



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 11, 2020

Mears Students Commemorate 9-11

Not the Same As Yesterday



Los angeles, California. At 7:15 American Airlines Flight 11 took off and 16 minutes later at 8:15,

On the morning of September 11, 2001 for the people of New York city, the world stopped. It all began as a normal Tuesday morning, the sun was shining, there was not a cloud in the sky, what nobody knew was that in Portland, Maine at 5:45 in the morning there were two hijackers that had gotten through security and were heading onto the flights 11 and 175 heading to

A Day That Scarred America



quickly?

A beautiful Manhattan day turns into a living nightmare... "I remember walking down the street toward the building and thinking wow it is just so nice out today," claims Dianne DeFontes. Dianne wasn't the only one with a pep in her step on that fine September day. But how does a lovely day go rogue so

The Unexpected Brings Scars and Tears



September 11th, 2001 was a very tragic and traumatizing Tuesday morning that had made the world quiver. Tuesday morning was a cloudless, bright day in Manhattan, New York, little did anyone know, around 5:45am hijackers had passed through the security screening in Portland, Maine. The cause of this was around 7:59am, and 8:15am American Airlines plane 175 and 11 took off heading to Los Angeles, California, although flight 175, and 11 was hijacked and started heading towards Manhattan, New York which is an unusual flight pattern. The hijackers had a plan and sat all relatively close to the front of the plane so they could attack. Furthermore, Sean Murtagh, a witness of the

During this last week at Mears, students in Mr. Middleton's 8th grade social studies classes have been studying and analyzing primary sources to recreate the history of September 11. Students have watched actual video footage and listened to oral histories of survivors and first responders, while exploring the timeline of events. The reports written by Mears students have been truly outstanding. Above are three samples of standout work produced by Kayla Foss, Ella Durham, and Kaelyn Nickell. Thank you to Mears social studies teachers for your work to bring history to life. --Eric

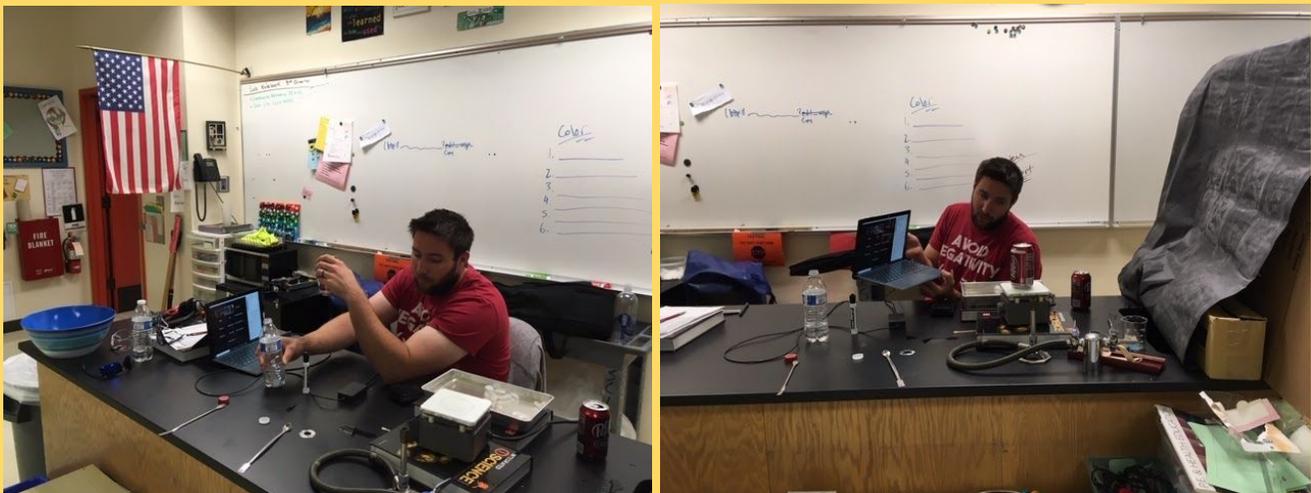
Resource for September 11 Education



For families interested in learning more about 9/11, a number of Mears teachers have used BrainPOP as a reliable, age-appropriate, and engaging resource. Here's the link:

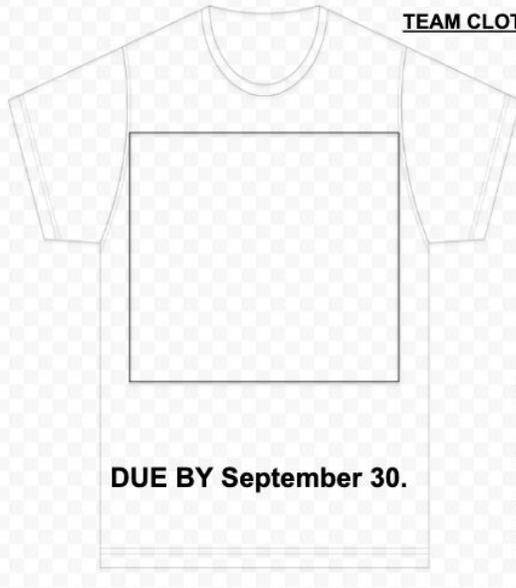
<https://www.brainpop.com/socialstudies/ushistory/september11th/>

Mears Teachers Deliver Great Instruction



Mears teachers go above and beyond expectations to deliver content and instruction that is interesting and engaging. Here is Mr. James McDonald demonstrating a lab on zoom with his students. Using an aluminum can and a hot plate, he showed students the transfer of heat alters water particles. Students were able to see and hear the water turn from liquid to gas while on line with their teacher. The lesson concluded with students writing and submitting an "Exit Ticket" that gave them the opportunity to show their understanding of key concepts.

Student Team Clothing Design Contest



TEAM CLOTHING DESIGN CONTEST

Design requirements:

- 1 Color (no exceptions)
- Think of your team color/s and name
- Image will only be on front (inside the square) of shirt and hoodies
- DO NOT include year
- Can be hand drawn or digitally drawn in the color of your team (ex. Red Mountains for Eklutna)
- Include your name with drawing

Once a design is picked.
Pre-Orders will then take place.

Shirts will be \$15
Hoodies will be \$30

******Each winning design/ team will receive a Free Team T Shirt.**

Email your Team Teacher the design of your shirt OR
MearsMS.PTSA@gmail.com
www.MearsPTSA.com

DUE BY September 30.

Students are strongly encouraged to enter the design contest for Mears Teams clothing and swag! Artwork is due by the end of September and should be submitted to Mears PTSA. Designs will be used for each team's t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other items.

Stay Informed and Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Monday/Sept. 14 -- Staff Meeting 8:00-8:35am

Tuesday/Sept. 15 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Wednesday/Sept. 16 -- CT 8:00-9:00am, CKHs CT Leaders 9:00-10:00am, Leadership Team 11:00am -12:00pm

Thursday/Sept. 17 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Friday/Sept. 18 -- Planning and CT before and after school

Parents and Families

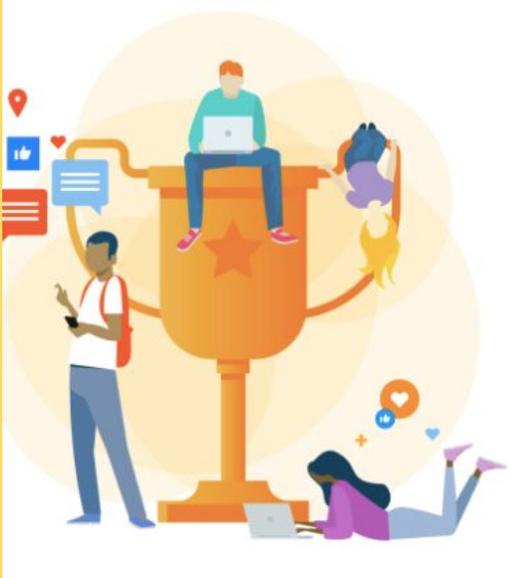
Thursday/Sept. 17 -- PTSA Community Meeting, 7:00pm All parents and families welcome

Thursday/Sept. 24 -- Family Night Open House, 6:30pm All students, parents, and families welcome

Monday-Friday/Sept. 21-25 -- Textbook return for current 8th and 9th graders, 8:00am-3:00pm on east side of the Mears school building.

Important Updates:

ASD Adopts Online Safety Measure



Ensuring student health and safety is the highest priority at Mears and throughout ASD. For this reason, ASD has taken the step to proactively monitor student online content through the use of Gaggle, a cyber-security service that scans all documents in the Google educational suite that all ASD students use.

In a typical year, all content that is turned in by students is reviewed by teachers in a classroom setting. However, in the new virtual classroom environment, different tools need to be employed to help ensure student safety.

Beginning this school year, all documents that appear in a student's G-Suite will be reviewed for images and/or language that is inappropriate or in some way communicates a potential risk to student health and safety. If such content is detected, school administrators are contacted for further investigation.

Teachers at Mears will be reviewing the purpose and function of Gaggle with students in the context of broader lessons about digital citizenship and safety. For more information, please review the link below and/or feel free to contact Mears school administration at 907-742-6400. <https://www.gaggle.net/>

Students and families are also encouraged to visit Common Sense Media for additional resources about digital citizenship, including this short video about Leaving Digital Footprints.

<https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship/lesson/the-power-of-digital-footprints>



iReady Results are Now Available for Students & Families



Congratulations to all the students at Mears who finished taking the iReady Diagnostic this week! We appreciate all the hard work and focus our students demonstrated. We are pleased that nearly 90% of the student body have completed the assessment.

Results of the diagnostic assessment in math and reading will be shared with students and families beginning next week, and will be used to help Mears teachers better support students throughout the year.

Information will follow next week that will help families access their student's scores in reading and math.

Free Flu Immunizations for All ASD Students

A poster for "Drive-Through Immunization Clinics" with a blue border. At the top left is a logo showing a person and a child under a star. The title "Drive-Through Immunization Clinics" is in large blue font. Below is a yellow box with text: "FREE to all ASD Students", "State Required Immunizations" (DTaP, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, MMR, Varicella, and combo vaccines), "ASD Education Center" (5530 E Northern Lights Blvd, Anchorage AK 99504), and dates "September 26, 2020 (Saturday)" and "September 30, 2020 (Wednesday)" from 8AM - 8PM. A bottom yellow box says "Flu Shots FREE for the Community!". At the very bottom, small text reads: "Brought to you by the ASD Healthcare Services Department in conjunction with the Anchorage Public Health Department".

Drive-Through Immunization Clinics

FREE to all ASD Students

State Required Immunizations
DTaP, Tdap, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Polio, MMR, Varicella, and combo vaccines

ASD Education Center
5530 E Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage AK 99504

September 26, 2020 (Saturday)
September 30, 2020 (Wednesday)
8AM - 8PM

Flu Shots FREE for the Community!

Brought to you by the ASD Healthcare Services Department in conjunction with the Anchorage Public Health Department

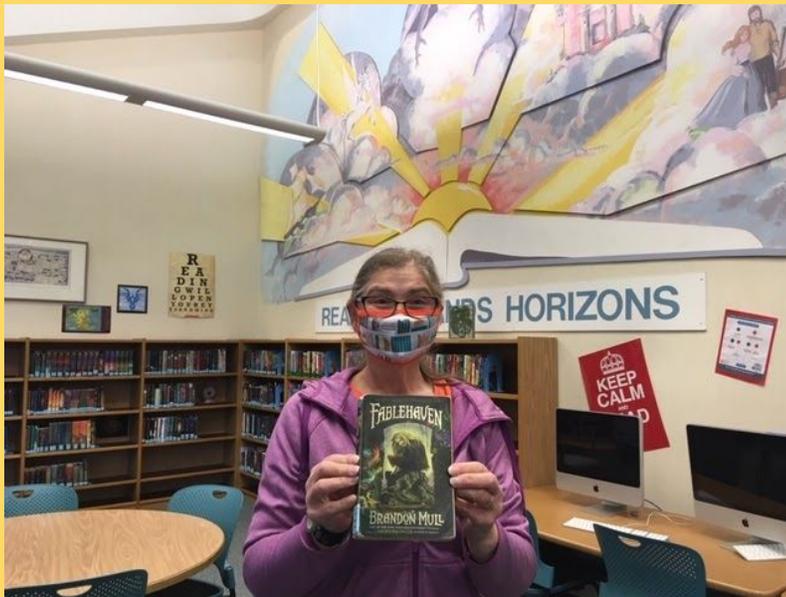
Need Assistance at Mears?



[Mears Counseling Page](#)

[Counselor Help Ticket Link](#)

Mears READS Book Club



Everyone is invited to join the Mears' book club! We will meet, through Zoom, on Wednesdays at noon.

There is also a Mears READS Google Classroom for announcements and activities. To join the Google Classroom, log in to your ASD Google Drive, click on the Google app waffle, and click on Classroom. (See the screen shot below.) Click the + sign and use the code: koudai5
koudai5

The next meeting is on September 16th. Our current book is, Fablehaven by Brandon Mull and we will choose a new title to read on the 9th. Contact Ms. Heather Fleming at fleming_heather@asdk12.org if you are interested in joining this great group of readers!

ASD Technology Distribution

If your student needs a Chromebook device and/or internet connectivity, please send an email to Ms. Ava Goodman, Administrative Assistant, at Mears. You can call her as well. We will submit an application for technology on your behalf.

goodman_ava@asdk12.org

907-742-6400

Let's be sure that every student at Mears has the technology they need to fully access the curriculum and to be completely connected to their teachers and classmates!



Become a Member of Mears PTSA



Mears PTSA is one of only two schools in the state of Alaska recognized as a PTA School of Excellence. The PTSA received this award due to its active and involved membership and close working relationship with school staff. Please, if you have not done so already, sign up and become a member of this vital organization. Mears students and staff benefit tremendously from the work done by the PTSA.

www.MearsPTSA.com

PTSA Leadership Wanted

We are still on the hunt for 2020/2021 Board members. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Join us September 23 during the Family Open House for an informational breakout session. This will be a time to get to know these positions are all about. If you are interested visit our website for position descriptions and interest form.

www.MearsPTSA.com

Follow us on Facebook

Fun facts

Fact: you are not required to attend any meetings or events!

Fact: you are not required to volunteer for any event or activity!

Fact: the PTSA is the best way to be in the know about what's happening at school!

Fact: Joining the PTSA is the best way to tap into a great network of parents, teachers, and Community leaders. Alongside the PTSA, you can be a more effective voice in advocating for the well-being, safety, and education of your child(ren).

Fact: Joining the PTSA is the best way to show your child(ren) the value you place in their education !!!

What's Happening

Membership drive now through September 30th. Win a Gift card or Mears Gear

Everyone that becomes a Parent, Teacher, Student, Association Supporting Member by Sept 30 will be entered into a drawing. Membership is \$10

Become a member by Sept 17 to vote on your budget for the 2020/2021 school year. Items included in our budget is Panther Grants (these grants would help provide supplies for elective classes and more). Must be a paid member to vote.

Prize:

Parents/Guardians 1- \$50 Gift Card

Students \$50 Mears Gear of their choice

Teachers/Staff 1- \$50 Gift Card

Sign up at www.MearsPTSA.com

➤ **September 17 at 7pm. 1st PTSA Meeting of the year Via zoom**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81825206165?pwd=bUp0dGIWSVhnZUtaRmNzcEw5N3g5QT09>

Meeting ID: 818 2520 6165

Passcode: 755022

➤ **September 11 10-2PM**

2019/2020 Memory Books and 8th Grade (last year 8th graders) Distribution

We will also have spirit wear for sale as well

➤ **September 24 7pm PTSA Informational Meeting**

This meeting is set up for those considering becoming part of the PTSA Board. Join us on Sept. 24 to hear from the current leadership and ask questions about how our PTSA works.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrceGsqTksGtBxKUTD7-kF8VocRnVWgX7u>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**I Matter
Because...**

2020-2021



CALL FOR ENTRIES

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 **November 10, 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, Cultural Dance, 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.

facebook

We're on Facebook

Mears PTSA will be open outdoors on the east side of Mears every Wednesday 10-2. Weather permitting. Call the office if you're unsure if we're set up. School Store is open. Orders clothes online or stop by www.MearsPTSA.com



We have had to slim down our budget due to schools being closed. We support many events and grant programs at Mears and we will continue to support them this year. Even if they are held virtually. We ask that you continue to support the PTSA. To help, you can donate or purchase spirit wear.

Orders purchased by Wednesday will be ready for pick up on Friday between 8:45 and 2 pm.



Masks are available online.

School Supply Kits are still available. \$30-\$65.

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](#)