



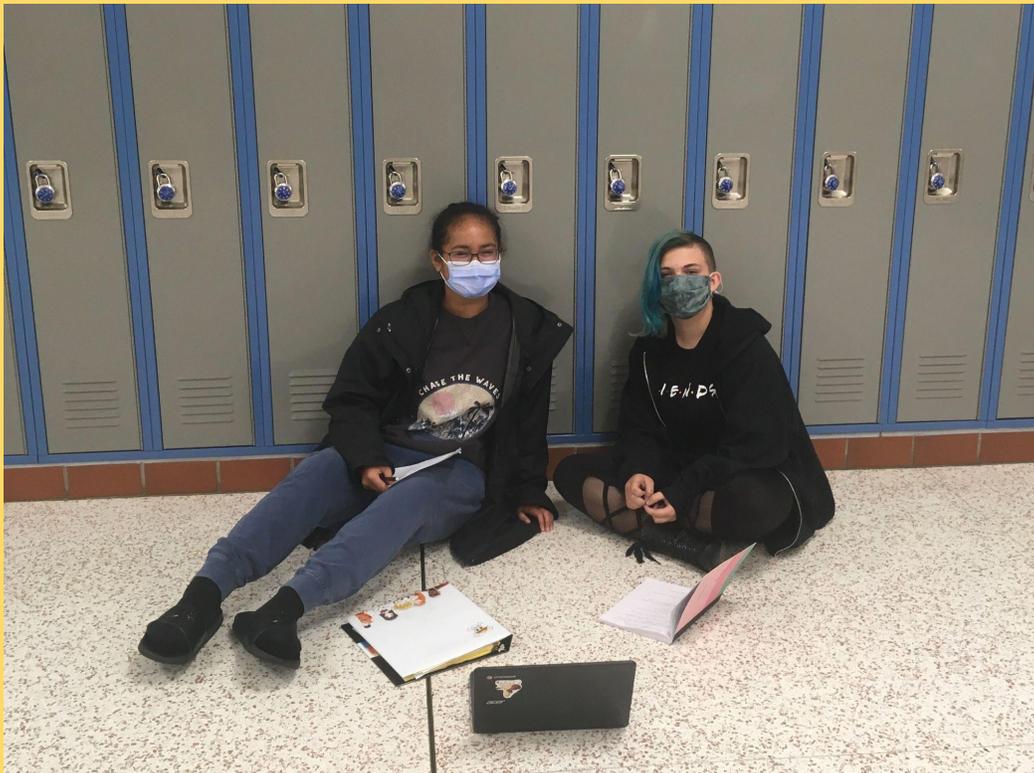
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

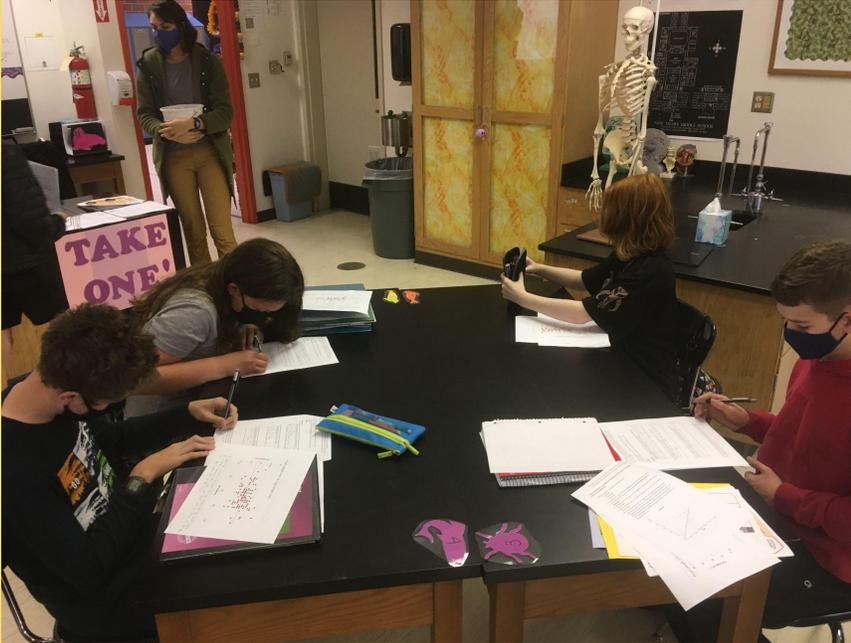
Friday, August 27, 2021

Reconnecting



During our first full week back at school, students are reconnecting in-person with their classmates in and outside the classroom. Pictured here are two Panthers working together on a research project that reinforces collaboration and communication skills. After more than a year of remote learning, it is fantastic to see students learning and socializing with each other. **Go Panthers!**

Critical Thinking and Analysis



Students in Ms. Kailey Bennett's Science 7 class were actively engaged this week in a fun assignment that had them analyze and interpret data gathered about the foot size and height of students in the class.

Mears Library Resources



This week, students in many of the Language Arts classes visited the Mears Library, where they learned about all the resources available on campus. Ms. Heather Fleming, Mears Librarian, does exceptional work in supporting students, promoting literacy, and offering a safe and welcoming environment to study and learn.

Stay Informed/Get Involved

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 Nearly Completed



We are almost done distributing Chromebooks. There are several 8th grade math classes where Chromebook have not been assigned yet. They will be ready Monday morning.

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

Mears Counseling Corner

We now have district approval to add more classes! This is great news for both reducing our class sizes and for helping students get into more preferred classes. I know there are a lot of students patiently waiting for news on schedule change requests. Here is where we are at and next steps:

- _____ Principals have posted the teaching positions and are conducting interviews
- _____ Teachers will be hired Monday.
- _____ New class offerings will be confirmed and scheduled.
- _____ Then schedule changes begin Hoping mid week next week.

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 during the third week of school. 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.

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907-742-6424

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

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.

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>

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

Starting next Tuesday, students will need to store full-sized backpacks in their lockers. 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 encourage your students to stow their full-size backpacks in their lockers.

Nurse Dan's Health Update



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.

- 1 Your child visits the school nurse.**
The nurse determines if a virtual exam is needed.
- 2 The school nurse calls you.**
The parent/guardian must provide verbal consent to the exam.
- 3 You request a PMP Anywhere exam.**
Visit pmpatschool.com or download the PMP Anywhere app to create or access your account.
- 4 A pediatric expert examines your child on video.**
- 5 You receive the exam results.**
We'll give you a detailed explanation. A full summary will also be available via your PMP Anywhere account.
- 6 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
Empowering All Learners for Success in Life

Important Covid Health Reminder:

Community Members,

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

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:

- Committee Members for the 8th Grade Graduation Celebration
- Open Vice President Position
- Open Board Secretary Position
- Yearbook Sales Promotion & Distribution
- Social Media Coordinator
- School Store & Merchandise

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 Teachers and Staff



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](#)