



Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, August 20, 2021

Building Strong Classroom Communities



On the first day of school, Ms. Roxanne DeMoss led students in her math class in a fun community-building activity. Students happily engaged in the activity, as they shared about themselves, their families, and favorite interests and hobbies. Building strong and vibrant classroom communities is among the highest priorities for all staff at Mears.

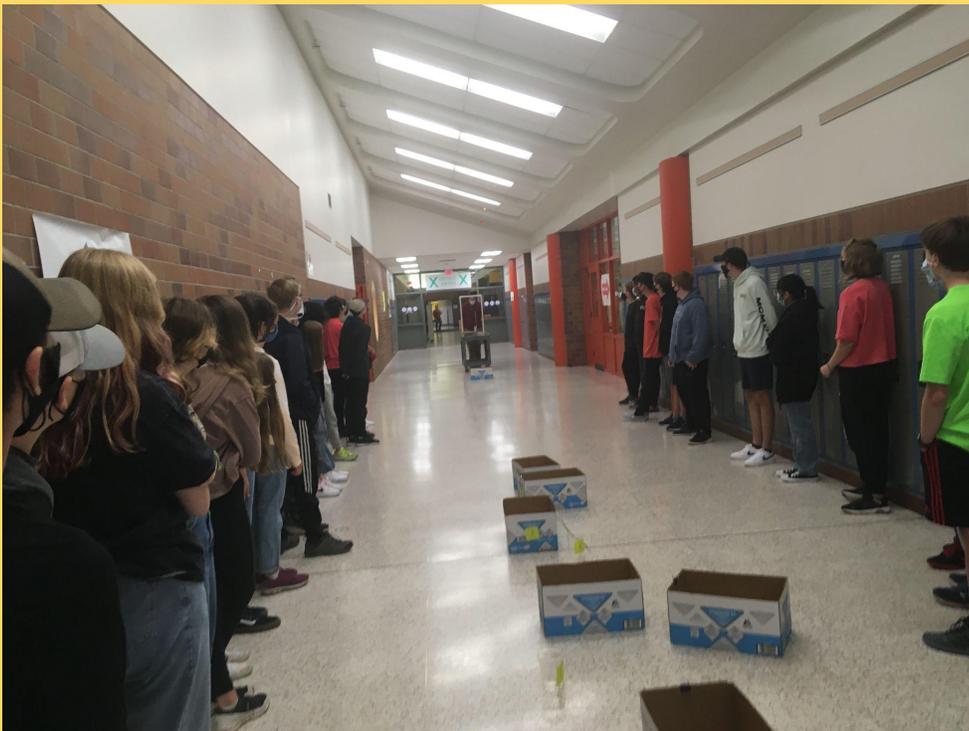
Go Panthers!

Active Learning



Ms. Mia Sison, 8th Grade Language Arts teacher, is encouraging students to get up and get active as they engage in their learning. Physical movement can help activate the brain and improve learning outcomes. Students pictured here are participating in a community-building activity during day one.

Engaging Classrooms



Mr. James McDonald, Science Grade 8, fires ping pong balls in the hallway as students practice measurement and scatter plot graphing techniques. Mears teachers are committed to providing real-world, experiential learning opportunities that make learning fun!

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Mears Teachers and Staff

Wednesday, Aug. 25 -- Staff Meeting, 3:00-3:45pm, Mears Library

Thursday, Aug. 26 -- Life Touch Photo Day

Mears Parents and Guardians

Thursday, Aug. 26 -- Life Touch Photo Day for all students

Chromebooks are Coming



Every student at Mears will be given the opportunity to have an ASD Chromebook! Having an ASD Chromebook allows students to access curriculum, assignments, and activities at home AND at school. The Chromebook should come to school everyday, charged and ready to use!

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

Mears Counseling Corner

If you need any beginning-of-year assistance, please fill out a HELP Ticket:
<https://www.asdk12.org/domain/4978>

Class Schedule Announcement:

Mears counselors continue to work very hard to create class schedules that best meet the needs and interests of all of our students. Students who are still interested in making a schedule change can go to the Counselor Canvas Page, which can be accessed from all student's personal Canvas landing pages. From their Canvas landing page, students will find the form to indicate their interest in a schedule change. Because of Mears' high enrollment numbers this year, adjustments may soon be made to the schedule, including the addition of a few new electives. More updates about new course offerings and schedule changes will be made early next week.

Students can access the new Schedule Change Request Form through Canvas.

2021-2022 Schedule Change Request Form

First off - thank you for your patience this year as we work hard to get schedules out!

We are hoping in the coming days we will be adding a few more electives ... CROSSING OUR FINGERS!

Please let us know what class you are wanting out of and a list of preferences for what you would like instead.

We will respond to requests in the order received. Our hope is to make everyone happy. Seats however are limited. Thank you for your patience and understanding. ~Mears Counseling Department

Caitlin Burr - 7th Grade Counselor

Crysta Svendsen - 8th Grade Counselor



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Mears Activities Update



2021/22 Mears Middle School Activities & Sports

We've begun three great activities at 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 event 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>

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
Education • Health • Services • Support

Additional Health-Related Information:

Mears Families,

Here are two important links that will help keep all of our families well informed throughout the school year.

[ASD Covid Information Link](#)

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



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](#)



The Mears Way



Mears Commitments

At Mears,

- ★ We guarantee a dynamic educational program designed to prepare students for college, careers, and life.
- ★ We focus on academics, AND social and emotional growth.
- ★ We value the diversity of our students and families and seek to build strong and positive relationships throughout our school.
- ★ We collaborate to support every Mears student.
- ★ We commit every day to the health and safety of all students and their families.

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](#)