



Mears Middle Schools

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, August 19, 2022

Mears' First Day is Big Success



Yesterday, Thursday, August 18th, Mears Middle School proudly opened the new school year with the return of its wonderful students. I am thrilled to report that 97% (736 students) of the student body attended school on the first day. Students enjoyed the opportunity to meet their new teachers, as well as new classmates and friends. Universally, students communicated that their first day was positive and that they “really like their teachers.” Students did a great job of navigating their new class schedules, as well as finding their lockers, and meeting new people. Overall, the vibe on campus throughout the school day was upbeat and optimistic—a great beginning to the year. Go Panthers! –Eric



Mears counselor, Ms. Teresa Harrison, compiled a short video that captures some of the excitement our teachers have for the new school year. Enjoy!

[Mears Staff Welcome Back Video](#)

Stay Informed/Get Involved

Upcoming Events for Students, Parents, Families

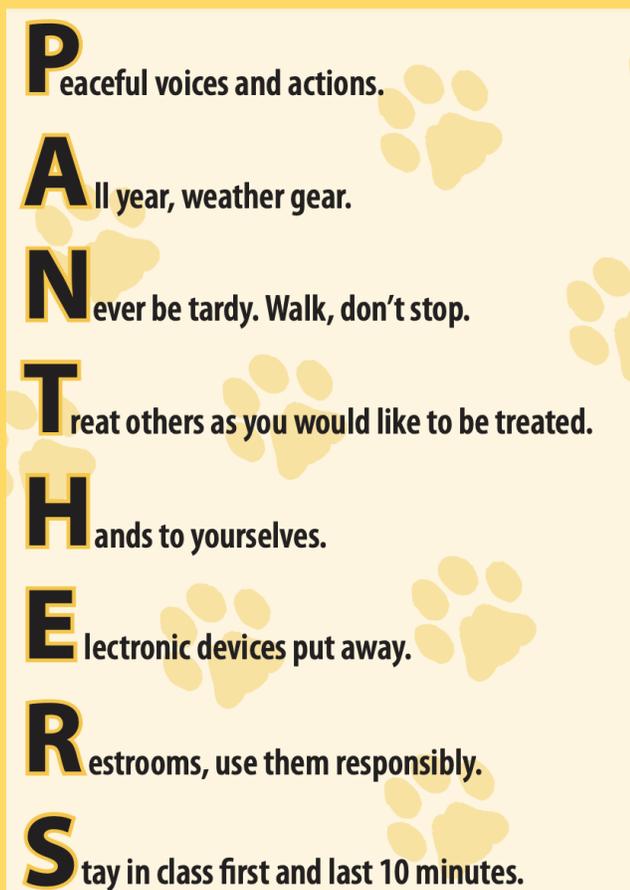
Monday, Aug. 22 – Cross Country Running Begins, 3:00pm. Interested students should meet in the gym. Find information for activities sign-up below in the Activities section of the newsletter.

Tuesday, Aug. 23 – Mears Staff Meeting, 3:00-4:15pm, Library

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Mears Main Office at 907-742-6400. We look forward to welcoming each and every one of you to Mears Middle School for the 2022-23 school year. **-Go Panthers!**

Schoolwide Expectations

Building a Community-minded Culture



Peaceful voices and actions.

All year, weather gear.

Never be tardy. Walk, don't stop.

Treat others as you would like to be treated.

Hands to yourselves.

Electronic devices put away.

Restrooms, use them responsibly.

Stay in class first and last 10 minutes.

Mears Policies & Procedures 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.

ASD Transportation Update



Special thanks to Mr. Bart Parker and all the Mears staff who are assisting families with student drop-off and pick-up.

Reminder:

All ASD families are likely now aware that there is limited transportation services provided by the district. The situation is the result of a shortage of bus drivers. As a result, the district has instituted a rotating schedule of transportation service, which will impact all schools. ASD is working hard to fill vacancies through aggressive recruitment efforts. The district is also working with the Municipality and other agencies to find solutions to this challenge.

Unfortunately, Mears will not have any bus service to begin the year, during Cohort 1. Mears will have one bus line running during Cohort 2, #61. Mears busses #80-87 will all run during Cohort 3. See below for Cohort bussing schedule:

Cohort 1 (Bus #1-38): Aug. 18-Sept. 9

Cohort 2 (Bus #39-77): Sept. 12-Sept. 30

Cohort 3 (Bus #78-116): Oct. 3-Oct. 20

As of Friday, Aug. 12, ASD has made available individual bus schedules and information for all students. Please visit [Q ParentConnect](#) to see your student's schedule.

Here's a step-by-step guide for accessing Q Parent Connect:

<https://confluence.asdk12.org/x/QQP6Cg>

Week One: Mears Transportation Update

On behalf of Mears Teachers and Staff, I want to extend my gratitude to all of our students and families for your patience and understanding as we work together to adjust to the transportation challenges the ASD community currently faces. As we look toward next week, everyone is reminded of the importance of planning ahead and being courteous, safe, and patient drivers.

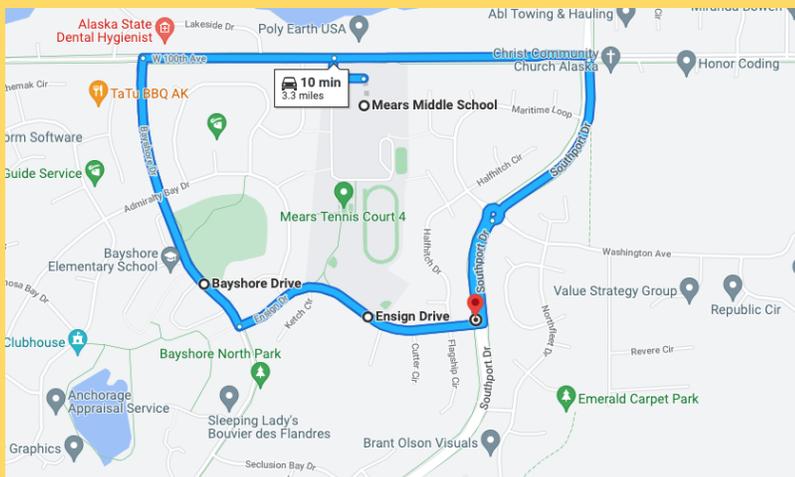
Based on our experience and observations from the first few days of school, Mears makes the following recommendations to our families:

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
- Drivers leaving the 7th grade drop zone are encouraged to use the alternative route to exit school. See map below.



- Leave 7th grade drop zone
- Left on 100th Ave.
- Left on Bayshore
- Left on Ensign
- Left on Southport
- Back to 100th

Mears Activities Update



Students are encouraged to JOIN CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING.

Starts Monday, Aug. 22!

Last year's Panthers run the course at Service High School

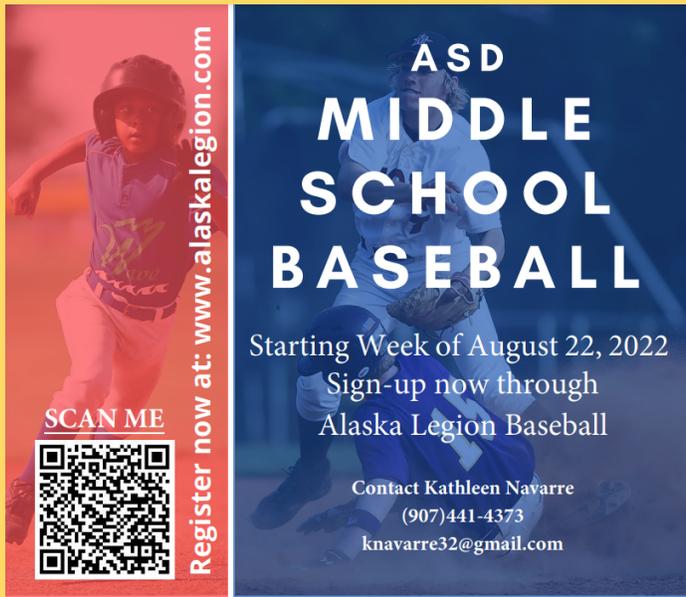
Mears Students and Families,

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 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 differe	January 11th	February 5th
Native Youth Olympics	TBA	TBA
Tennis	April 18th	May 13th



**ASD
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
BASEBALL**

Starting Week of August 22, 2022
Sign-up now through
Alaska Legion Baseball

Contact Kathleen Navarre
(907)441-4373
knavarre32@gmail.com

Register now at: www.alaskalegion.com

SCAN ME



For Boys and Girls

All Skill Levels Welcome.

Practices are after school.

Games mostly on Saturdays in
September on turf fields.

ASD Hardship Waiver
available on registration.



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
907-742-6428



Caitlin Burr, 8th Grade
burr_caitlin@asdk12.org
907-742-6424

Mears Student Health Update



Hello, Mears families and welcome to the 22-23 school year! I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting incoming students and families. I wanted to send out important reminders for the beginning of the school year. Immunizations are the first topic. ASD has a policy of "No shots, No school" and we will be strictly adhering to this policy this school year. If you have a medical exemption, this will last the entirety of your student's education with ASD. Religious exemptions need to be renewed each year and must be notarized. Both medical and religious exemptions can be hand

delivered, faxed or emailed to me. Here is a link to immunization requirements <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/6617>. -Mears Nurse Karin Richards

Great Fundraising Opportunity for Mears Families

Battle of the Schools

August 23rd, 2022

Show your School Spirit and compete in
A FUNDRAISER Competition!

10% of your sales go back to your school!

You wear Your School Spirit Attire!

You advertise! Your families Dine In!

We gift you back 10% of your sales to your school!

Winning School will get bragging rights,
FREE lunch for staff and Andy the Armadillo will
come visit the school and pass out
FREE Kid's Meal Coupons!

Contact:

Bev Hogan or Melissa Williams

Dimond South Location Only

907-336-7427

store_anchorage@texasroadhouse.com



Read up those books,
they might be winning this year.
The roadhouse is sponsoring
an exciting competition.
Have a party to watch
but the school books read
up before each entry and...

CONGRATULATIONS!
You've earned a
FREE KIDS MEAL
at TEXAS ROADHOUSE!

www.texasroadhouse.com

FREE Kids Meal!

After filling out the portion
of this bookish, use it all and
bring it to Texas Roadhouse!

Book to _____

Book # _____

Name _____



This award is presented to
for the achievement of



10% Back to your School!



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>

Mears Teacher in the News

Sections

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

Coronavirus • Alaska News • Politics • Opinions • Talk to us



7th grade teacher Holly Roberts talks to her social studies class on the first day of school, Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022 at Mears Middle School in Anchorage. (Loren Holmes / ADN)

Mears Social Studies Teacher, Ms. Holly Roberts, was in the news this week in a great ADN story about the first day of school. Read about Ms. Roberts' first day back, along with the optimism that she and other educators are feeling as the 2022-23 school year begins.

[Students Head Back to School in Anchorage](#)



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](#)