



Mears Middle Schools

# Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, August 26, 2022

## *Panthers Hit the Trails*



*Mears Cross-Country runners hit the neighborhood trails after school.*

This week, Mears launched its Fall season of after-school activities, including cross-country running, girls basketball, and baseball. As usual, Mears has a very high rate of participation, with students joining in healthy and fun activities with coaches who are outstanding role models and mentors. Mears strongly encourages student participation in activities. Belonging to a team is a great way to learn new life-long skills, build strength and endurance, and, most importantly, to make new friends. Go Panthers! –Eric

# Stay Informed/Get Involved

## Upcoming Events for Students, Parents, Families

Monday, Aug. 29 – Mears will follow the Wednesday Homeroom Schedule to accommodate for MAP assessment prep

Wednesday, Aug. 31 – Collaborative Team Leaders Meeting, 3:00pm via zoom

Wednesday, Aug. 31 – Picture Day for Students and Staff



Lifetouch.

# PICTURE DAY IS COMING!

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022**  
**\ miércoles, 31 de agosto, 2022**

Mears Middle School

Order before Picture Day  
on [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com)  
with your Student's School  
ID or Picture Day ID:

**EVTW7TP26**

*Ya llega el Día de la Foto. Encarga antes del Día de la Foto en [mylifetouch.com](https://mylifetouch.com)  
con tu ID escolar del estudiante o la ID del Día de la Foto.*

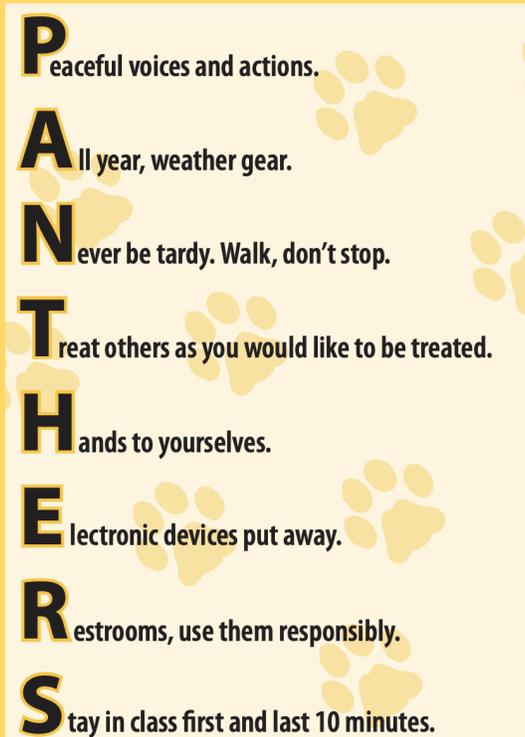
An email with detailed order and payment information was sent out to all families on Tuesday Aug. 23rd. If you did not get the email please call the office so we can update your contact information.

Life Touch paperwork was distributed to all students on Wednesday, Aug. 24th or Thursday, Aug. 25th. Please ask your student for the paperwork if you require to pay in person.

We strongly urge all parents/guardians to order online, or send a check for the exact amount on Wednesday, Aug. 31st. Understand that neither the Mears MS office or LifeTouch photography staff have a cash bank to make change. Thank you!

# Schoolwide Expectations

## Building a Community-minded Culture



### Mears Policies to Note:

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.

## Early Praise for Students



Mears Families,  
I want to compliment the great behavior that has been demonstrated so far by Mears students. Throughout the school—in the classrooms, hallways, and the multi use room at lunch—students are working hard to follow Mears Middle School's behavioral expectations. On behalf of the teachers and staff, we are all grateful to our students for their cooperation. Thank you for helping to create a learning environment that is focused, safe, friendly, and fun. Go Panthers! -Eric

# Mears Transportation Update

Average Daily Attendance Rate

# 94%

Since the beginning of school, Mears students have an average daily attendance of 94%. 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 school campuses. Student safety is our #1 priority. Please always drive the speed limit.

# Week Two: Mears Transportation Update



Mears students and families continue to do a great job adjusting to the new transportation routine. We all appreciate the steps everyone has taken to accommodate for ASD's bussing shortage.

Mears collective focus now needs to be on student safety during drop-off and pick-up times.

## Safety Reminders:

- Please do not exceed the 5 MPH speed limit in Mears parking lots.
- Do not pick students up on 100th Ave. This is a very dangerous practice.
- Encourage all students riding bikes or skateboards to wear a helmet.

## Additional Recommendations:

### Mornings:

- Plan to arrive a few minutes earlier for student drop-off in the mornings; the MPR is open and supervised at 7:15am
- Make arrangements for alternative, off-campus drop-off locations
- Encourage walking to school and safe bike riding (always wear a helmet)
- Organize carpools
- Students, please be prepared for a quick exit from your car when you arrive on campus

### Afternoons:

- Consider a later arrival for pick-up. The MPR is open and supervised until 4:00pm
- Make arrangements for alternative, off-campus pick-up locations
- Encourage walking to school and safe bike riding (always wear a helmet)
- Organize carpools

# Mears Activities Update



*Ms. Barclay leads XC runners in an agility training activity earlier this week.*

Mears Students and Families,

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.

Please be sure to read *Mears Panther Pride News* every week to stay up-to-date on all activities-related information.

Sports & Activities: Get Involved! 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.

22-23 SPORTS & ACTIVITIES	SEASON START:	SEASON END:
Cross Country Running	August 22nd	October 6th
Basketball - Girls	August 22nd	October 8th
Baseball (Baseball is coordinated by American Legion.)	Spring	Spring
Softball (Softball is coordinated by Anchorage Sports Association)	Spring	Spring
Wrestling	October 17th	December 7rd
Volleyball	October 17th	December 10th
Cross Country Skiing	January 12th	March 2nd
Basketball - Boys	January 10th	March 3rd
Track & Field	March 6th	May 8th
Soccer	Spring 2022	Spring 2022
Archery 1	September 13th	October 8th
Archery 2 (same as 1 but with differ	January 11th	February 5th
Native Youth Olympics	TBA	TBA
Tennis	April 18th	May 13th

## Mears Counseling Corner

Mears is fortunate to have two exceptional counselors, Ms. Teresa Harrison (7th graders) and Ms. Caitlin Burr (8th graders), who bring a wealth of experience, compassion, insight, and professionalism to our school community. Ms. Harrison and Ms. Burr are busy at school, working to adjust student schedules. We are thrilled to announce that Mears has already met its enrollment projection for 2022-23 (750 students), so we can anticipate that most classes will be full. While our counselors always do their best to create schedules that include student's first choice requests for electives, it is not always possible for students to get all of their requests right away. Please keep in mind that over the course of their two years at Mears, the vast majority of students will have the opportunity to take all of the electives they have requested.



Teresa Harrison, 7th Grade  
[harrison\\_teresa@asdk12.org](mailto:harrison_teresa@asdk12.org)  
 907-742-6428



Caitlin Burr, 8th Grade  
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 907-742-6424

# Mears Student Health Update



Hello, Mears families! 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"

<https://sites.google.com/asdk12.net/returntoschoolpolicy/return-to-schoolwork-policy>. I hope everyone is staying healthy and please reach out to me with any health-related questions or concerns. -Mears Nurse Karin Richards



## **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

## 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/>

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.

PTSA Volunteer Interest Form:

<https://forms.gle/P8yYKMPSuwzPR2ZU8>

## Building Strong, Positive Relationships



Ms. Debra Abshier, Mears new Spanish teacher, begins each class by welcoming students individually with a greeting in Spanish. Ms. Abshier's daily welcome is a great example of a teaching practice that aims to engage students and to build strong and positive relationships, which is essential to a successful classroom.



## **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](#)