



Mears Middle School

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, October 16, 2020

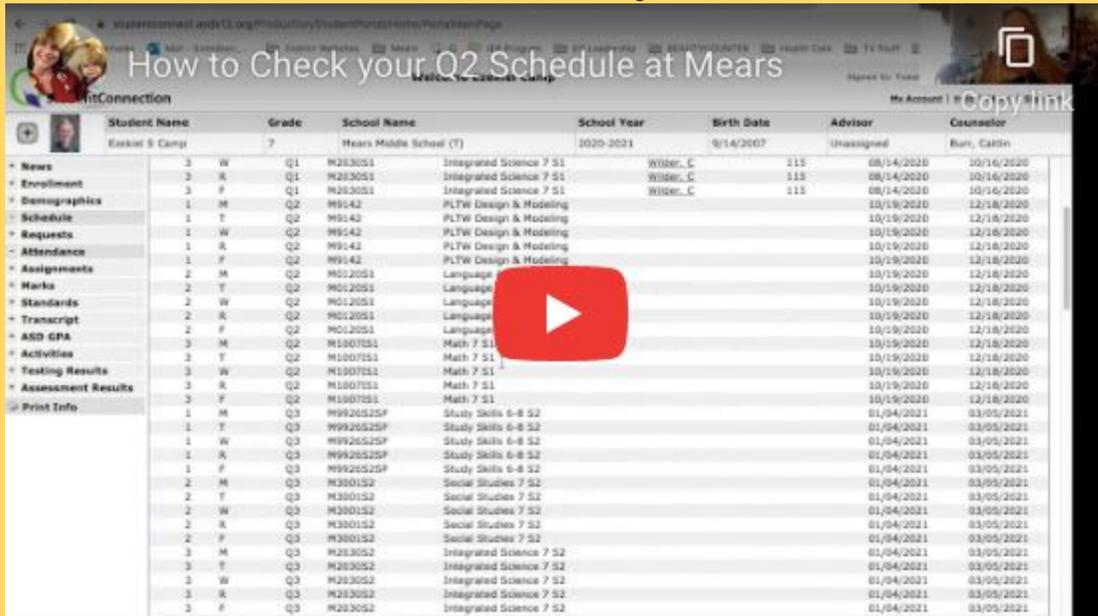
## *Mochi Making in Japanese Immersion*



Ms. Hiromi Chambers Sensei celebrated the end of the first quarter with her Japanese Immersion students by teaching them how to make Mochi, the delicious traditional rice cake dessert. Offering instruction via zoom, Ms. Chambers walked students through each of the steps while speaking only in Japanese. The Immersion students worked in their family kitchens--mixing, stirring, baking, and clearly enjoying the hands-on lesson. Ms. Chambers played fun Japanese music while students watched Youtube videos of the traditional Japanese mochi-making ceremony called mochitsuki.

# GET READY: Quarter 2 Begins Monday, Oct. 19

How to Check your Q2 Schedule at Mears



Student Name	Grade	School Name	School Year	Birth Date	Advisor	Counselor
Ezekiel S. Camp	7	Mears Middle School (7)	2020-2021	9/14/2007	Unassigned	Burr, Caitlin

Course	Section	Grade	Section	Section	Section	Section	Section	Section
Integrated Science 7.51	W	Q1	M283051	Integrated Science 7.51	Wisser, C	115	08/14/2020	10/16/2020
Integrated Science 7.51	F	Q1	M283051	Integrated Science 7.51	Wisser, C	115	08/14/2020	10/16/2020
PLTW Design & Modeling	M	Q2	M9142	PLTW Design & Modeling			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
PLTW Design & Modeling	T	Q2	M9142	PLTW Design & Modeling			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
PLTW Design & Modeling	W	Q2	M9142	PLTW Design & Modeling			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
PLTW Design & Modeling	A	Q2	M9142	PLTW Design & Modeling			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
PLTW Design & Modeling	F	Q2	M9142	PLTW Design & Modeling			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Language	M	Q2	M012051	Language			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Language	T	Q2	M012051	Language			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Language	W	Q2	M012051	Language			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Language	R	Q2	M012051	Language			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Language	F	Q2	M012051	Language			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Math 7.51	M	Q2	M100751	Math 7.51			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Math 7.51	T	Q2	M100751	Math 7.51			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Math 7.51	W	Q2	M100751	Math 7.51			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Math 7.51	A	Q2	M100751	Math 7.51			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Math 7.51	F	Q2	M100751	Math 7.51			10/19/2020	12/18/2020
Study Skills 6-8.52	M	Q3	M9926525P	Study Skills 6-8.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Study Skills 6-8.52	T	Q3	M9926525P	Study Skills 6-8.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Study Skills 6-8.52	W	Q3	M9926525P	Study Skills 6-8.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Study Skills 6-8.52	A	Q3	M9926525P	Study Skills 6-8.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Study Skills 6-8.52	F	Q3	M9926525P	Study Skills 6-8.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Social Studies 7.52	M	Q3	M300152	Social Studies 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Social Studies 7.52	T	Q3	M300152	Social Studies 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Social Studies 7.52	W	Q3	M300152	Social Studies 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Social Studies 7.52	R	Q3	M300152	Social Studies 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Social Studies 7.52	F	Q3	M300152	Social Studies 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Integrated Science 7.52	M	Q3	M283052	Integrated Science 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Integrated Science 7.52	T	Q3	M283052	Integrated Science 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Integrated Science 7.52	W	Q3	M283052	Integrated Science 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Integrated Science 7.52	A	Q3	M283052	Integrated Science 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021
Integrated Science 7.52	F	Q3	M283052	Integrated Science 7.52			01/04/2021	03/05/2021

The second quarter begins on Monday, Oct. 19th and students' new schedules are available for viewing on Q. Be sure to watch the How To Check Your Schedule Video:

<https://youtu.be/Lud1eTRmynQ>

Special thanks to Mears counselors, who made this helpful and informative video.

## 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](#)

# *Stay Informed and Get Involved*

## Teachers and Staff

Monday/Oct. 19 -- Staff Meeting Check-in, 8:00-8:30am

Tuesday/Oct. 20 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Wednesday/Oct. 21 -- Staff Meeting, 8:00-9:00am

Wednesday/Oct. 21 -- Departments 12:45-1:45pm

**Thursday/Oct. 22 -- Back to School for Quarter 2: Teacher Welcome Presentations**

### **Schedule for Welcome to Quarter 2 Teacher Presentations Thursday, Oct.**

**22**

- Period 1- 8:45-9:30
- Period 2- 9:40-10:25
- Period 3- 10:35-11:20
- Lunch Break- 11:30-12:00
- 1st Block Presentation - 12:00-12:30
- 2nd Block Presentation - 12:40-1:10
- 3rd Block Presentation - 1:20-1:50
- Teacher Team Meeting Debrief- 2:00-2:45
- Dismissal-2:45

Friday/Oct. 23 -- CT Meetings 8:00-9:00pm, Tech Time Collaboration, 9:30-10:30, 10:30 - Teacher & Staff Planning and Prep Time

## Parents and Families

Friday/Oct. 16 -- No School/End of First Quarter, State Release Grading Day

Monday/Oct. 19 -- Second Quarter Begins

Thursday/Oct. 22 -- Welcome to Quarter 2 Teacher Presentations, see schedule above

Parents and Families are encouraged to attend Welcome to Quarter 2 Teacher Presentations. Families can access each teacher presentation by using the zoom links located in your student's Canvas Landing Page.

- 1st Block Presentation - 12:00-12:30
- 2nd Block Presentation - 12:40-1:10
- 3rd Block Presentation - 1:20-1:50

Friday/Oct. 23 -- No school, Teacher Work Day

# We Want Your Feedback: Mears Athletics and Activities Survey



Although at present, we do not have a date for a return to the building, we hope to offer students sports and activities options when we do return. To that end, Mears seeks your input as to what types of sports and activities families and students would like to see offered when students are able to return to the building.



Relevantly, all public-health protocols and ASD COVID-19 mitigation strategies will be employed. Additionally, all sports offered will be intramural, occurring only at Mears with other Mears students. Finally, student and staff health will, as always, be the highest priority.

Please take a few moments with your student to share your preferences .  
We appreciate your thoughtful insight and feedback!

Survey Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhqJvFyFkIdK3l9HAZFJO\\_aV26z-n63PBzCWijYK0t8R0iXw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhqJvFyFkIdK3l9HAZFJO_aV26z-n63PBzCWijYK0t8R0iXw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

# Bookmark Contest Begins

## **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.

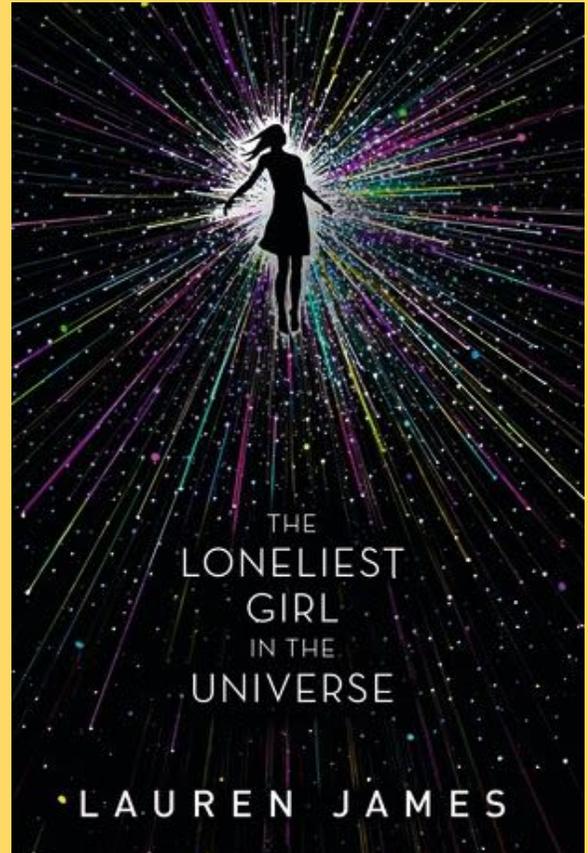
Sample size of bookmark is below (7" x 2 ¾") which may be used vertically or horizontally.



## Mears READS Book Club

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

Each month, students nominate, and vote for a 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 October 14th at 12PM. Come with a title to nominate for November.



## 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](mailto:fleming_heather@asdk12.org) if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>) from 3pm-3:45pm (on Zoom for now). The goal is to grow together with our math skills while building confidence—and compete!



SPRINT



TARGET



TEAM



COUNTDOWN

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

MATHCOUNTS®



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

## Get Your Write On

### 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](mailto:pease_thomas@asdk12.org)

## Important Updates: 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](#)

## Free and Reduced Price Meal Program Expanded



**Renew applications for free  
and reduced meals!**

Student nutrition is essential to learning and growth. Be sure to submit your application for ASD's Free and Reduced Priced Meal Program today. The process is very simple and incredibly important to the health of our students.

Application:  
<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/13246>

# Mears Counselors Are Here to Help



[Mears Counseling](#)

[Counselor Help  
Ticket Link](#)



PTSA Leadership Wanted.

We are still on the hunt for 2020/2021 Board members.

President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

[Nomination Form](#)



This survey plays an important role in improving Mears Middle School.

**The National PTA School of Excellence** recognition program opens the lines of communication and critical thinking within school communities to make data-driven decisions that yield positive, long-term results. Help Mears become a School of Excellence 4 Years in a row. Completion of this survey helps us know where we as a School and PTSA can improve.

<https://forms.gle/YNXRtuRvaruBA6tP7>

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## 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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com) and return by **December 1, 2020**. **Submit digital copies of all entries to [MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

For inspiration, visit the Reflections virtual art gallery and learn more about prizes and scholarships at [PTA.org/Reflections/Awards](http://PTA.org/Reflections/Awards).

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

Were on Facebook

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**School Store is open online and Wednesdays 10-2. Call the office if you're unsure if we're set up. Orders clothes online or stop by [www.MearsPTSA.com](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)**

**INVENTORY WILL BE RESTOCKED NEXT WEEK!!**

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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

Orders purchased by Wednesday will be ready for pick up on Friday.

The National PTA logo, featuring the words "JOIN FOR YOUR CHILD" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark orange background.

National  
**PTA**  
everychild.onevoice®

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](http://www.MearsPTSA.com)

# Mears Orchestra Performs



Special thanks to Mr. Matt O'Conner and all the students in Orchestra, who provided the staff with a wonderful (virtual) performance earlier this week.

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## 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](#)