



Mears Middle Schools

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Tuesday, August 16, 2022/ Special Mid-week Edition

Getting Ready for Our First Day, Thursday, Aug. 18

Mears Families,

I hope this email finds you all well and looking forward to the start of the new school year.

All of us at Mears are excitedly awaiting the arrival of our students for the first day of school on Thursday, Aug. 18th. The school building will open at 7:15am, for those families who plan to arrive early. The first class of the day begins at 8:15am.

I am writing to provide an update and some helpful guidance related to the beginning of school, including student schedules, lockers, school materials, behavior and school-wide expectations, and transportation.

Student Schedules:

Student class schedules should now be viewable in Q/Parent Connect. Please keep in mind that some adjustments to schedules will continue to be made by our counselors for the next week or so. With over 280 classes in the school schedule, it is a very complex process to ensure that all students get all their classes, while also maintaining balanced class sizes for our teachers.

If after the first few days of school there are still questions or concerns about your student's schedule, please feel free to email Mears counselors: Ms. Teresa Harrison (7th grade) harrison_teresa@asdk12.org and Ms. Caitlin Burr (8th grade) burr_caitlin@asdk12.org. They will work to address scheduling issues just as soon as they are able.

All students are encouraged to bring a paper copy of their schedule to the first day of school. Mears will also distribute copies of class schedules to all students in the multipurpose room (MPR) Thursday morning at the beginning of the school day. As of today, Tuesday, Aug. 16, ASD has made available individual student schedules, 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>

Lockers:

All students will be issued a locker. Each student's locker # appears on their student schedule. During Homeroom on Thursday, time will be provided for teachers to review locker rules and expectations and to allow each student to find their locker.

School Materials:

Individual teachers will review materials needed for each class. For the first day of school, it is recommended that students bring a fully charged chrome book, a 3-ring binder with paper, along with a pen or pencil. Any student who needs help acquiring materials for school will be provided with these supplies. If your student does not have a chrome book, please have them notify Ms. Heather Fleming in the library.

Behavior and School-wide Expectations:

Mears Middle School expects students to maintain behavior that supports a safe, positive, and inclusive learning environment for all. All school rules and expectations are articulated in the updated Mears Middle School Student Handbook, 2022-23, which can be found on the Mears website under the "Get to Know Mears" section under the "Students" icon. Please take some time to review the Handbook by visiting this link: [Mears Middle School Student Handbook](#)

Mears teachers will be reviewing key rules and expectations during the first few weeks of school during the Homeroom period on Wednesdays.

Transportation at Mears:

Due to ASD's transportation shortage, Mears will adjust student drop-off and pick-up locations to accommodate for more cars. Additionally, Mears will be open and supervised for early drop-off at 7:15am and will extend supervision at the end of the day until 4:00pm. Students who arrive early or stay late must be in the MPR. In the mornings, all students will enter school through the MPR doors, located on the east-side of campus.

To minimize the number of cars entering the Mears parking lot, families are encouraged to consider safe alternatives to get to school, including walking and riding a bike. Please be sure that students are appropriately dressed for cold weather and that they have reflective clothing when it gets dark. Bike riders should always wear a helmet.

Families are encouraged to consider carpooling whenever possible. Those who carpool may use the 7th grade drop-off/pick-up area in the front of school.

Additionally, families who will be driving to school should plan on an early arrival and also consider safe alternative places in the neighborhood to drop their children off. This will help prevent bottleneck traffic in the mornings and afternoons in the campus parking lot.

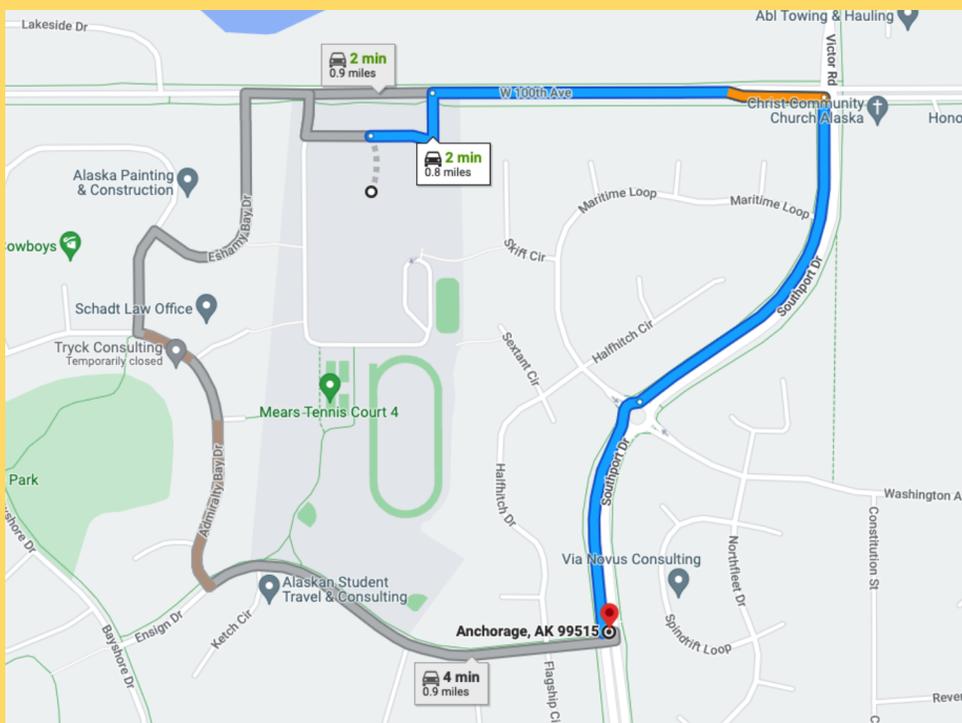
Student drop-off and pick-up areas will include two distinct zones, one for 7th graders and the other for 8th graders. The zone for 7th grade drop-off and pick-up will be in the lot in front of the main office (front/north side of school). This area will also be reserved for carpooling and people with disabilities.

The 8th grade zone will be along the east side of the school in front of the MPR. Parent drivers will all enter the lot through the main entrance. Mears staff and signage will be present to help guide drivers.



Additionally, the following google map shows a recommended route for cars leaving campus from the 7th grade/carpool zone in front of the school. Instead of turning right and heading back into school traffic, cars leaving campus from this area can simply turn left and follow the directions provided here (see gray line below).

- Left (west) on 100th Ave.
- Left on Bayshore Dr.
- Left on Ensign
- Left on Southport
- Arrive back at 100th Ave.



Looking Forward to a Great Year!

On behalf of all the teachers and staff at Mears, we are very excited for the return of students to school on Thursday, August 18th. The year promises to be a great one, filled with opportunities for all of our students to learn and grow, meet new friends, participate in a variety of new activities, and to belong to a strong, vibrant, and fun school community. Go Panthers! –Eric



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](#)