



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

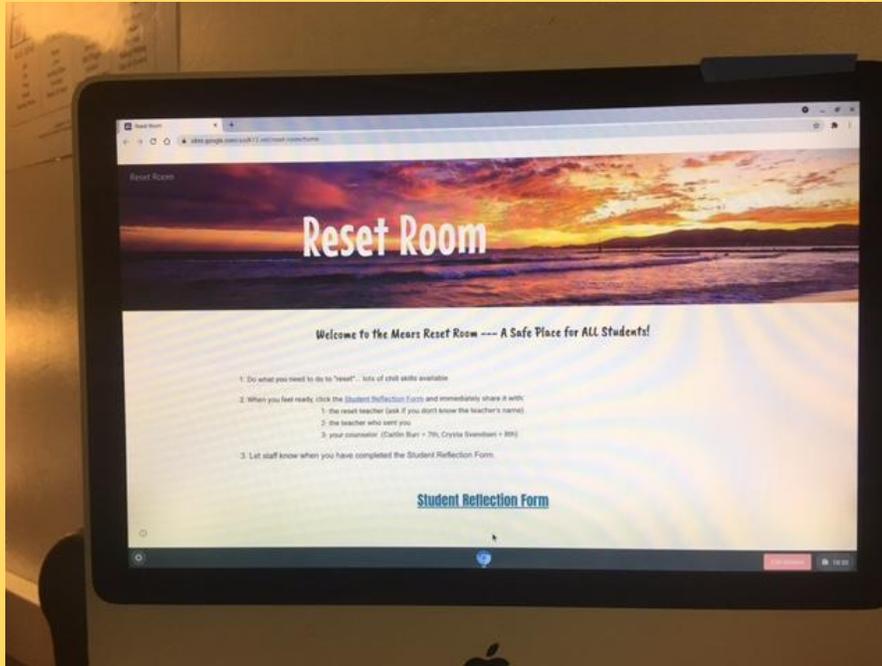
Friday, September 3, 2021

Mears Practices Citizen Science



Earlier this week, students in Ms. Joanna Hubbard's Science 7 class went on a Naturalist Observational Walkabout. Students stopped in several different habitats and looked closely at four different organisms--everything from birds, to plants, to insects and fungi, then recorded all observations about each of the four, including diagrams, labels, and descriptive scientific vocabulary. **Go Panthers!**

Mears Opens Reset Room



Mears has opened its Reset Room, a space created to support all students throughout the day. Reset provides students who need it the opportunity to be in a calm and quiet space and to de-escalate their emotions. Staffed by Mears teachers throughout the school day, Reset is restorative practice that is designed to minimize disruption, while building healthy relationships between students and staff.

Duck, Cover, and Hold



This week, students at Mears practiced a variety of safety drills, including the earthquake duck, cover, and hold drill. At Mears, our highest priority remains the safety, health, and wellbeing of all of our students. Special thanks to Mr. Mike Scott for facilitating Mears safety and emergency drills.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Teachers and Staff

Wednesday, Sept. 8 -- Staff Meeting, Library, 3:00-3:45pm

Mark Your Calendars for Back to School Night

Thursday, September 23, 6:00pm

The format for this event has yet to be determined. Parents and Families will be notified soon as to whether the event will be held in-person or virtually. Either way, please be sure to mark your calendars.

Chromebook Update: Distribution is Complete



Chromebooks have been offered to every student at Mears who did not already have a district issued Chromebook checked out to them!

If your child has a Chromebook that was issued last year and it doesn't work, please ask them to bring it and the power cord to the library after Tuesday.

Pictured here is student-volunteer, Quinn Berkey, 7th grade, assisting Ms. Fleming with Chromebook distribution prep in the library. Thanks, Quinn!

Mears Counseling Corner

New Classes and Schedule Adjustments will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 7

This is great news for reducing class sizes and for helping students get into more preferred classes.

With schedule changes - the order of operations will be:

1. Balancing Core (Math, LA, SS, Sci) class sizes with the addition of new sections
2. Providing options to students who had to be put into Band, Choir, Orchestra without requesting those classes.
3. All other schedule change requests

If your student has not joined the counseling canvas page yet, please have them click the invite link below. There is a schedule change request form on the right hand side under "To Do". It is also under "Announcements".

Invite link: <https://asdk12.instructure.com/enroll/M43FJ4>

We acknowledge the challenge of making schedule changes in early September, four weeks into the new school year. Please keep in mind that the changes will help ensure more manageable and focused classrooms with more space for social distancing. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make important adjustments to the schedule.

Caitlin Burr, 7th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Crysta Svendsen, 8th Grade
svendsen_crysta@asdk12.org
907-742-6428d



We are working very hard to meet the needs of our students and our school !

Schedule Adjustments and Additions

Beginning Tuesday, September 7

Brand New Classes

- Students may indicate their interest in taking any one of the new classes. Students can do so by filling out the New Course Request form on the Counseling Canvas Page. Mears counselors will do their best to accommodate the request.
- In order to balance and limit class sizes throughout the schedule, a number of students may be moved into new core or elective classes.

New Class	Teacher	Period
Family Consumer Science	Ms. Kayla Callahan	1st
Ukulele	Mr. Matt O'Connor	3rd
Ukulele	Mr. Jason Edwards	6th
Science 7	Ms. Callie Wilder	4th
Health	Ms. Callie Wilder	5th
PE 8	Mr. Jason MacDonald	5th
Social Studies 7	Ms. Holly Barclay	3rd
Math 8 Intensified	Ms. Holly Barclay	4th
Math 7	Ms. Tara Bivins	2nd
Geometry	Ms. Kehle Middleton	7th

Classes with Switching Teachers

- Students enrolled in the original class will remain on the same class roster. They will have a new teacher and classroom.

Original Period/Class/Teacher	New Teacher/Room #
1st Period/ Health/ Mr. Jason MacDonald	Ms. Leslie Hannam/ Rm. 109
4th Period/ Health/ Ms. Callie Wilder	Mr. Jason MacDonald/ Rm. 115
5th Period/ Health/ Mr. Jason MacDonald	Ms. Callie Wilder/ Rm. 217

Combined Classes

- Students in Advanced Band or Orchestra will now be scheduled during one period. See below.

Combined Classes/ Periods	New Combined Class Period
Advanced Band/ Periods 3 and 6	Advanced Band/ Period 3
Advanced Orchestra/ Periods 1 and 3	Advanced Orchestra/ Period 1

Mears Activities Update

2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun three great activities a Mears as of Thursday, August 19th: Girls Basketball, Baseball, and Cross Country. We're accepting activities forms until Wednesday, August 25th for these sports, so there's still time to sign up. Practices run daily from 3-4:30 PM; please be punctual for pick up, as coaches cannot leave until students are picked up.



Archery begins on Sept. 13 and sign ups have begun. All forms must be turned into the office by Sept. 10. Be sure to sign up quickly, as Archery fills up fast.

Finally, ASD's guidance indicates that students are not required to wear masks during active portions of practice, but I encourage all the students to wear masks at all times, particularly those involved in indoor activities. This promotes safety and helps allow for continuation of the activity in the even of a positive case.

Additionally, coaches will take temperatures prior to practice with a forehead-scanning thermometer. They will also encourage the use of hand sanitizer and social distancing when possible.

Families must fill out the following forms for students to participate in sports:

- Middle School Participation Form
- COVID-19 Supplemental Waiver of Liability
- Health Examination Form

Added to these forms, if a student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the three months prior to the activity, families should fill out the **COVID-19 Return-To-Sports** form.

Forms can be scanned and emailed to our AAFP: spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org or dropped off at the school by your student near the main office between periods 1 and 2: designated basket supervised by Ms. Spartz-Hays.

Visit Mears website for all activities updates and information:
<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4260>

Upcoming Activity Events

Cross Country Running Meets: All begin at 5:30 PM

- 9/9/21: Service High
- 9/22/21: Kincaid Park
- 9/29/21: Kincaid Park
- 10/6/21: Kincaid Park
- 10/13/21: Kincaid Park

Backpacks Must be Stored in Lockers Starting Tuesday, August 31st: Update

Starting this Tuesday, students needed to store full-sized backpacks in their lockers for the remainder of the year, and they've truly met this challenge! They are allowed to use string backpacks or small book bags. Reusable grocery bags are also a great option. Mears let students know that this change was coming, and it has arrived, so continue to encourage your students to stow their full-size backpacks in their lockers and thank them from Mr. Scott for doing such a great job at this and other structua

Nurse Dan's Health Update



PM Pediatrics ANYWHERE

Pediatric experts available at your school.

PM Pediatrics, the nation's largest provider of specialized Pediatric Urgent Care, now offers Virtual Pediatric Care from your School Nurse's Office

Quality, convenient care for your child

PM Pediatrics Anywhere is available at all schools in the Anchorage School District. Our new telemedicine service allows a pediatric expert to diagnose most common health conditions directly from the office of the school nurse.

It's simple to request an exam.

- Your child visits the school nurse.**
The nurse determines if a virtual exam is needed.
- The school nurse calls you.**
The parent/guardian must provide verbal consent to the exam.
- You request a PMP Anywhere exam.**
Visit pmpatschool.com or download the PMP Anywhere app to create or access your account.
- A pediatric expert examines your child on video.**
- You receive the exam results.**
We'll give you a detailed explanation. A full summary will also be available via your PMP Anywhere account.
- We contact your pharmacy.**
If a prescription is needed, we will send it electronically to your pharmacy for your convenience.

SCAN ME

Please contact Anchorage School District's Health Services for more information.

Anchorage School District
PEDIATRIC URGENT CARE

Important Covid Health Reminder:

All are reminded of the importance of staying home if you are feeling ill or showing any symptoms. It is critically important that students and staff stay home whenever they are feeling ill.

Thank you all for your understanding and cooperation.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

[ASD Return to School/Covid Mitigation Plan](#)



PTSA Upcoming Meeting Dates

Parents, family members, and students are all welcome and encouraged to participate in PTSA meetings. Be sure to mark your calendars and come join us to learn all the ways that PTSA supports the Mears school community.

PTSA General Meeting -- Sept. 14, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Oct. 12, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Nov. 23, 5:30pm

PTSA General Meeting -- Dec. 7, 5:30pm

[Mears PTSA Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 926 2513 4041

Passcode: 436866

All meetings for the first semester will be held via zoom. The meeting link will be sent out prior to the first meeting in September.

PTSA Volunteer Needs

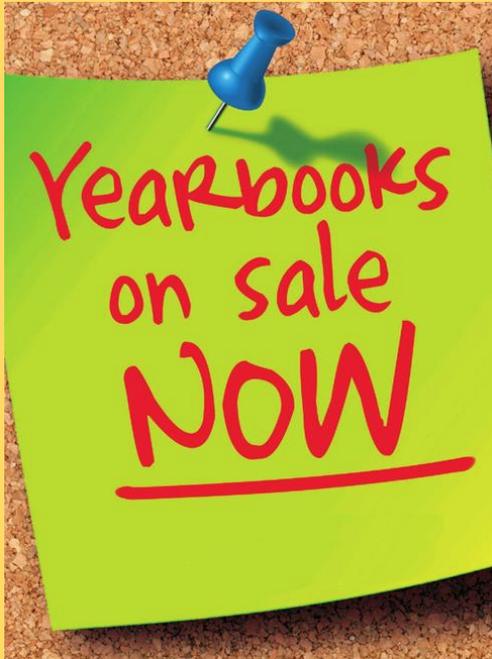
We are actively recruiting for Volunteers and for Open Board Seats and hope that you will join us! We specifically need volunteers for the following:

- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- School Store & Merchandise/ Morning and Lunchtime Shifts Now Available
- Merchandise Inventory
- Social Media Coordinator
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution

Are you interested in supporting Mears PTSA as a volunteer? If you'd like to learn more, please fill out this brief survey:

[Mears PTSA Volunteer Interest Form, 2021-22](#)

Mears 2021-22 Yearbook Sales Have Begun



2021 – 2022 Yearbooks are on sale now! Purchase your yearbook at www.ybpay.com use Yearbook ID: 13921122
Mears PTSA

Thank you ASD Bus Drivers!



A special thanks goes out to all ASD bus drivers, who are working hard to get our students to and from school safely and on time. All of us appreciate your contribution to Mears and all of ASD!

**Go
Panthers!**



We are on Dena'ina Homeland

Mears Middle School acknowledges that we operate and gather on the traditional land of the Dena'ina Peoples and honor, with gratitude, the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations.

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](#)