

THE TWAIN TIMES



Mark Twain Elementary

Vicki Moss	Principal
Susan Kaul	Secretary
Kelley Knapp	Attendance
Jenna Martin	School Nurse
Feven Woldeab	Health Aide
Serena Casale	School Counselor

Mark Twain Elementary School Hours

9:10AM - 3:35 PM

Please do not drop your students off early. Students may not enter the building until the 8:50 morning

**Main Office
797-7200**



SCHOOL CALENDAR

Classes resume	01/04
Martin Luther King Day No school	01/16
Early Release @ 2:30 pm	01/26
PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm	01/31

Kindergarten 101

Tuesday - January 10, 2023 @ 6:30 p.m.

Mark Twain Elementary

Kindergarten 101 is a presentation by Principals and Kindergarten teachers to explain the registration process for Kindergarten, share about the typical Kindergarten day and what is expected of the students.

Westerville City Schools Kindergarten Registration

Was your child born on or before September 30, 2018?

If your answer is YES, it is time to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year!

Children are required to complete Kindergarten before they enter first grade.

Online Kindergarten Registration Opens January 17, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

• Would you like your child to attend Half Day or All Day Kindergarten?

Westerville City Schools offers half day and All Day Kindergarten. You must request All Day Kindergarten as part of the online registration application.

Tuition for All Day Kindergarten is \$3,000 per student for the school year. (You can apply for reduced or free tuition.)

Placement in All Day Kindergarten occurs through a lottery held in March 2023.

To be included in the lottery, parents must indicate their interest in All Day Kindergarten when completing the online registration application.

For information regarding All-Day Kindergarten, please visit www.wcsoh.org/ADK.

• Do you know which elementary school your child will attend?

Go to <http://www.croppermap.com/westerville/> and type in your street address. If you need help, call the Transportation department at 614-797-5950.

• Does your child attend WCS Early Learning Center Preschool?

If yes, you DO NOT have to register for Kindergarten.

If you want to enter your child (current ELC preschool student) in the lottery for All Day Kindergarten, complete the Google Form emailed to you the day Kindergarten registration opens, January 17, 2023.

• Learn more about Kindergarten Activities and Opportunities

Be sure to attend the Kindergarten 101 session at your child's elementary school in January. Principals and teachers will break down the enrollment process and give you an idea of what your child should expect and of a typical day in Kindergarten.

Details about Kindergarten 101 will be posted at www.wcsoh.org/Kindergarten or you may call your child's elementary school for more information.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



i have a dream!

Monday January 16th - NO SCHOOL

MARK TWAIN NEWS

USEFUL INFORMATION



Clinic News

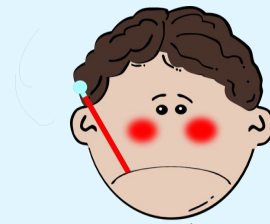
SCHOOLS AND FLU Resource: www.flu.gov

Seasonal Influenza Information

Influenza (flu) is a respiratory illness that can be serious, sometimes leading to hospitalization and even death.

Prevention:

1. Get a flu shot or the nasal mist
You cannot get the flu from the flu vaccine.
You need a flu shot every year. Wash your hands!
1. Cover your Cough! The flu is spread by respiratory secretions.
2. Stay Home when you are sick
Shorten the Duration with Medications such as Doctor Prescribed Tamiflu



Symptoms

- Fever of 100 degrees or more or feeling feverish (not everyone with the flu has a fever)
- A cough and/or sore throat.
- A runny or stuffy nose.
- Headaches and/or body aches.
- Chills, fatigue and Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea (most common in children)



COLD WEATHER RECESS

Please remember to dress for recess. Everyone goes out doors if the temperature is 20 and above (with wind chill)!

In a world where you can be anything
BE KIND

PLEASE take the time to mark your child's name on the inside of their winter coat. Being able to identify the owner, makes it easier to return the coat to the proper student!



MARK TWAIN NEWS

INFORMATION

2023 GEM AWARD

Great Educator Mentor Award



Westerville students, staff and community are invited to nominate district staff and adult volunteers for a Great Educator Mentor (GEM) Award, which is presented to individuals who go the extra mile to make a positive impact in the classroom and schools.

Sponsored by Roush Honda and Westerville Parent Council (WPC), GEM Awards honor recipients from each school building in the district, as well as those who volunteer or work district-wide. Educators and school staff can also recognize local businesses that have made a significant impact in their buildings or across the district with the Terry Gordon Business Award.

The nomination form can be found on the district <https://forms.gle/rzaSe856vVe5BU2E6>

The nomination deadline is Monday, Feb. 6, 2023.

OFFICIAL NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

Who is Eligible?

- * Volunteers, Community Members, Parents, District & Building Teachers and Staff or a business.
- * Any adult who goes ABOVE AND BEYOND and makes a positive impact on the lives of Westerville students during the period of February 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023.
- * Individuals can be nominated for their impact in one building or for a district award when they make an impact in more than one building or across the entire school district.
- * Anyone can submit a nomination - especially students!

**Thank you for taking the time to
nominate someone special!**

STUDENT EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION Don't forget to keep your child's personal and emergency contact information updated throughout the year through your Parent Portal account. This is the only information we have to contact you in case of an emergency. Contact Mrs. Kaul in the school office if you have any questions.



ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

FAMILIES

Report absences using the
SafeArrival app or calling

1-844-431-0874

www.WCSOH.org/Attendance

NEWS AND INFORMATION

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



How do I know if my child is ready for kindergarten? If your child has attended preschool, talk with his/her teacher.

What is my child expected to know and what should my child be able to do when entering kindergarten? Westerville City Schools has prepared a listing of ways you can help your child prepare to begin school (see website). The Ohio Department of Education also has resources at <https://education.ohio.gov/Parents>

If my child is younger than the cut-off, can I have him/her tested to enroll? Typically, children must turn five years old before September 30 to enroll in kindergarten for the coming school year. However, children who turn five between October 1 and December 31 can be considered for under age admission upon meeting the criteria set by the district as per the Ohio Department of Education guidelines. In such instances, the child is evaluated to measure his or her maturity to do satisfactory work in kindergarten. Children identified as being academically, socially and emotionally prepared for school may enroll in kindergarten early if recommended to do so by the Gifted Education Department of Westerville City Schools.

May I wait to enroll my child in kindergarten until he is six? Yes, state law requires compulsory attendance of children between the ages of 6 and 18.

Is kindergarten required? Yes, Ohio Revised Code 3321.01 specifies a child must successfully complete kindergarten. The kindergarten requirement may be waived in the case of a child who is at least six years of age by September 30 of the year of admittance and who demonstrates to the satisfaction of the committee that he/she possesses the social, emotional, and cognitive skills necessary for first grade.

Who can enroll in Westerville City Schools? In order for your child to attend Westerville City Schools, you must be a resident of the school district.

Am I allowed to pick which school I want my child to attend? No, school district boundaries within the city school district will be established by the Superintendent. In establishing these boundaries, due consideration will be given to the capacity of buildings, size of classes, distances, topography, transportation and other pertinent factors. Students will attend the school in the school attendance area in which they reside, unless open enrollment is requested and approved.

May I apply for open enrollment in kindergarten? Yes, the Westerville City Schools Board of Education wishes to provide opportunities for students to attend schools other than those which they are geographically assigned. Therefore, the Board will permit students to apply for attendance at their school of choice based on criteria and guidelines established by the superintendent.

What school will my child attend? The best way to determine which school your child will attend is to contact either the Enrollment and Family Resource Center at 797-7700 or the Office of Transportation at 797-5950.

How do I know if I qualify for the Free & Reduced lunch and breakfast programs? You may complete an application at www.lunchapplication.com or pick-up a paper application available in the school offices after July 1.

What is the Parent Orientation Meeting, and should I bring my child? Parent Orientation is for the purpose of meeting the building principal and kindergarten classroom teachers, reviewing building procedures, distribution and quick review of the student handbook, and an overview of curriculum. Your child should not attend this meeting. Your school will determine a date for the Parent Orientation Meeting and it will be in a letter sent to your home in July.

When do I know whether my child will be in the AM or PM session? A letter is sent to your home the end of July, indicating whether our child will attend the AM or PM session, your child's teacher, and your child's "Gentle Start" date and time.

Am I allowed to request AM or PM? Requests for AM or PM sessions may be made by contacting the building secretary following the completion of the enrollment appointment. While every effort is made to accommodate your request, it may not be possible based upon enrollment numbers and transportation schedules. AM and PM sessions are determined by our Transportation Department because of bus scheduling. Decisions are based on many factors including the number of students in your building who walk or ride. Other determining factors can include enrollment in neighboring schools.

How will I learn about bus routing? Bus transportation schedules are available through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. (In July, you will receive a letter from your building with information on how to create an account.) For additional information, please go to www.wcsoh.org/mybus or contact transportation at 797-5950.

Does the assessment determine if my child will attend kindergarten? Can my child fail the assessment? There is not an assessment designed to determine if your child will attend kindergarten. The only requirement for entrance into kindergarten is that he or she be five years of age by September 30 of the current year. Kindergarten students will take a series of assessments throughout the fall, as part of the Ohio Department of Education's KRA (Kindergarten Readiness Assessment). This assessment will provide teachers specific information on what each student knows and is able to do. This information will be used to drive instruction and identify areas of intervention for students.

What if my child needs special services (Speech & Hearing, LD, etc.)? If you know, or suspect, your child has a disability, contact Westerville City Schools' Special Education office at 614-797-5900.

What school supplies will my child need? You will receive a copy of supplies needed in the Back-to-School mailing.

How much are fees for kindergarten students, how are they determined, and how are they used? Student fees cover the costs of consumable items including: paper and student record keeping folders, art supplies (clay, paper, paste, paint), science supplies, math supplies (straws, yarn, dry erase markers, graph paper), printer cartridges and other technology-related consumable supplies. Fees for the upcoming year are posted on the district website.

May I volunteer in my child's classroom? Westerville City Schools welcomes volunteer participation. Volunteers provide needed assistance at all levels of district programming and serve as excellent resources to enrich the lives of our students. Volunteers may be assigned to assist in school activities and programs without recompense.

Do you offer before- and after-school childcare? Though the school district does not offer a traditional "latchkey" program, there is a school age child care program, **YWCA Kids Place**, available before and after school through the YWCA for all of our elementary schools. This is a fee-based program that operates independently from the school district. For more information, call the YWCA at (614) 224-9121.