



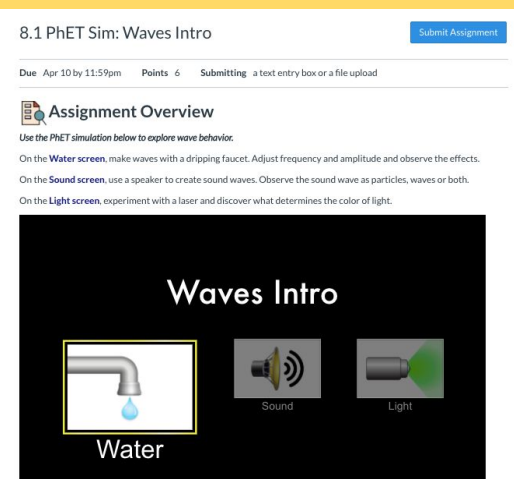
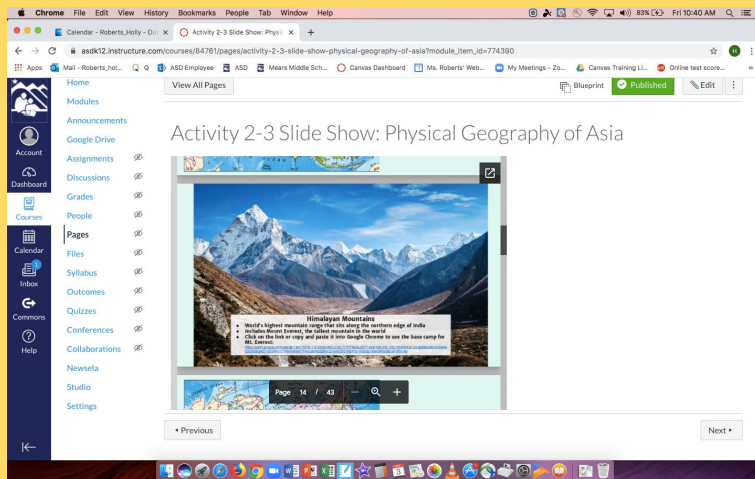
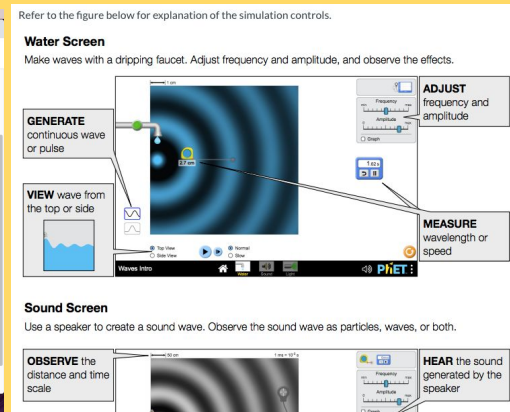
Mears Middle School

Panther Pride News

Respect, Responsibility, Creativity, and Academic Excellence

Friday, April 3, 2020

Science and Social Studies Begin Monday, April 6



Beginning on Monday, April 6, Mears Science and Social Studies teachers will begin to introduce curriculum in their content areas. Teachers in both subjects have been working hard to develop a series of online learning modules that are highly educational and engaging. It goes without saying, we strongly encourage all of our students to attend Office Hours regularly and to get busy working on this new and exciting curriculum.

Dear Mears Families,

I am pleased to report that we have successfully launched our online learning program at Mears. After over two weeks of separation, our teachers and students were reconnected this week during the many online Office Hour sessions hosted by our teachers. It was a gift to all of us at Mears to see and hear our students again!



I would like to offer thanks to all the parents, family members, teachers, and staff, who have patiently offered encouragement and helpful hints about how to improve. We continue to make adjustments on a daily basis as we all learn to navigate the new terrain of online, distance learning.

As we move into the second week of online learning, there are a number of important updates I would like to communicate to our families. This edition of *Panther Pride News* includes important announcements about our ongoing roll out of the online learning program and expanding support for students and their families.

Special thanks goes out to Mears' incredible teachers and staff, who have worked tirelessly, in a very short period of time, to prepare for this historic leap into online, distance learning. I would also like to extend my appreciation to all of our students, their parents, and families, who have shown tremendous flexibility, understanding, and patience, throughout this very challenging time. Go Panthers! --Eric

Important Updates:

Spring Office Hour Schedule:

This week, Mears introduced the new Spring Office Hour schedule. This schedule is intended to be used for the duration of the online learning program this quarter.

Mears Office Hours Schedule : Mears Office Hours					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-9 AM	Tutor Sessions for Sped, ELL, Tier II, and Tier III				
9-10 AM	Japanese/Spanish	P.E.	Japanese/Spanish	P.E.	Japanese/Spanish
10-11 AM	Math	Counselors	Math	Counselors	Math
11-12 PM	Language Arts	Band/Choir/Orchestra/Art	Language Arts	Band/Choir/Orchestra/Art	Language Arts
12-1 PM	Science	PLTW/Computer Tech./Video Production/SBP/FCS/	Science	PLTW/Computer Tech./Video Production/SBP/FCS	Science
1-2 PM	Social Studies	Service Learning/Study Skills/Health/Unlisted Electives	Social Studies	Service Learning/Study Skills/Health/Unlisted Electives	Social Studies
2-3 PM	Tutor Sessions for Sped, ELL, Tier II, and Tier III				

Office Hour Time Guide - Student Canvas courses will have the zoom office hour links and any updated office hour ti

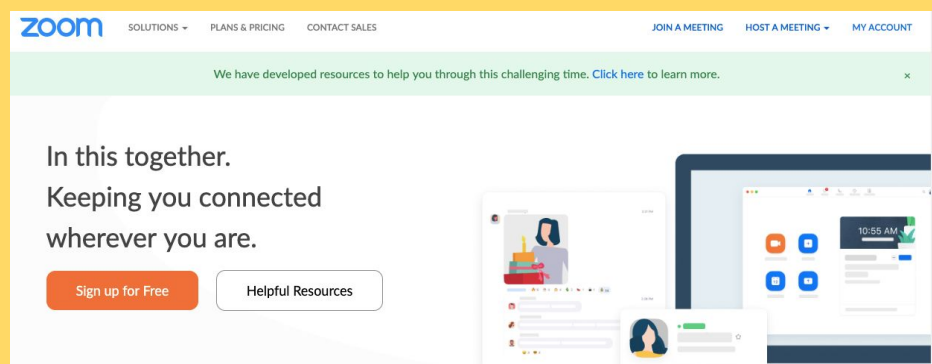
The online version of this schedule is available on Mears website under the “Welcome” sign. <https://www.asdk12.org/mears>

On Thursday, April 2, all Mears families and staff members were emailed the Spring Office Hour Schedule, complete with links, passwords, ID#s for every Office Hour meeting. Students and their families should use this document to participate regularly in Office Hours.

Students and their families are reminded that Office Hours are a designated time for students to get assistance in completing their online assignments. While Office Hours are not required, all students are encouraged to attend as often as possible. Daily routines and schedules can help improve productivity and will serve to keep students connected and engaged.

Every Office Hour session will be hosted by a teacher(s) on Zoom. Students have access to all Zoom meeting invitations, passwords, and ID#s in their Canvas accounts.

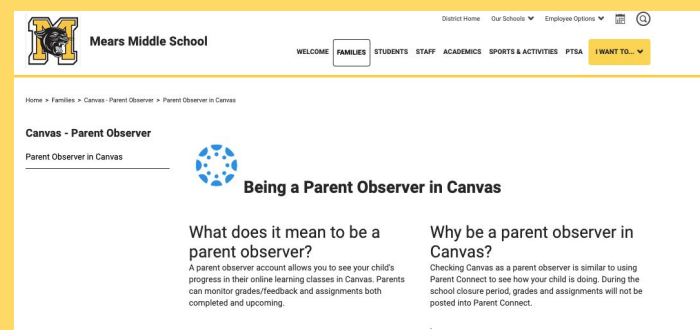
Communicating with Zoom:



Teachers and staff will be utilizing Zoom for video conferencing with students during Office Hours. Zoom will also be used to communicate with parents and families during this period of school closure. It is highly recommended that

families download Zoom onto your devices to help facilitate communication. Visit: <https://zoom.us/>

Want to be a Parent Observer?:



If you are a parent interested in observing a class taught on the Canvas platform, please visit: <https://www.asdk12.org/domain/5039>

Technology Distribution Begins Next Week:

During this week, ASD's high schools have successfully distributed electronic devices to their families who need them. Middle Schools are now preparing to do the same. Mears is planning to distribute devices to families on Monday, April 6.

Mears staff members are currently contacting those families who have indicated a need for devices. These families will be expected to come to Mears to pick up their devices during a specified time Monday morning. Social distancing rules will be strictly adhered to. A schedule for device pick up will be sent to Mears families by this Friday, April 3.

We regret to report that hotspot modem devices are no longer available.

Mears website now includes information on all local Anchorage-based special offers for families looking for internet service. Please visit: [Internet Special Offers for Anchorage Students and Families](#)

Anchorage Internet Special Offers:

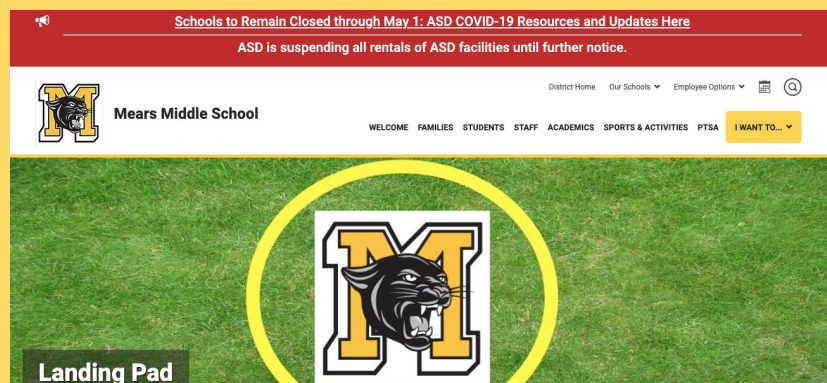
There are a number of new [Internet Special Offers for Anchorage Students and Families](#) for those who need internet connectivity at home to access online curriculum.

Mears Counseling Services:



In response to the increased need for counseling support during this challenging time, Mears has launched a landing page of counseling resources and services for our students and families. Please visit [Mears Counseling Services](#) to connect with Mears counselors for any support your student or family may need. We are here to help.

Mears Website:



Mears students and families are encouraged to visit [Mears Middle School Website](#) regularly, as we continue to update information to support our community during this challenging time.

District Health Services

For students requiring nursing support, please coordinate with ASD Health Services at 907-742-4136 or email healthcareservices@asdk12.org. The District wants to provide any support possible to students who may be high risk according to CDC guidelines.

Student Nutrition

ASD Student Nutrition will continue food distribution of pre-packaged breakfast and lunch meals for any child 18 or younger at established food service sites. Mobile food service routes will remain scheduled to accommodate students and families unable to access the school distribution sites. Information on feeding sites and mobile bus route meal drop off can be accessed at this link: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15121>.

ASD Educational Resources

ASD Middle School Online Learning Resource Page: <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15214>

The Family Resources link (<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/15108>) on the ASD COVID-19 website includes important information for families during the period of school closures.

⇐ Backman Recommends ⇒

Here are some very helpful reminders for parents, family members, and educators who are playing a critical role in helping children cope with the Covid-19 Pandemic.

[Care for Caregivers: Tips for Families and Educators](#)



Mears Middle School Anchorage, AK

PTSA

Order Your Copy Today!

Memory Books online ordering www.ybpay.com \$35

Order today. Don't delay and be the parent that your student didn't get a memory book. NEW this year - you can personalize the memory book with your student's name. Its an additional \$5. Order online and receive a free wall calendar or easel from Shutterfly.

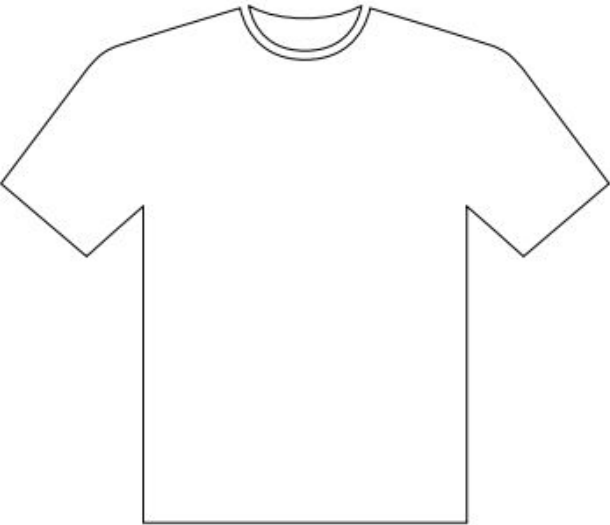
Personalization deadline is April 6. Pre Orders without personalization are due May 15th. We will only have 400 books for sale. This includes the presales. Currently, we have sold 170 books.



ART CONTEST

In an effort to promote fun activities at home during this challenging time, Alaska PTA is having a weekly Art Contest. Next week they are having a virtual spirit week. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/akpta49/> to see more info.

8TH GRADE T-SHIRT CONTEST



Name: _____
Team: _____

RETURN BY MARCH 31, 2020
Email: mearms.ptsa@gmail.com or mail to PO Box
92948 Anchorage, AK 99509

Requirements:
Shirt will be white or gray
Print Color Green (Freshman color for Dimond)
Design suggestions: Graduation Year 2024.
Don't include Mears, Dimond, Freshman.
Image only on Front or back of shirt.
WINNING DESIGN WILL BE ANNOUNCED
APRIL 10.

Make checks payable to Mears PTSA or pay with a credit card online www.ybpay.com

Mears PTSA Leadership Positions Available

One of the best ways you can support students and teachers at Mears is to volunteer for PTSA Leadership.

WANT TO BE PRESIDENT? 1ST VICE PRESIDENT? 2 VICE PRESIDENT?
SECRETARY? TREASURER?

Nominations for next year's board are now being accepted. If you are interested, email us your nomination form which can be found on our website www.mearsptsa.com Our current board is termed out and has students that are moving on to High School. We need great leaders to help keep Mears PTSA running strong.

Meringues and Mathematics



This week, Marley learned to make meringues and Roman consulted with Ms. Bivins about math. Together, these photos are a fantastic reminder to all of our students to make sure to balance activities during the day. Students should spend time every day completing their school assignments, while also challenging themselves to learn to do new things.

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](#)