



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, August 21, 2020

Day One Fun and Creativity



Mr. Ben Armentrout, Mears Science Teacher, appears in class on Day One in his Mission-to-Mars space suit.

Mears teachers and students hit the ground running yesterday during the first day of the new school year. Teachers, like Mr. Armentrout (above), went to great lengths to welcome and connect with students in their first day of classes. While most Mears teachers did not show up to class dressed for a mission to Mars, all of them offered students a warm welcome, along with fun and engaging activities designed to establish positive routines and build a sense of belonging and community. Throughout their first day in class, students were encouraged to share information about themselves and get to know some of their new classmates and their amazing teachers. While learning from a distance, it is more important than ever to encourage our young learners to be active participants in the learning process by sharing, interacting, and trying new things.

Check Out Library Books



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.

Important Updates:

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*.

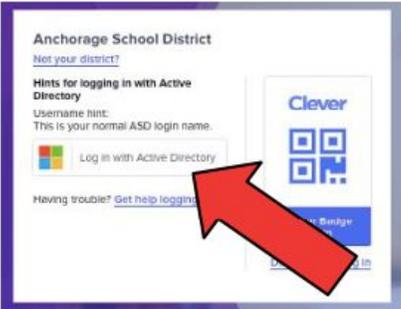
- 1st Block -- 8:45 - 10:15am
- 2nd Block -- 10:25 - 11:15
- Nutrition Break -- 11:15 - 11:30
- Block continued -- 11:30 - 12:20 2nd
- 3rd Block -- 12:30 - 2:00

- 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

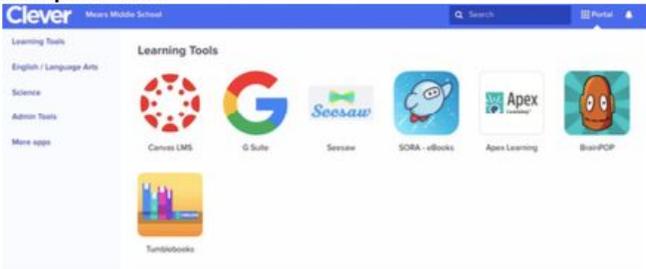
- 1.) Go to:**
clever.asdk12.org
- 2.) Click on Log in with Active Directory**



- 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>

Mears Counseling Services:



Be sure to visit Mears counseling webpage, which includes important information about support services offered at school.

<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Ms. Caitlin Burr, Counselor, Team Echo and Team Blackstone

burr_caitlin@asdk12.org

907-742-6426

Ms. Crysta Svendsen, Team Muir and Team Surprise

svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org

907-742-6424

Mr. Brent Haugen, Counselor, Team Raven and Team Eklutna

haugen_brent@asdk12.org

907-742-6428

Schedule Change Requests:

Please note that Mears' ability to make schedule changes is limited this year, by the necessity to keep class sizes small. If and when we return to the school building for face-to-face instruction, class enrollment must be capped to ensure adequate social distancing.

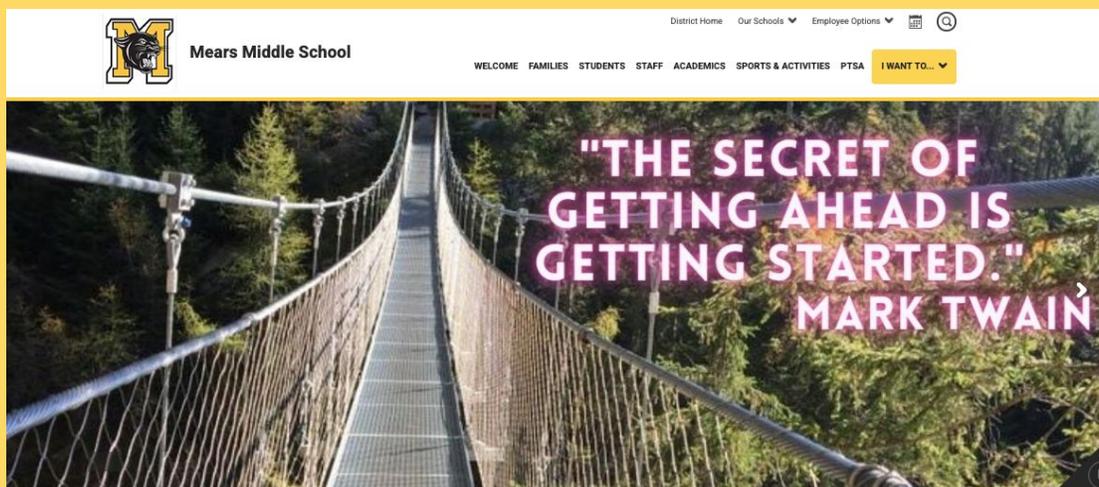
iReady Diagnostic Assessment:

Mears will be giving the new iReady assessment to students in the 7th and 8th grade in the coming weeks. The assessment will be used to determine students' mathematics and reading proficiency levels. Data will be used by Mears teachers to ensure that students are supported in academic areas where they may have fallen behind. The diagnostic assessment, which takes about 45 minutes, will be administered by teachers online beginning next week. More information about the assessment will follow in the days to come.

Math Assessment -- Aug. 27-28

Reading Assessment -- Sept. 3-4

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.

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.

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.

ZOOM EXPECTATIONS			
Find a place to work where you will not be disturbed	Sign in with your REAL name 	 NO PAJAMAS! Be dressed for school!	Turn on the Video. We want to see you 
 Set the microphone to mute!	 raise hand to ask a question or talk	Only eat during breaks 	 This is new to us too!

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 Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

IMPORTANCE OF PTSA IN A SCHOOL

Dear Mears Families,

Welcome back to a new school year at Mears Middle School! I am extremely excited to serve as your acting PTSA President until we have new families step into the position.. I have 2 kids: a 11th and a 9th grader. As I embark on this, my fifth (and final) year as your PTSA President, I am uncertain of what this new school year will look like and how PTSA will be supporting the needs of our students. What I do know is that the need for the support is still there. Now more than ever our students need PTSA advocates in their corner.

As we all know, this year has a different look to it. If your child is starting school in their home please know that PTSA will be here to offer our support. It is our goal to make sure that there is still a strong school-community connection no matter where our Panthers are this year.

Access to campus is restricted to staff only at this time. This means that many of the programs and events PTSA typically sponsor will need to be modified/changed. Our PTSA Board Meetings and General Meetings will all be held virtually. While this is different from what we are used to, I am excited to be able to welcome many parents, grandparents and caregivers who may not, under normal circumstances, be able to attend.

PTSA membership and dues support your child by funding essential educational and curriculum needs; advocating on behalf of children and educators at the local, state and national levels; and building an inclusive school community for all families. I invite you to join PTSA for your child because increasing our membership, by even one, makes it possible to provide important educational resources, speak up on important issues and create a stronger school community. There is no wrong or right way to be involved – anything you can give, whether it's time or money, will support your child's potential. Please visit www.MearsPTSA.com to become a member for this school year.

I am confident that our Mears Community will come together to make this an amazing school year! I look forward to meeting you all as we work together to support our children and the staff at Mears.

Sincerely,

April Eide

Acting PTSA President

mearsms.ptsa@gmail.com

Memory Books Update

After a long wait, Mears Memory Books have been sent from the printer. Once they arrive, which should be sometime next week, we will notify our families of the distribution plan. This information will likely be included in next week's *Panther Pride News*.

Mears PTSA Leadership Positions Available

WHY JOIN PTA?

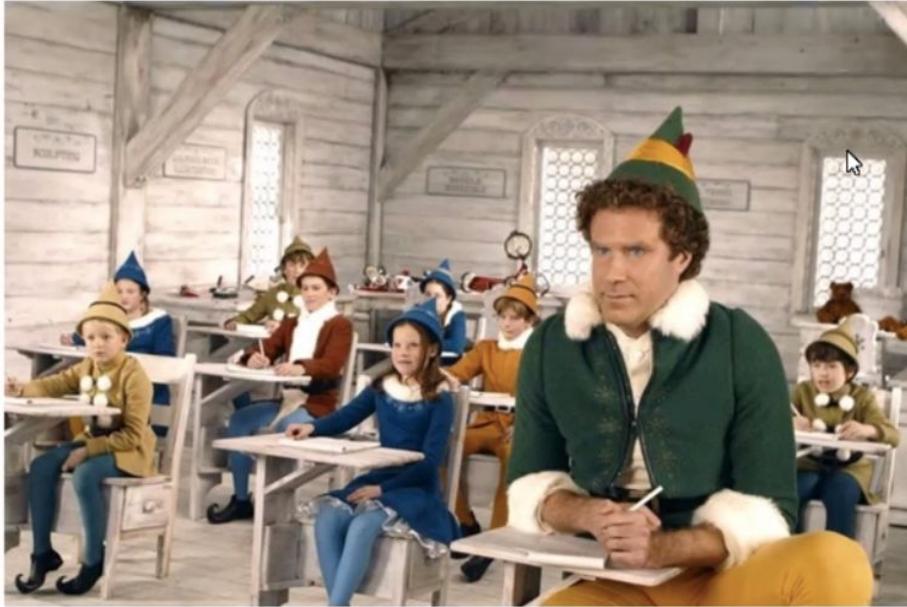
- STAY INFORMED**
PTA has monthly meetings to discuss what's going on in PTA & the school. The Principal and/or Teacher Rep attend every meeting.
- STAY CONNECTED**
In school, Distance Learning, Homeschooling - you can STILL be part of PTA! Stay connected to other parents, events, school updates, resources, 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.

One of the best ways you can support students and teachers at Mears is to volunteer for PTSA Leadership.

**WANT TO BE PRESIDENT?
1ST VICE PRESIDENT?
2ND VICE PRESIDENT?
SECRETARY?
TREASURER?**

Nominations for next year's board are now being accepted. If you are interested, email us your nomination form which can be found on our website www.mearsptsa.com Our current board is termed out and has students that are moving on to High School. We need great leaders to help keep Mears PTSA running strong.

Welcome Back!!



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](#)