



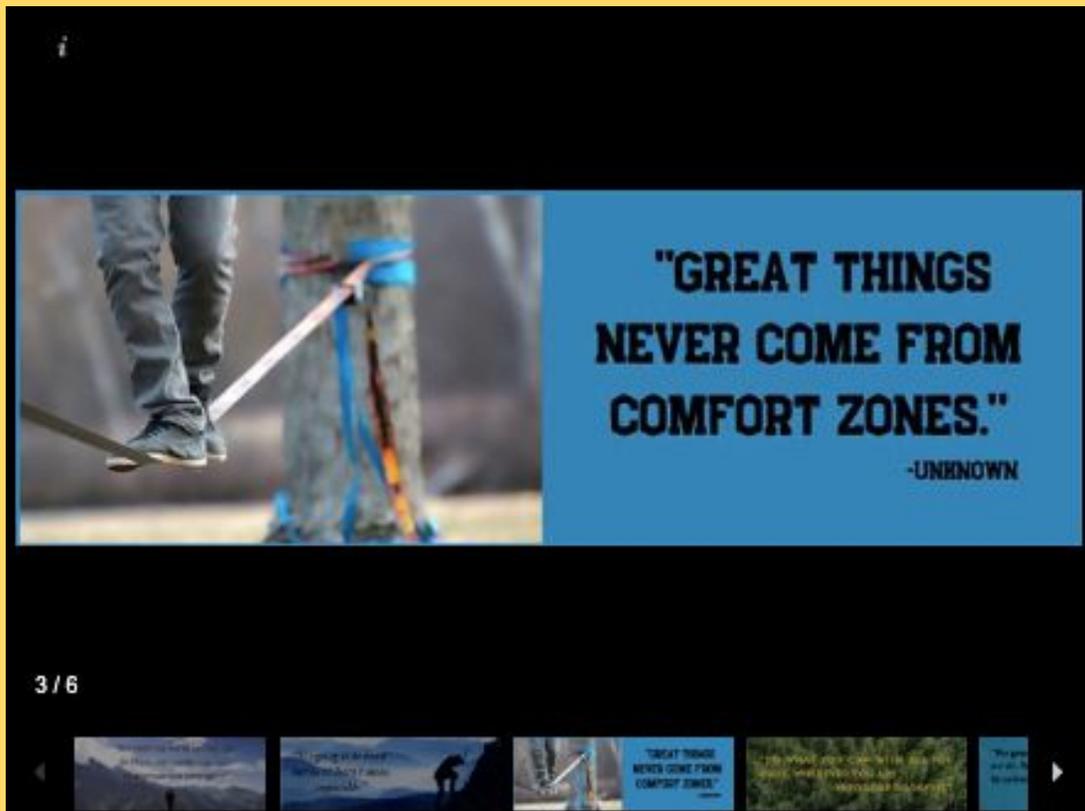
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, August 28, 2020

Mears Counselors Introduce New HELP TICKET



Slideshow imagine and inspirational message from Mears Counseling Corner homepage.

At Mears, we are committed to establishing a strong and reliable connection with all of our families. In an effort to ensure a means of safe and efficient communication for all of our students, our incredible counseling staff has initiated the new HELP TICKET. Be sure to let our counselors know if you have any questions or need support. --Eric



[Mears Counseling Page](#)

Dear Mears,

More than anything we want you to know that we are here for you and will do anything we can to support our families and students through a very difficult time. Though the situation we are in is unprecedented, our Mears family is strong and it is the connections and community we have created that will help us get through this. Through this page on our Landing Platform we want to share (in one location) resources, programs, communication, care and support. Please reach out to us if there is anything you need and we will do our best to provide solutions. The best way to reach us is to use the Counselor Help Ticket below.

--Mears Counseling Team

[Counselor Help Ticket Link](#)

CRYSTA SVENDSEN
Teams Surprise & Muir
Email Mrs. Svendsen at Svendsen_Crysta@asdk12.org
907-742-6426

BRENT HAUGEN
Teams Eklutna & Raven
Email Mr. Haugen at Haugen_Brent@asdk12.org
907-742-6428

CAITLIN BURR
Teams Blackstone & Echo
Email Mrs. Burr at Burr_Caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Promoting a Math Mindset

padlet

Mindset Boosting!
Dr. Jo Boaler, Nonellini Oliver Professor of Mathematics Education at the Stanford Graduate School of Education, created YouCubed.org as a resource to inspire teachers, students and parents. Many math students viewed a short YouCubed video titled Mindset. Students shared what they found interesting and what they might say to a classmate who was struggling on a problem. The responses included here are just a sample of the thoughts students shared.

What I would say to encourage a classmate who is having difficulty with math problem is, it's okay if you don't get it right the first time. The more you make your brain work and think, the more you will learn from your mistakes. If you keep on practicing you'll see that it gets easier, and you will eventually be able to do the things you couldn't do yesterday or the day before. Not everyone can be the best at something, but we can try our hardest to be the best we can at it. Just keep trying and never give up! -Carissa O'Rourke

Based on the mindset video a thing I might say to a classmate that is having difficulty with the math problem, that the brain grows when you make mistakes. Also that when there's a difficult the synapse's from your brain are rewiring. So if you practice a little bit every day for 6 weeks you will get better. -Molly Wang

I found it interesting that the brain can grow and shrink depending on how often you use that part of the brain. I liked the analogy of waves crashing on to a beach and how the water left behind won't stay if a wave doesn't crash there again. The analogy really made this point stand out and show how important practice is when learning something new. - Jensen Shafer

I would tell a classmate that has difficulty with a math problem that they should keep trying. Mistakes help your brain grow and will help you retain the information that you are learning. That information will help you in the future and you can also help other people when they need help. - Aurora Panilo

The part that stood out to me was that the brain is like plastic and can grow and reshape itself in a short amount of time. That stood out to me because I didn't know that and that makes me feel a lot better because if I study enough I can reshape my brain. - Willow Handy

When you struggle on a math problem, your brain grows. Like when you're lifting a heavy weight, your muscle grows. So your brain must be growing right now. -Sarah Ethington

Keep going! Even though you are struggling you are still learning. Mistakes make you stronger! -Kayla Debernardi

If a classmate was struggling with a math problem, I would remind them that it's okay to make mistakes. Mistakes help the brain grow and learn, math isn't easy. You don't need to know the answer right off the bat. Everyone can do math, it just takes time. Everyone has their own learning pace. I would also do my best to help them understand and solve the problem. -Nia Bulaong

The "take-away" that stood out for me was that the brain could rewire itself. I found it quite interesting that our brains could do this and that it didn't take very long to do so. The way it's phrased makes it sound unreal. - Christina Breeden

The take away for me was when I heard about the synapses firing. When I heard about it, it made me think about how busy your brain is all the time and how it manages all that work. It really made me go WOW. - Demyan Baumgartner

I was very shocked and surprised about the whole section of the video. Who knew your brain every second of the day in school makes your brain grow and reorganize its self! I didn't know a human brain functions that way. As much as students hate school and learning (especially e-learning) its all worth it in the end. I will keep appreciating our teachers. - Abigail Campbell

What I would say to encourage a classmate would be that math is a hard thing to learn and you just need to have patience and you will succeed. You just have to keep trying and don't give up. It will take time but as they say practice makes perfect. - Ayana Alexander

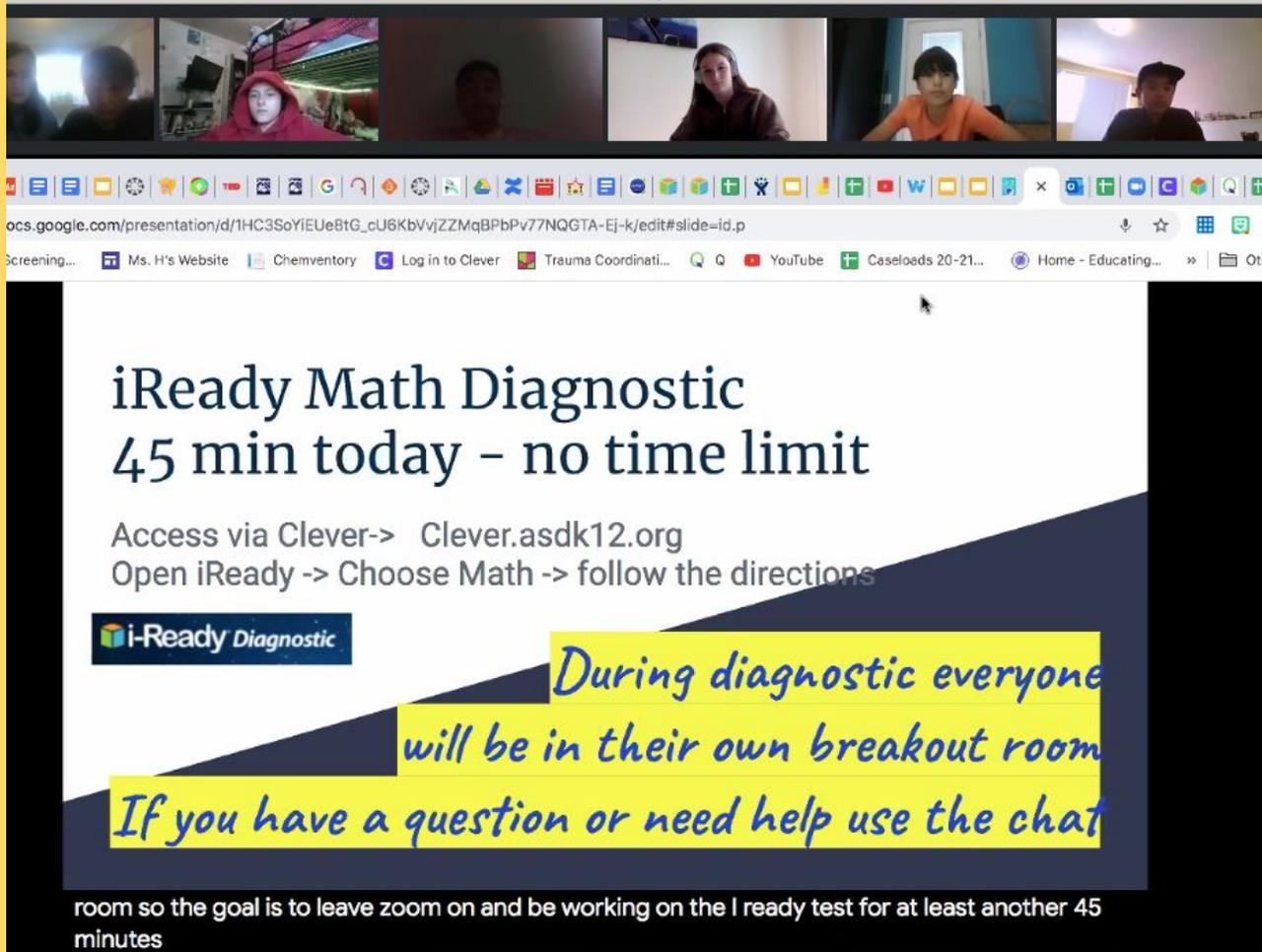
What interesting is your brain can grow when you learn something new like if you learn to cut down tree it may not be easy but if you keep on doing it you can get better and better you can learn from your mistakes and maybe learn something new on the way. -Alex Aulman

Based on the mindset video a thing I might say to a classmate that is having difficulty with the math problem, that the brain grows when you make mistakes. Also that when there's a difficult the synapse's from your brain are rewiring. So if you practice a little bit every day for 6 weeks you will get better. -Molly Wang

Students in Mears math classes have been exploring the important topic of cognitive science and brain development. Ms. Tara Bivins, Mears Math Department Chair, helped create a lesson plan based on a short video featuring Dr. Jo Boaler, Stanford University Mathematics Professor. Dr. Boaler encourages students and teachers alike to appreciate the power of a growth mindset and the recognition that through struggle and challenge our brains grow stronger.

Keep going! Even though you are struggling you are still learning. Mistakes make you stronger! -Kayla Debernardi

iReady Diagnostic Assessment Begins



iReady Math Diagnostic
45 min today - no time limit

Access via Clever-> [Clever.asdk12.org](https://clever.asdk12.org)
Open iReady -> Choose Math -> follow the directions

i-Ready Diagnostic

During diagnostic everyone will be in their own breakout room

If you have a question or need help use the chat

room so the goal is to leave zoom on and be working on the i ready test for at least another 45 minutes

Mears students began the iReady Math Diagnostic on Thursday and Friday this week. Results from the assessment will help determine students' mathematics and reading proficiency levels, and will be used by Mears teachers to support students in academic areas where they may have fallen behind. The diagnostic assessment, which takes about 45-60 minutes, is being administered by teachers online and will continue next week.



Math Assessment -- Aug. 27-28

Reading Assessment -- Sept. 3-4

Important Updates:

Final Student Item Pick Up

While many families and students picked up their locker items in the fall, we still have a number of bags containing locker and/or gym locker contents. We will have a pick-up opportunity.

Current Mears 8th Graders (7th last year):

Last Name A-H: Monday, 8/31, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

Last Name I-R: Tuesday, 9/1, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

Last Name S-Z: Wednesday, 9/2, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

All Students: Thursday, 9/3, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

Current DHS 9th Graders (8th last year):

Last Name A-H: Tuesday, 9/8, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

Last Name I-R: Wednesday, 9/9, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

Last Name S-Z: Thursday, 9/10, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

All Students: Friday, 9/11, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

Note: Although we're allowing any families that missed their assigned day to pick up on 9/3 and 9/11, we encourage families to pick up their items on the designated day.

The process:

- Walk up to the folding table outside of the north-east entrance (parking-lot side of the building);
- State your student's first and last name, and Mr. Fischer will retrieve your student's bag.
- We request that you wear a mask and maintain social distancing during this process.

Any items not retrieved will be donated/discarded. Please contact me if you have any questions

Thanks,

Mike Scott

Assistant Principal, Mears

scott_michael@asdk12.org

Reminder/Daily Schedule:

Classes are held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

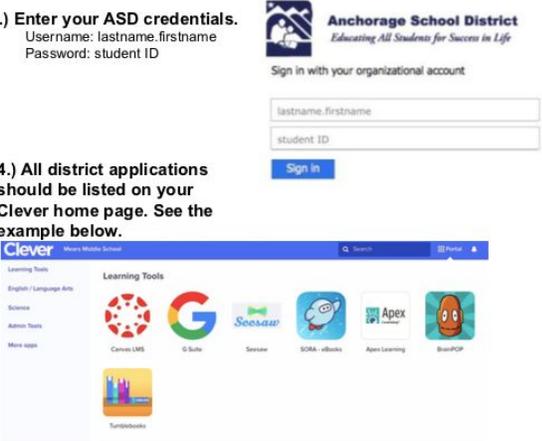
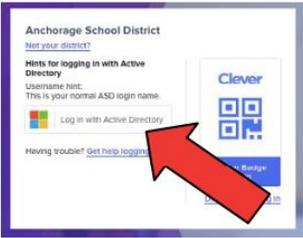
Wednesdays are a non-teaching, eLearning “Utility” Day. Students will use Wednesdays to study and complete assignments, and also to get extra help from teachers and staff. Mears is currently developing a Wednesday Help Schedule, which will be published in next week’s edition of *Panther Pride News*.

- 1st Block -- 8:45 - 10:15am
 - 2nd Block -- 10:25 - 11:15
 - Nutrition Break -- 11:15 - 11:30
 - Block continued -- 11:30 - 12:20 2nd
 - 3rd Block -- 12:30 - 2:00
-
- Students must log into their classes using Zoom at the beginning of each session.
 - Attendance will be taken.
 - Student work will be assessed and graded
 - Teachers will offer direct instruction for 30-45 minutes.
 - Remainder of class period will be dedicated to work completion, study, discussion, Q & A, small group work, activities...

Accessing Your Classes and Course Content

How to Access and Login to Clever

- 1.) Go to:
clever.asdk12.org
- 2.) Click on **Log in with Active Directory**
- 3.) Enter your ASD credentials.
Username: lastname.firstname
Password: student ID
- 4.) All district applications should be listed on your Clever home page. See the example below.



Students are doing a great job getting logged in to Clever to access their zoom class sessions. If, however, you continue to have difficulty, here are simple directions to help your student get to their Clever Home Page.

Students may also go directly to their Canvas Page to find their classes and zoom links. Visit Mears Landing Pad:

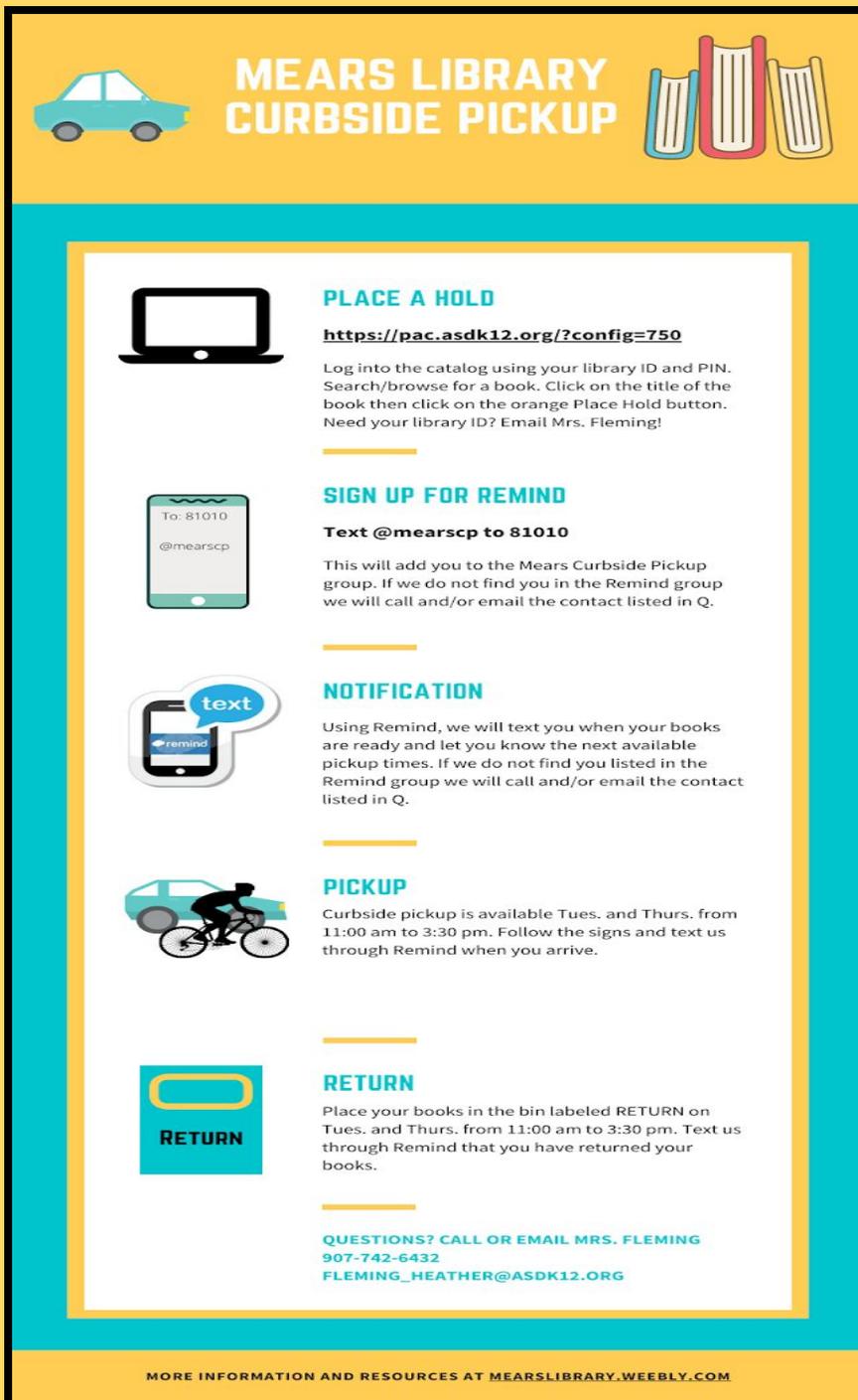
<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4940>

Canvas Parent Observer

To be an observer in Canvas, a parent/guardian will need a parent Canvas account:

[Click HERE](#) to register or sign in. [Click HERE](#) for detailed instructions for pairing with a student account. Additionally, there is a Canvas parent app for mobile devices. Mobile set up is included in these [INSTRUCTIONS](#).

Check Out Library Books



The poster is titled "MEARS LIBRARY CURBSIDE PICKUP" and features a blue car icon on the left and three books on the right. It is divided into five sections: "PLACE A HOLD", "SIGN UP FOR REMIND", "NOTIFICATION", "PICKUP", and "RETURN". Each section includes an icon (laptop, smartphone, text message, car/bicyclist, and return bin) and detailed instructions. At the bottom, it provides contact information for Mrs. Fleming and a website link.

MEARS LIBRARY CURBSIDE PICKUP

PLACE A HOLD
<https://pac.asdk12.org/?config=750>
Log into the catalog using your library ID and PIN. Search/browse for a book. Click on the title of the book then click on the orange Place Hold button. Need your library ID? Email Mrs. Fleming!

SIGN UP FOR REMIND
Text @mearscp to 81010
This will add you to the Mears Curbside Pickup group. If we do not find you in the Remind group we will call and/or email the contact listed in Q.

NOTIFICATION
Using Remind, we will text you when your books are ready and let you know the next available pickup times. If we do not find you listed in the Remind group we will call and/or email the contact listed in Q.

PICKUP
Curbside pickup is available Tues. and Thurs. from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. Follow the signs and text us through Remind when you arrive.

RETURN
Place your books in the bin labeled RETURN on Tues. and Thurs. from 11:00 am to 3:30 pm. Text us through Remind that you have returned your books.

QUESTIONS? CALL OR EMAIL MRS. FLEMING
907-742-6432
FLEMING_HEATHER@ASDK12.ORG

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES AT MEARSLIBRARY.WEEBLY.COM

Mrs. Fleming is very excited to offer students the ability to check out books from the Mears library.

Students will place a hold on the books they want, up to 10, in the Mears catalog. A message will be sent saying the books are ready for pickup. Text us when you arrive and we will bring the books to the pickup area.

Please sign up for the Mears Curbside Pickup group in Remind for notifications and pickups.

Text: @mearscp
To: 81010

Remind is also in Clever. Open it and use the Join a class button to enter @mearscp.

For pickup, we are starting with Tues. & Thurs. from 11:00am to 3:30pm. Days and times may be adjusted depending upon demand and schedules.

Detailed instructions are available on the [Mears Library](#) website.

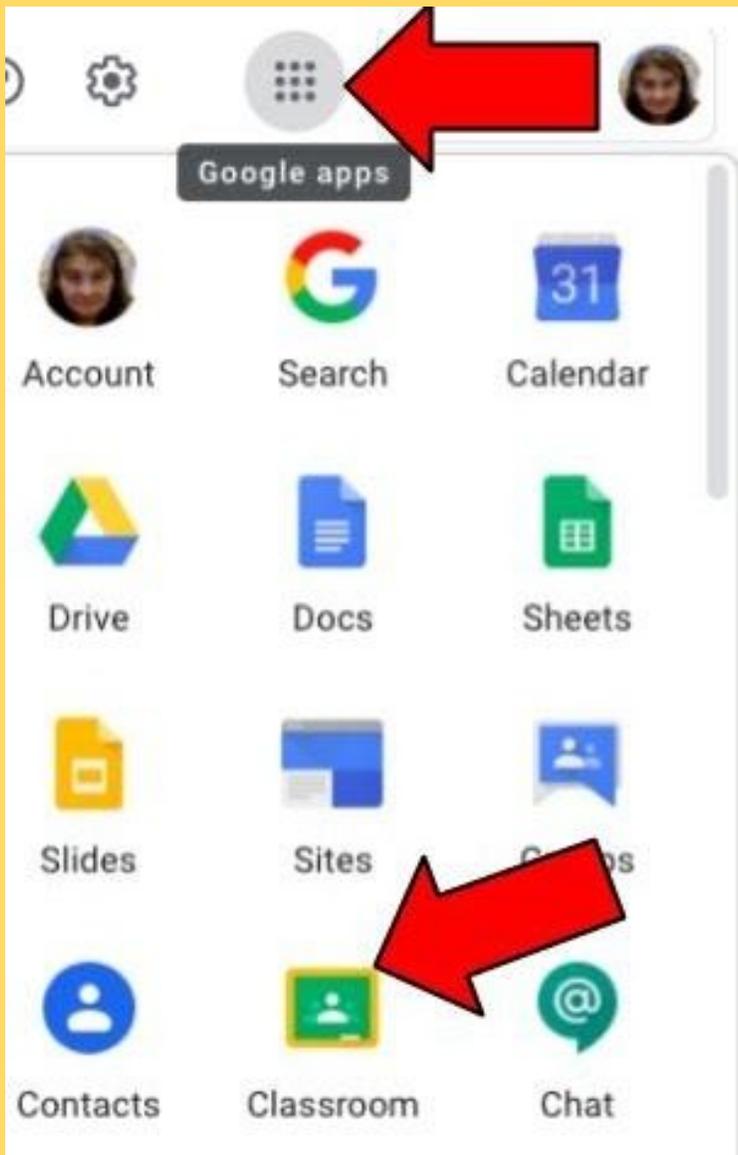
Mears READS Book Club

Everyone is invited to join the Mears' book club! We will meet, through Zoom, on Wednesdays at 11:30AM.

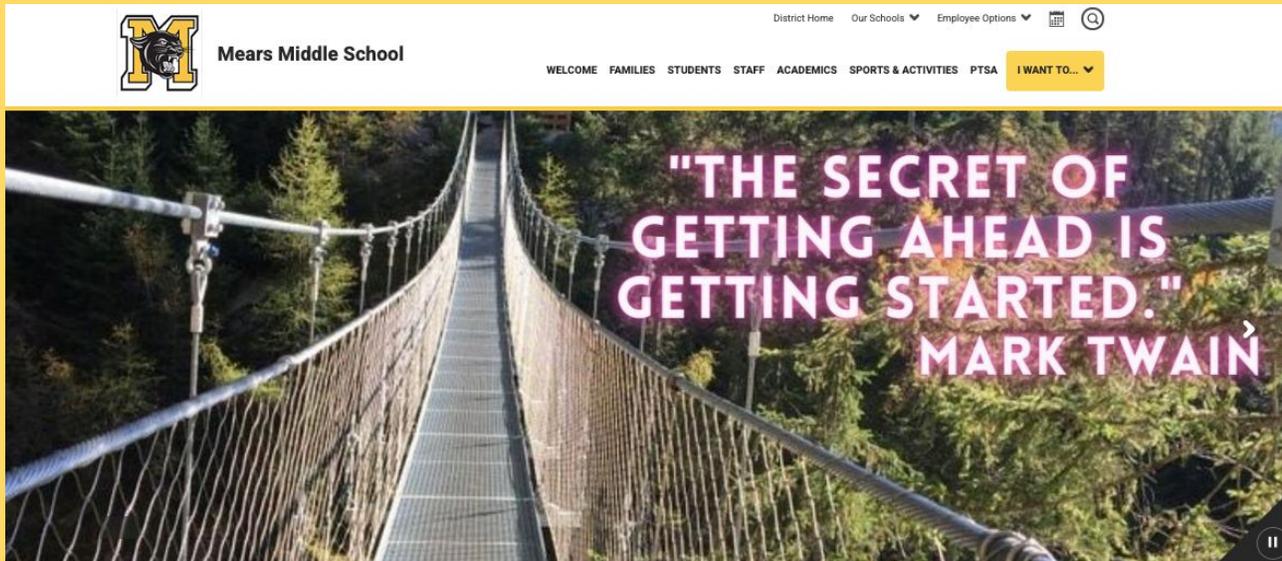
There is also a Mears READS Google Classroom for announcements and activities. To join the Google Classroom, log in to your ASD Google Drive, click on the Google app waffle, and click on Classroom. (See the screen shot below.) Click the + sign and use the code: koudai5

koudai5

The next meeting is on September 9th. Our current book is, Emma by Jane Austen, and we will choose a new title to read on the 9th.



Mears Website



Mears students and families are encouraged to visit [Mears Middle School Website](#) regularly, as we continue to update information to support our community during this challenging time.

Review Zoom Classroom Expectations

Students and their families are encouraged to review the following expectations for Zoom meeting etiquette. All teachers at Mears will expect students to abide by these rules.

A grid of eight colorful cards with Zoom-related icons and text. The top banner reads 'ZOOM EXPECTATIONS'.

- Light Blue Card:** Find a place to work where you will not be disturbed.
- Yellow Card:** Sign in with your REAL name. Icon: Mickey Mouse with a red prohibition sign over him.
- Purple Card:** NO PAJAMAS! Be dressed for school! Icon: A person in a camouflage military uniform.
- Green Card:** Turn on the Video. We want to see you. Icon: A close-up photo of a smiling young woman.
- Yellow Card:** Set the microphone to mute! Icon: A microphone with a red prohibition sign over it.
- Purple Card:** raise hand to ask a question or talk. Icon: A blue hand icon.
- Green Card:** Only eat during breaks. Icon: A cartoon character with a red hat and bow tie, holding a fork and knife.
- Light Blue Card:** KEEP CALM AND Have Patience. This is new to us too! Icon: A 'KEEP CALM' sign with a beach scene.

Zoom Class Video Recording



Lessons will or may be recorded for later access by students enrolled in the course. Students are not required to display their live image through the video function. Cameras capture not only the student but also background content within the camera's frame.

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!



Mears PTSA is looking for 2020/2021 Board members. If you are interested in taking on one of our important leadership roles, please visit our website for position descriptions and interest form.

www.MearsPTSA.com

Follow us on Facebook

WHY JOIN PTSA (NO VOLUNTEERING REQUIRED) We need your VOICE FOR only \$10

Although we are in uncertain times, Mears PTSA remains committed to supporting our school in order to turn every child's potential into reality. This year's distance learning will pose unique challenges, but we believe in the strength of our Mears Family! We honestly can't say what this year will bring. That's why it's more important than ever to join the PTSA and be part of the local, state, and national effort to get out students the care and support they need.

WHY JOIN PTA?

STAY INFORMED



PTA has monthly meetings to discuss what's going on in PTA & the school. The Principal and/or Teacher Rep attend every meeting.

STAY CONNECTED



In school, Distance Learning, Homeschooling : you can STILL be part of PTA! Stay connected to other parents, events, school updates, resources, etc.

MAKE FRIENDS



Meet new parents and get to know teachers. Spend time building connections and relationships with parents all over the school boundaries.

VOLUNTEER



There are ways big and small for EVERYONE to make a difference and contribute. Moms, Dads, Grandparents, working parents, stay-at-home parents. We need you all!

ADVOCATE FOR EDUCATION



State & National PTA Leaders advocate for education and are in contact with legislators at a local, state and national level.

ADVOCATE FOR YOUR STUDENT



What's important to you? Bring it up with the PTA. Use PTA as a resource to help you find answers and solutions. We're stronger together.

Joining the PTSA doesn't come with any strings attached. It simply means that you care about your student, and want the best for them! PTSA members are not obligated to come to meetings or volunteer. Everything a member does, from joining to coming to events to participating in fundraisers to providing feedback, matters! Even if you feel like your part is small, it impacts our Mears Family in a big way. We welcome all people, from all walks of life, and want to see our PTSA be a diverse group that represents our community. The more, the merrier!

As we are not in school right now, there are two ways to send in your membership dues. Submit a membership form and cash/check

to Mears PTSA 2700 w 100th Ave, Anchorage, 99515, or visit www.MearsPTSA.com and pay online.

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.

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.

School Store is open ONLINE only. www.MearsPTSA.com

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