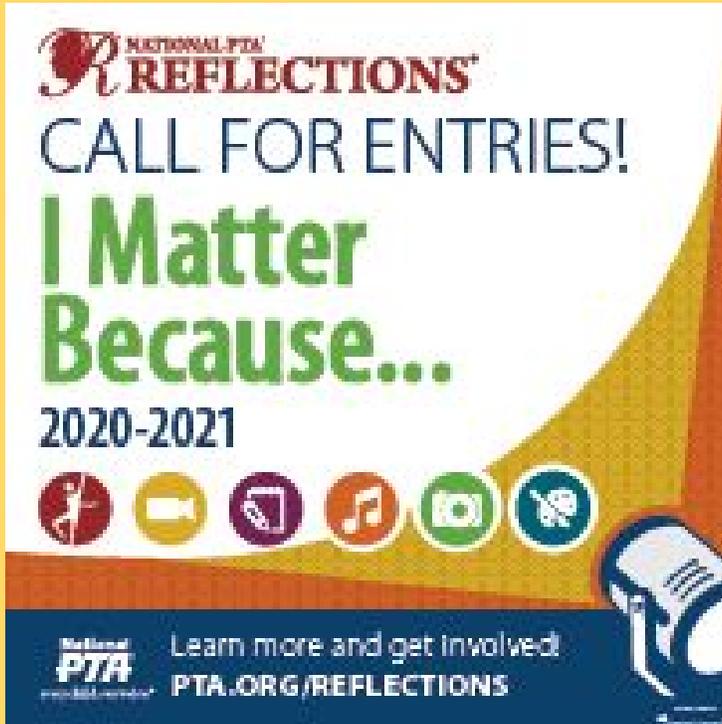


Come join the Mears PTSA Board. Don't worry you won't be thrown into the position without knowing what to do.

This is a great experience. Even with COVID there is still plenty a PTSA can do to support our students, families and teachers. Elections will be taking place in November.

[Nomination Form](#)

CALL FOR ENTRIES



What is Reflections? Watch this youtube video on what it is.

<https://youtu.be/IX-rzWHnY5Q>

Do you enjoy art, music, and dance or have an interest in writing, producing films, and taking photos? Then join us and have fun unleashing your inner artist with PTA Reflections! This year's theme, "I Matter Because..." calls for your own unique interpretation through the arts.

Pick up submission guidelines and an entry form today from www.MearsPTSA.com and return by **December 1, 2020**. **Submit digital copies of all entries to MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com. Save original work for us to collect at a later time**

Divisions: Film Production, Visual Arts, Dance Choreographer, Music Composition, Special Artist, Photography, Group Dance, Cultural Heritage, and STEAM.

Student Entry Forms are found at www.MearsPTSA.com

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at PTA.org/Reflections/Awards.

Were on Facebook

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word 'facebook' in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

School Store is open online and Wednesdays 10-2. Park by the front doors and call the number listed on the easel. Let us know what item/s you are interested in and the sizes. We will bring the items to you or Orders clothes online or stop by the office to pick them up. www.MearsPTSA.com

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



Be sure to take photos of your costumes and pumpkins this weekend!

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](#)