

# 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

## September 2022

Attendance: 797-7213

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

PTA Family Fun Night	09/02
NO SCHOOL—Labor Day	09/05
Interims available	09/13
Early Release @2:30 p.m.	09/22
Fall Picture Day	09/23

## EARLY RELEASE DAYS FOR STUDENTS

The mission of Westerville City Schools is to prepare students to contribute to the competitive and changing world in which we live. To accomplish this, the district has scheduled four "Early Release" days during the 2022-2023 school year for the purpose of staff professional development. These times will be used to focus on meeting the goals of the Continuous Improvement Plan. During an "Early Release" the elementary school student day will be shortened by one hour, with dismissal at 2:30. Bus schedules for elementary school students will be one hour earlier for dismissal only.

### Dates of Early Release

September 22nd  
November 17th  
January 26th  
March 16th



## REMINDERS!

LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 5TH  
NO SCHOOL

EARLY RELEASE SEPTEMBER 22

## WELCOME BACK

**Principal:** Vicki Moss

**Secretary:** Susan Kaul

**Nurse:** Jenna Martin

**Guidance:** Serena Casale

**Psychologist:** Tasha Stoll-Juredine

**Media Specialist:** Pam Todd

**Cafeteria Staff:** Lee Wood and Paula McConaghy

**Custodians:** John Clark and Thomas Thompson

**Duty Aides:** Barbie Pabst,

Ashley Berry, Brandi Albertini, Kevin Martin,

**Crossing Guard:** Kevin Martin

**Instructional Coach:** Amber Case

**Reading Specialist:** Monica Roberts and Elyson Gerton

**Speech and Hearing:** Alison Miller

**ESL:** Chelsie Lakeman, Donna Dixius, and Ifrah Hosh

**Art:** Bob Kowalski

**Music:** Ian Murphy

**Physical Education:** Kim Hunter

**Kindergarten:** David Walker, Heather Ivery, and Breanna Garrett

**Grade 1:** Natalie Hostetler, Judith Strain, and Carol Loudon

**Grade 2:** Natalie Martin, Amanda Matchack, and Kelly Calhoun

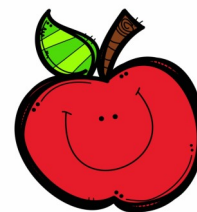
**Grade 3:** Jenn Frashier, Alyssa Burkhart, and Rachel Lysaght

**Grade 4:** Kim Glaser, Angie Lee, and Amy McCoy

**Grade 5:** Shelley Seabury, April Hynes, and Greg Manteniaks

**SLC 3, 4, and 5:** Yelena Gerdt, Sonia Bebinger, and Lisa Moarefdaust

**SLC K, 1, 2:** Susan Ward, Nicole Legros, and Maureen Revelle



The Mark Twain Staff would like to extend a sincere welcome to all of our parents and students. Our goals this year include continuing to improve upon student achievement and helping each child to have a successful and enjoyable school year. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year!

# MARK TWAIN NEWS

## PTA INFORMATION

### WAYS TO SUPPORT

#### BOX TOPS

- Go to the APP store.
- Download the app for Box Tops for Education app.
- Create an account.
- Find and select our school.



After shopping, scan any grocery receipt that includes Box Tops products. Box Tops for Education will donate 10¢ to Mark Twain for each Box Top.

#### AMAZON

Amazon Shoppers- You can support Mark Twain. Shop Amazon Smile.

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon. It features the same products at the same prices as the standard Amazon site. The only difference is, when you shop on Amazon Smile, the Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of all eligible products to your chosen charity, Mark Twain.

Go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)



Log in to your Amazon account.

Search "Mark Twain Westerville" to find: PTA Ohio Congress Mark Twain PTA

Select our school and accept the terms.

Remember: You must shop from Amazon Smile for Mark Twain to get a donation.

#### KROGER

Kroger Shoppers- You can support Mark Twain while you shop. Here's how.

Go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards)



Log in or create a digital account.

Link your Shopper card to Mark Twain Elementary School.

Search "Mark Twain Elem PTA". Our # is 84372.

Shop at Kroger, enter your Shopper's Card # at checkout, and Kroger donates a percent of sales to Mark Twain.

#### GIANT EAGLE

Visit [www.gianteagle.com/afts](http://www.gianteagle.com/afts)

Use code 4830 or "Mark Twain PTA" to find us.



### Join Us!

### Sign up for a PTA Membership today!

The Mark Twain PTA strives to build strong working relationships among parents, teachers and our school, in support of students.

- Go to <https://marktwain.memberhub.com/store>
- Click "PTA Every child One voice Mark Twain PTA household membership".
- Complete the Form. Click "Add to Cart".
- Click "Cart". Complete your order.

\$10 Family Membership. Optional Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each Month. Questions? [marktwainwestervillepta@gmail.com](mailto:marktwainwestervillepta@gmail.com)



### 2022-2023

### Mark Twain Elementary School PTA Board Members

President:	Jessica Linek
Vice President:	Katie Simon
Co-Treasurer:	Kris Shear
Co-Treasurer:	Leah Bame
Financial Secretary:	Abbey Gibson
Recording Secretary:	Judie Barsch

GENERAL PTA MAIL is:

[marktwainwesterville@gmail.com](mailto:marktwainwesterville@gmail.com)



# MARK TWAIN NEWS

## USEFUL INFORMATION



### Clinic News

If your child will be taking medication during the 2022-2023 school year, please have any forms completed and returned to your child's school BEFORE the first day of the school year. The forms are available in the school clinic.



Please remember that all prescription medications must be in a pharmacy labeled bottle and match the doctor's order.

If the child is taking over the counter medication, it must be in the original packaging, only one dose sent to school at a time and needs to match the OTC form that is signed by a parent.

Please call your child's school nurse if you have any questions, or need to request that your meds go home with your student.

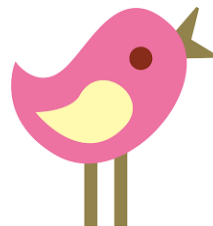
### School Fees are Due!

Fees can be paid online through your student's EZPay account; (a nominal fee is charged for online payments). You can also pay fees with a check, cash or money order. If you are unable to pay fees on line, please contact the Mark Twain office for other payment options. Make checks payable to WBOE

Kindergarten	\$18.50
First	\$32.00
Second	\$32.00
Third	\$28.00
Fourth	\$30.00
Fifth	\$30.00



**FALL PICTURES**  
FRIDAY, September 23th



Please accept this as a gentle reminder that if something is going on with your child that makes you question their education (in any way) please start by communicating with your child's teacher. The teacher is the one that spends the most time with your child and can offer more insight. If more intervention is needed then the situation will be further addressed and re-directed as needed. We are a "team" staff here and encourage open communication between parents and members of the teaching staff.



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## WELCOME BACK!

The 2022-2023 school year has begun and the Westerville School District staff has exciting learning opportunities planned and high academic expectations for all students. Westerville School District staff will support all students to achieve their hopes and dreams to experience an excellent 2022-2023 school year.

**I am seeking your commitment to making sure child attends school every day possible this year.**

The evidence is clear: **children with good attendance are more likely to be successful in school.** High attendance rates correlate to high student achievement. This is true for every grade. Regular school attendance is essential to successful learning:

Every day counts. Missing school even 10% of the time has a significant negative impact on academic achievement as children progress through school. Students with good attendance perform better academically. Good attendance starts early. Research has shown that the attendance habits established early have lasting effects on students throughout their education. Your child needs to be in school and engaged in learning to reach his or her full potential.

We realize that every family faces challenges. **Please let your child's principal know if you are dealing with a challenge affecting your child's good school attendance.** Your school family will help you ensure that your child's school attendance stays on track.

Thank you for all you do to support your child's school success and well-being. I look forward to working with you this year and to having your child learn and grow. Best wishes for a safe, respectful, responsible and successful school year.



## PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR SCHOOL FORMS!



If you have not already done so, please complete your student information **ONLINE** Student Emergency Medical Information & Parental Consent Forms including but not limited to: Walking Field Trips and Publicity Opportunities Log into PowerSchool Parent Portal for each student & click on the "Forms" located on the left. If these are not complete your child may be excluded from participation. If you have any questions please call don't hesitate to call the office at: 797-7200

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Due to the increased number of food allergies we can no longer accept birthday treats to share with the class. Instead, we highly recommend alternative celebration items such as a birthday pencil or donating a book to the classroom library in your child's name.



## SafeArrival used for absence reporting and notifications

All WUSD families will report student absences through a secure system called **SafeArrival**. In addition to reducing the time it takes to verify student attendance, this system gives families more options to report a child's absence and allows our staff to immediately investigate discrepancies. This is especially important when a child is reported absent during attendance and the office has not been notified that the student would be missing school that day. SafeArrival is part of the district's SchoolMessenger notification system.

Beginning in August, families will be able to report and/or schedule absences through any of the following options: an app on their mobile device, a secure website, or a dedicated toll-free telephone number (1-844-431-0874).

Please download the [SafeArrival FAQ](#) and also visit <https://go.schoolmessenger.com> to learn more. Be sure to [create an account](#) for the SchoolMessenger website and also download the free app for [Apple devices](#) or [Android devices](#).

If a parent/guardian forgets to report their student's absence, they will begin to receive automated notifications once the child is marked absent at school. The notification process ends when the parent/guardian confirms the absence through SafeArrival. Safeguards, such as establishing a PIN number, are in place to prevent students from reporting their own absence.

SafeArrival is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Future absences, such as known medical appointments, can be scheduled at any time. The app is convenient, the toll-free number is districtwide, and the dedicated website also provides access to an archive of messages sent to families through the district's notification system.



# MARK TWAIN NEWS

## OTHER INFORMATION

### News from the cafeteria:

Westerville City Schools families can apply online to have their child/children receive free or reduced-price school meals.

For nearly two years, the United States Department of Agriculture issued waivers that have provided no-cost school meals to all students across the nation. But those waivers expired at the end of the 2021-22 school year. That means WCSD families will have to resume paying for breakfast and lunch school meals when students return to class after summer break.

School meal prices for the 2022-23 school year include:

- Breakfast - \$1.25 elementary; \$1.50 middle and high school
- Lunch - \$2.75 elementary; \$3 middle and high school
- Reduced-price meals for those who qualify - 40 cents for lunch. (Breakfast is free for students who qualify for reduced-price meals.)

Student breakfast and lunch prices remain the same as they have been dating back to the 2017-18 school year.

Families who wish to apply for free or reduced-price meals must complete the application for meal benefits on the Lunch Application [website](#). Paper applications are also available at school buildings, the Enrollment Center, and at the district Food Service office located at 936 Eastwind Drive. Families are encouraged to fill out online applications as they are a more efficient method of applying for free or reduced priced meals. On average, online applications are processed within 24 to 48 hours of completion.

For more information, please contact the Food Services office at 614-797-5700 or by email at [thomasrl@westerville.k12.oh.us](mailto:thomasrl@westerville.k12.oh.us).

For your convenience, parents are able to pay by cash or check with money taken to the school cafeteria. Online payments can be made at no additional cost to parents.



### FRIENDLY REMINDER

WCSD families will have to resume paying for breakfast and lunch school meals when students return to class after summer break.

School meal prices for the 2022-23 school year include:

- Breakfast - \$1.25 elementary; \$1.50 middle and high school
- Lunch - \$2.75 elementary; \$3 middle and high school
- Reduced-price meals for those who qualify

### Attention Future

### Westerville North Warriors:

You're invited to YOUTH NIGHT at Westerville North!

WHEN: Friday, September 9

WHERE: Jim McCann Stadium at WNHS

WHAT: Football Game vs Franklin Hts HS

\*Students from Mark Twain, McVay, Robert Frost, and Wilder are invited! Any K-5 student who wears their school's t-shirt will be given FREE entry. Parents can purchase tickets

online at: [westervillenorthathletics.com/event-tickets](http://westervillenorthathletics.com/event-tickets).

\*All K-5 students are invited to the south end zone area by 630 for a special welcome from our PA announcer. Students will then be able to run across the field to the north end zone area where they will stand for the National Anthem.

