



Mears Middle Schools

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, September 2, 2022

## *Classroom Engagement!*



*Mears Japanese Immersion teachers inspire full participation and high levels of engagement.*

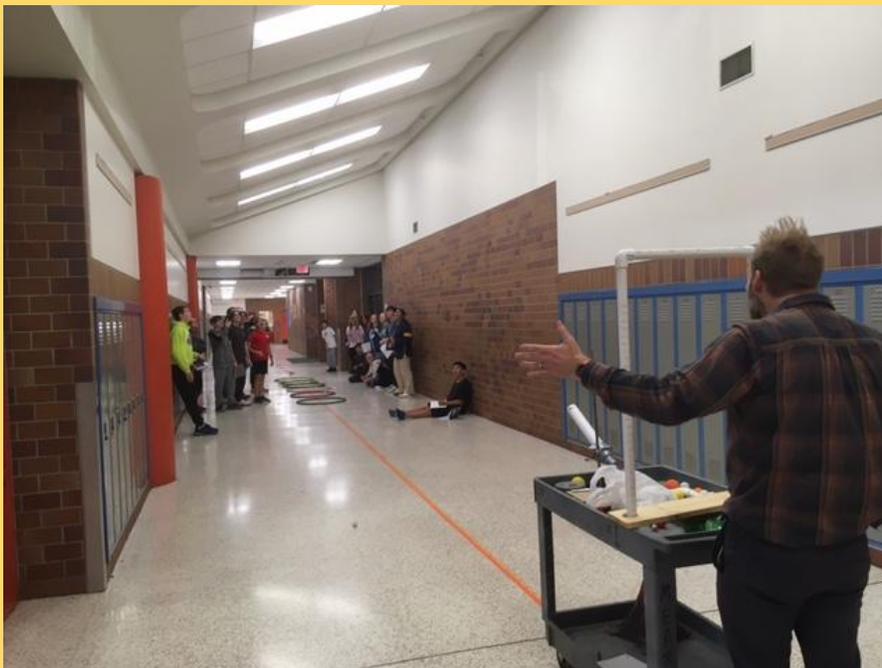
Ms. Hiromi Chambers and Ms. Shiori Suzuki, Mears 8th grade Japanese Immersion teachers, co-facilitated a highly engaging classroom activity this week. Students throughout the class held up cards to communicate their answers to a series of prompts.

Every student in class actively participated and demonstrated their impressive comprehension of the Japanese language. Go Panthers! -Eric

# Science Standouts: Data Collection & Analysis



Advanced Integrated Science 7 is spending this week investigating the plants, animals, and fungi living in the schoolyard habitat. On Tuesday, pairs of students selected a specific topic from observations (deciduous trees, mushrooms, insects, etc.) to observe on campus. Students are able to learn from each other's observations and compile data to analyze later in the week through daily discussion posts on Canvas.



Mr. Ben Armentrout shoots a ping pong ball across the hallway as students in his science class observe. Students record the distance of multiple shots and use the data for analysis. The learning task challenges students with extrapolation, calculation, analysis, and graphing.

# Science at Mears Rocks!

Check out the Video



Link: [Mr. Armentrout Explains Ping Pong Ball Lesson](#)

## Japanese/Art Calligraphy Collaboration



Mears Fine Arts teacher, Ms. Kat Yackel, along with Japanese Immersion teachers, Ms. Hiromi Chambers and Ms. Kiyoko Loer, combined their classes yesterday to bring students a power interactive lesson on traditional Japanese calligraphy. The demonstration was very well received by students, who then had the opportunity to practice calligraphy of their own.

# Upcoming Events for Students, Parents, Families

**Monday, 9/5: Labor Day (National Holiday), No School!**

**Thursday 9/7: Cross Country Running Meeting @ Service HS, Starts @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Thursday 9/7: Girls Basketball Games Mears JV & Varsity @ Goledeview, first game 5 p.m.**

**Thursday 9/7: Girls Basketball Games Mears C1 & C2 @ Mears, first game 5 p.m.**

**Monday 9/12: Archery 1 begins @ Mears MS 3 p.m.**

**Wednesday 9/14: Cross Country Running Meeting @ Kincaid Park, Starts @ 5:30 p.m.**

**Thursday 9/15: Girls Basketball Games Mears JV & Varsity @ Mears, first game 5 p.m.**

**Thursday 9/15: Girls Basketball Games Mears C1 & C2 @ Wendler MS, first game 5 p.m.**

## Teachers and Staff

**Tuesday, 9/7: Leadership Team Meeting, 3:00-4:00pm, Library**

**Friday, 9/9: ASD Middle School Principals visit to Mears, 8:00-11:00am**

## Reminder: Mears Behavioral Expectations

- Cell Phones/Electronic Devices - No cell phone use from 8:00 am -2:45 pm in Hallways or at Lunch. Teachers will determine use in classrooms.
- Dress Code/Decorum - School appropriate to maintain safe, focused, and respectful learning environment
- Backpacks,Purses, Handbags or other assorted personal storage items must be stored and locked in individual lockers. They cannot be carried about during the day, with the EXCEPTION of Mears Tote Bags. These can be purchased in the main office or at the school store.

## Transportation Update

Average Daily Attendance Rate: **92%**

After the second full week of school, Mears students have an average daily attendance of 92%. Thank you parents and families for all that you are doing to get our students to school on time and every day. Strong daily attendance is one of the key indicators for success in school. Let's keep up the good work!



All drivers are reminded of the importance of the 5 MPH speed limit on all school campuses. Student safety is our #1 priority. Please



always drive the speed limit.

## Tips For Parents

Mears students and families continue to do a great job adjusting to the new transportation routine. Mears collective focus is on student safety during drop-off and pick-up times.

### Safety Reminders:

- Please do not exceed a speed of 5 MPH in any of the Mears MS pickup or dropoff zones.
- Do not drop off or pick student(s) up on 100th Ave, this is a very dangerous practice and holds up traffic for others.
- Do not wait in the 100th Ave. center turn lane to drop off or pick up student(s), this is dangerous and holds up traffic for others.

### Recommendations:

- Arrive early to drop off student(s); the MPR is open with adult supervision starting at 7:15am.
- Encourage student(s) to walk to and from school or consider biking until the weather changes (helmets are required on all ASD school grounds).
- Students, please be prepared for a quick exit in the morning or entrance after school to and from your vehicles.
- Consider a later pick-up time; Mears MS offers a supervised study hall until 4:45 p.m. daily.
- Make arrangements for an alternative, off-campus pick-up and drop off location in the surrounding neighborhood. Many of the side streets offer safe and direct trail access to the

school in both the Bayshore West and Southport subdivisions.

- Drop off or pick up your student on Ensign Drive; the trail connects directly to Mears MS from the south.
- Organize carpools with your friends and neighbors.
- If you would like a map of the surrounding neighborhood areas please contact the Mears MS office.

## Mears Student Health Update



This school year is off to a great start, and I have enjoyed being back in the office and interacting with your students. I wanted to put out a couple of quick reminders. There are a handful of stomach bugs and cold bugs going around. Here is the link to ASD's "When to Keep Your Child Home From School" policy:

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/6622>.

[Here is a link to ASD's "Return/Stay at School Protocol"](#)

I hope everyone is staying healthy and please reach out to me with any health-related questions you have.

**-Mears Nurse Karin Richards**

## Activities & Sports



Ms. Barclay, Mr. Sorenson, and Ms. Roberts lead an inspiring team-talk at the close of practice this week.

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year, which will provide our students with many incredible opportunities to learn and grow through academic and extracurricular activities.

Middle school is a great time to try new things and meet new people. Here at Mears we have an amazing array of activities & sports for everyone. Below is a list of the upcoming Interscholastic and Intramural options. Here is a direct link to our Sports & Activities on our [Mears Website](#) for more information on signing up. You can find the sign up forms on our website. Once completed, [scan](#) and email the forms to our AAFP: [spartz-hays\\_robin@asdk12.org](mailto:spartz-hays_robin@asdk12.org) or forms can be dropped off at the main office between periods 1 & 2 \*Fee waivers are granted based on need.

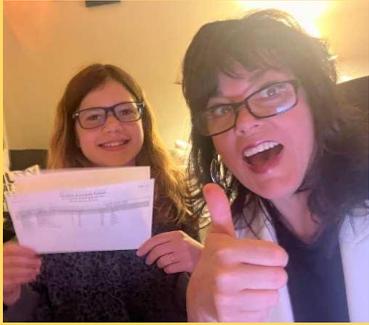


Mears baseball players practice batting in the MPR on a rainy day.



Cross country runners stretch indoors following an afternoon trail run.

# Mears Counseling Corner

 <p>Teresa Harrison-7th Grade <a href="mailto:harrison_teresa@asdk12.org">harrison_teresa@asdk12.org</a> Direct: 907-742-6428</p>	 <p><a href="#">Request Counselor Link</a> The link to request to see a counselor is also on the Mears website!</p>	 <p>Caitlyn Burr-8th Grade <a href="mailto:burr_caitlin@asdk12.org">burr_caitlin@asdk12.org</a> Direct: 907-742-6424</p>
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Elective changes are complete and we are off to a great start! Mears is fortunate to have two exceptional counselors, Ms. Teresa Harrison and Ms. Caitlyn Burr who bring a wealth of experience, compassion, insight, and professionalism to our school community. Questions, comments, concerns? [Request to see Counselor online](#), call or email! We are here to help!



## **PTSA General Meeting Schedule: All Mears Community Members are Welcome -- Second Wednesday of each month**

Semester 1: Sept. 14, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, Dec. 14

Semester 2: Jan 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10

Topic: Mears PTSA General Meeting

Time: Sep 14, 2022 05:30 PM Alaska

[PTSA Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 981 2989 0912

Passcode: 986530

Parents and Family Members, please consider supporting Mears PTSA by becoming a volunteer, which is a fun and valuable way to support our students and teachers.

## The Student Store is Now OPEN!



Special thanks to all of our amazing PTSA volunteers!

PTSA Volunteer Interest Form:

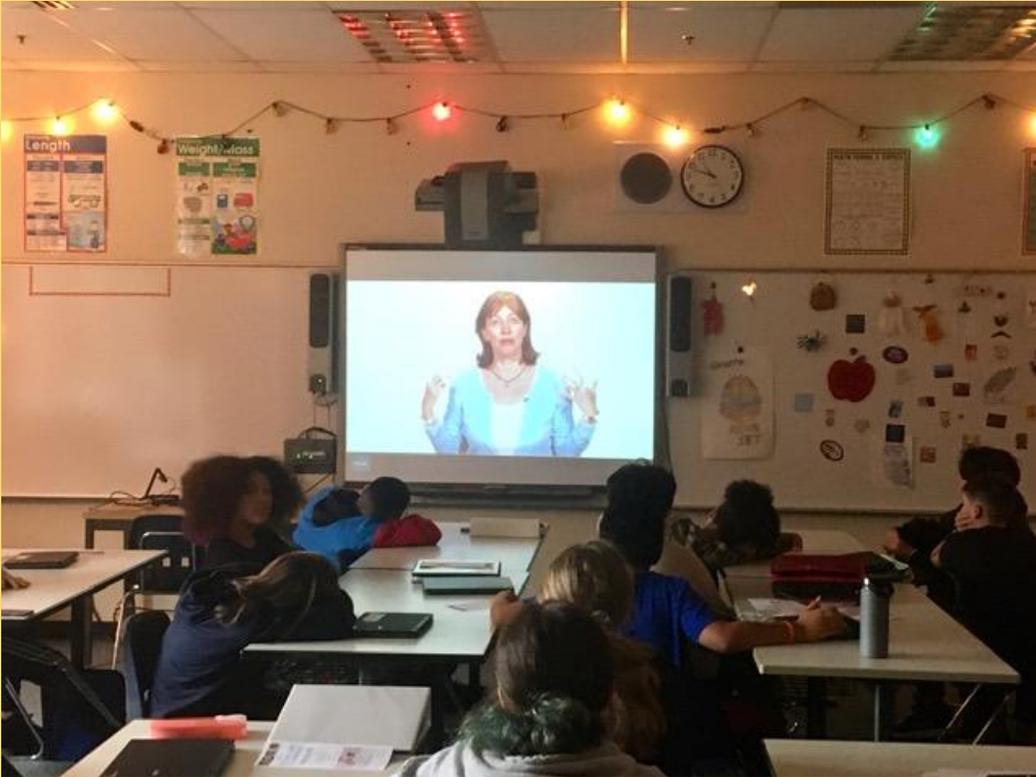
<https://forms.gle/P8yYKMPSuwzPR2ZU8>

**Be Sure to Get Your Mears Gear for 2022-23!**



PTSA is proud to announce its new online store. Items can be purchased online and delivered directly to your home. <https://mearsptsa.squarespace.com/>

# Mears Promotes Growth Mindset



Mears mathematics teacher, Ms. Roxanne DeMoss, along with her colleagues in the math department, promote a growth mindset. This week Ms. DeMoss showed her students a video about the importance of academic risk-taking and making mistakes. Intellectual challenges that lead to mistakes activate and stretch the brain to new limits.

Here is an inspiring written response from a student who understands that students shouldn't be afraid to make mistakes.

*“I will feel less frustrated and more open to make mistakes and more open to new things even if I'm scared to make mistakes. Because people who get everything right never are challenged which is mandatory to make your brain work and if your brain isn't working its not building and then you won't be as successful.”*



## **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](#)