



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



2022

Attendance: 797-7213
Office: 797-7200

Welcome to Kindergarten

Important Dates To Remember...



3rd Grade period begins	01/04
Achievement Records are available	01/07
Spirit Week	1/10 to 1/13
Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	01/17
PTA Meeting @7:00 p.m.	01/25
Early Release @ 2:30 p.m.	01/27

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY

A CALENDAR OF EVENTS INCLUDES:

Kindergarten 101

Kindergarten 101 is a presentation by principals and Kindergarten teachers. The purpose of the presentation is to inform parents of the process for enrolling their child for Kindergarten, educating parents on the typical Kindergarten day and what is expected of our Kindergarteners throughout the school year. This year, Kindergarten 101 will be pre-recorded and available via a link found on the Westerville City School website at 5:00 p.m. on January 5. Watch Kindergarten 101 available at www.wcsoh.org/Kindergarten, for more information regarding our online registration process.

Enroll early to secure a spot in your home school!

Parents must pre-register online (which will include scheduling an appointment). To pre-register online visit the district enrollment page at www.wcsoh.org/enroll beginning **January 10, 2022 after 10:00 a.m.** The All-Day Kindergarten application is part of the enrollment process for students new to the district. Additional details can be found at www.wcsoh.org/ADK.

Kindergarten Gentle Start and First Day of School

In July, parents will receive a letter from their child's school with an assigned date and time that their Kindergarten child is to report to school for Gentle Start. Gentle Start will take place during August 12-16. Kindergarteners will attend school on one of those three days. ALL Kindergarteners, however, will report to school on August 17.

Kindergarten Instructional Hours

- AM: 9:05 - 11:45 a.m.
 - PM: 12:50 - 3:30 p.m.
- All-Day Kindergarten: 9:05 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

2022-2023 KINDERGARTEN CLASS

We look forward to meeting our new families and greeting our returning families. Kindergarten is required for children before entering first grade. If your child will be five years old on or before September 30, 2022, you may register him/her for kindergarten. Westerville City Schools offers both Half-Day and All-Day Kindergarten within each home school. All-Day Kindergarten is a fee-based, lottery program with tuition assistance available to those that qualify. Additional details can be found at www.wcsoh.org/ADK.

Our procedure for registration is designed to meet the needs of parents and to personalize this experience. Please call the Enrollment and Family Resource Center (614-797-7700) with any questions regarding kindergarten registration.

If your child is currently enrolled in the Westerville City Schools' preschool program at the ELC, you do **not** have to re-register with Westerville City Schools, although you are encouraged to download informational materials at www.wcsoh.org/Kindergarten to familiarize yourself with Kindergarten-related opportunities and activities. Hard copies will be available in each elementary building and at the Early Learning Center/Administrative Office at 936 Eastwind Dr.





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.

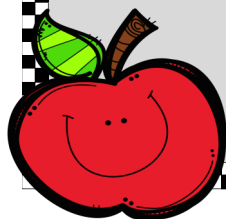
What if my child needs special services (Speech & Hearing, LD, etc.)? If you know, or suspect, your child has a disability, contact Westerville City Schools' Special Education office at 614-797-5900.

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.



MARK TWAIN NEWS



IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

- When dropping students off late, you must bring the student to the front door and ring the bell for entry. Only the student will enter the building. Parents will not be entering the building.
- When picking students up for appointments, you will ring the bell and let the front office know the reason for the early dismissal. Your student will be called down and will meet you at the front door. Please allow enough time for this when planning your pickup time for appointments.
- Students are not permitted to enter the building until 8:50 am. Please keep this in mind as you are dropping off your students in the morning.



In a world
where
you can be
anything
BE KIND

Winter Weather Watch

Winter weather is HERE and with it comes the possibility of **Delayed Starts and SNOW DAYS!** When inclement weather threatens and it is necessary to close or delay school for the safety of the students, announcements will be broadcast from local TV and radio stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. Should it be necessary to dismiss students early due to weather or road conditions, your child will be dismissed **as usual**. PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL. Want to be notified when there is an emergency delay or closing? Sign up today! Go to www.westerville.k12.oh.us and click on E-Communications.

SNOW EMERGENCY

Parents: In case of an unscheduled early dismissal, please review with your student how they are to go home.

CAFETERIA

The day after a snow day, the hot lunch served will be the one that was scheduled on the snow day! Breakfast will not be served when there is a delayed start to the school day!

REMINDER

When we have a 2 hour delay, our school doors will **not** open until 11:50 a.m. Please do not drop your students off early.



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



i have a dream!

Monday, January 17, 2022

No school!

HOME ADDRESS

&

PHONE NUMBER CHANGES



Please notify the school office if you have a change of address or telephone number during the school year.

We need your assistance in maintaining current, accurate information in our records. In the event of an emergency, we must be able to contact you.

MARK TWAIN REMINDERS AND REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION!

Clinic News

Westerville City School District nurses and health aides were among health care workers across the city that were recognized in a City of Westerville proclamation at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

"We can not thank health care workers enough but we're going to try," Westerville Mayor **Kathy Cocuzzi** said.

Cocuzzi and councilmember **Kenneth Wright** presented the [proclamation](#) to honor nurses and health aides from all of the city's partners, which include Mount Carmel St. Ann's and OhioHealth.

Marianne Troutman, Vicki Hutchison, Denise Stuckey-Xander — all of whom are nurses — and **Diane Loehr**, a health aide, represented the district at the city council meeting.



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Nurses and Health Aides are knowledgeable healthcare professionals who are leaders in the management and delivery of health care services; and WHEREAS, across the United States healthcare professionals work to enhance the professionalism and efficiency of health care; and

WHEREAS, healthcare professionals are striving to meet the challenges of an ever evolving health care system while continuing to provide safe, dependable, conscientious care; and

WHEREAS, the role of medical staff services personnel has become essential to effective health care management; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare industry, especially hospital and medical staff personnel, has experienced tremendous change and challenges in recent times; and

WHEREAS, the responsibility, dedication and fortitude of these devoted individuals to continue administering services in the face of danger and uncertainty serves as an absolute inspiration to all; and

WHEREAS, encouraging professional development for medical staff services personnel is essential for effective, productive, and competent hospital and medical staffs;

WHEREAS, the supply of healthcare professionals is not keeping pace with the demand, and there is an urgent need, not only to recruit well-qualified candidates into the profession, but also to retain staff in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, the appreciation for healthcare professionals during this past year simply cannot be overstated.

THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Cocuzzi, Mayor of Westerville do hereby recognize Nurses and Health Aides throughout Westerville, and I urge all our citizens to recognize the valuable and important role of the medical staff services profession across the United States.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused my seal to be affixed this 16th day of November, in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty One.



COLD WEATHER RECESS

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



NEWS AND INFORMATION

MARK TWAIN 2021 REFLECTIONS RESULTS

Projects that were sent to the district level:

Sophia Johnson
Cooper Schott
Zia Weitz
Layla Saburi
Tyeion Norton
Alice Shott
Isaiah Arnold
Reese Stubbs



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK
AT THE
STATE COMPETITION!!



Kindergarten Tuition Payment



All-day Kindergarten Tuition is due no later than the fifth day of each month. Please send your All Day Kindergarten Tuition to the school office, or by EZPay. To use the EZPay system: Visit the Westerville City School website at www.westerville.k12.oh.us. In the District Links section towards the bottom of page, click on Food Services, click on the EZPay Lunch Account Deposits and Student Fee payments link and you will be directed to the EZPay website. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the school office at (614) 797-7200. If you send money to school, please place the money in a clearly marked envelope and bring it to the office.

SPIRIT WEEK

Monday, January 10th

Kindness Matters—Sports team

Tuesday, January 11th

Your Future is Bright—Neon

Wednesday, January 12th

Life is Wacky—Wacky wear and hair

Thursday, January 13th

Ready for a Break—PJ

Friday, January 14th

Everyone is a Hero—dress like your favorite Hero!



Attention

5th Grade Parents!

Please submit a baby picture of your 5th grader to the school for the yearbook. The deadline for submission is February 4, 2022 at noon. The submission must be emailed to kauls@wcsch.org in a .jpg format. Include in the email, your child's name and his/her teacher's name.



Hello Winter

