

THE TWAIN TIMES



JANUARY 2021

Mark Twain Elementary

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

Important Dates To Remember...



School resumes	01/05
Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL	01/18
Virtual PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm	01/26



MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



Monday, January 18, 2021

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY.

The Westerville City School District (WCSD) is preparing to begin the registration process for its next kindergarten class. School officials look forward to meeting new families and greeting returning families. Kindergarten is required for children before entering first grade; families may register their children for kindergarten if they will be five years old on or before Sept. 30.

WCSD offers half-day kindergarten and all-day kindergarten classes within each home school. All-day kindergarten is a fee-based, lottery program with tuition assistance available for those that qualify. Those who wish to apply to the all-day kindergarten lottery may do so beginning Friday, Jan. 8 after 10 a.m., as part of the online enrollment application. Additional details are available online at www.wcsoh.org/ADK.

Kindergarten registration kicks off with Kindergarten 101 video presentations available online after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 6 at www.wcsoh.org/kindergarten.

Any family that is unsure of their current home school of attendance may contact any WCSD elementary school or the Enrollment and Family Resource Center at (614) 797-7700. The enrollment process begins with pre-registration online and, upon completion of the application, the setting of a virtual appointment to submit the required documentation to an enrollment specialist. Full details regarding the registration process can be found at www.wcsoh.org/enroll.

For additional information regarding kindergarten in Westerville, visit www.wcsoh.org/kindergarten.

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 prerecorded and available via a link from this site at 5:00 p.m. on January 6.

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.



Incoming Kindergarten Useful Information

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

PLEASE SEE THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS BELOW

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.wcsd.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, ext.

KINDERGARTEN
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT
SHARE Be Kind
Do your best
Make Good Choices
HAVE FUN

VIRTUAL PTA
January Meeting
January 26th
@ 7:00 p.m.

Mark Twain Reminders and Really Useful Information

NEWS FROM FOOD SERVICES

UPDATE



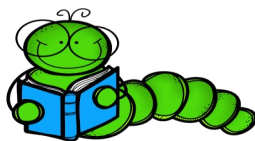
Free school meals available through the end of the 2020-21 school year.

The United States Department of Agriculture has extended free meal benefits to all students through the end of the 2020-21 school year. That means school meals students eat at school will be free for the entire school year.

To receive free meals during virtual instruction, families **NEED** to complete the **Westerville City Schools Opt-In Form for Weekly Meal Bags**. (See below.) This form only needs to be filled out once and can be canceled at any time by emailing Food Services at thomasr1@wcsoh.org.

LOST AND FOUND

Are you missing a shoe, a lunch box or a coat? Please remember to check the Lost and Found for misplaced items before the end of the month. All unclaimed items will be donated to W.A.R.M.



You can
FIND MAGIC
where ever
you look.
sit back
& relax.
All you
need is a
BOOK

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.

Clinic News

We hope you had a safe and enjoyable Holiday break! Westerville City Schools is committed to the safety and health of our students and staff. As we have transitioned back to remote learning, health services still must track COVID-19 related illness at school. Please follow this "Clinic Update" criteria to determine if your child is exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19. Please email our School Nurse at martinje@westerville.k12.oh.us to let us know:

If your student is diagnosed with COVID-19

And/or

If your student is a close contact to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.

A close contact is someone who has been closer than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more starting 48 hours before symptoms began, or 48 hours before the test was collected if the person is not having symptoms





NEWS AND INFORMATION

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.



River Pilot Pledge

I will be the best that I can be by:
Respecting myself and others
Listening and following directions
Keeping hands, feet, and objects to myself
Using positive words and actions
Being prepared to learn
I choose to be a leader at all times

COLD WEATHER RECESS

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



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 9:20 am. Please keep this in mind as you are dropping off your students in the morning.