

THE TWAIN TIMES

NOVEMBER 2020



Mark Twain Elementary

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

Attendance: 797-7213
Office: 797-7200

Important Dates To Remember...

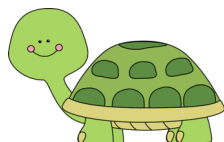


NO SCHOOL	11/03
Westerville Education day	
Elementary 1st Rotation ends	11/11
Virtual PTA Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.	11/17
Thanksgiving Break	11/25 through 11/27



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.



SUPPORTING MARK TWAIN!

We are so appreciative to have such wonderful and supportive families! Thanks to your support, our PTA is able to provide for the school in many ways, such as funding Field Trip Transportation, Assemblies, Classroom Materials, Family Events, Student Incentives/Rewards, Enrichment Programs, Clubs, School Directories, T-Shirts, Playground Maintenance, Summer Reading programs, and much more.

Please consider taking a few minutes to link some of your shopping rewards cards to Mark Twain. These are super easy ways we can earn money and classroom supplies for our school!



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Visit www.kroger.com/communityrewards Search for "Mark Twain Elementary PTA" or organization #84372 (must re-enroll every year).



AMAZONSMILE COMMUNITY REWARDS

Visit smile.amazon.com Search "Mark Twain Westerville" to find our official name

PTA Ohio Congress Mark Twain PTA

**EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT
MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!**

MARK TWAIN STAFF

wish all of you a
Very Happy Thanksgiving!



USEFUL INFORMATION

MARK TWAIN ATTENDANCE- 797-7213

Please remember to call the attendance line if your child is going to be absent or tardy for any reason including doctor and/or dentist appointments.

For health reasons we will ask illness specific questions. If you leave a message, please give us the reason for illness. Such as, does the child have a fever, chills, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath, headache, congestion or runny nose. Have they been exposed to or diagnosed with Covid-19, strep throat or the flu.

It is important that all calls are made to attendance by 9:00 a.m.



Updated Phone Numbers

Please note that we are required by law to have **two working phone numbers** for every student. Please provide us with any updated information as it changes.

River Pilot Pledge

I will be the best that I can be by:

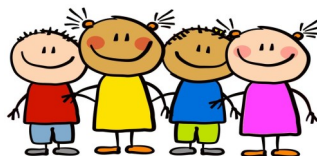
Respecting myself and others, listening and following directions, keeping hands, feet, and objects to myself, using positive words and actions, and being prepared to learn. I choose to be a leader at all times.



Student fees were due by August 31, 2020. If you have not paid, please pay on EZPAY or send a check made to:

WBOE (Westerville Board of Education)

K	\$18.50
1st	\$32.00
2nd	\$32.00
3rd	\$28.00
4th	\$30.00
5th	\$30.00



BRRRR...DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!



With the cold weather coming soon, this is a reminder that **children will go outdoors for recess** if it's not raining and the temperature is 20 degrees F or above, including wind chill. Children should wear appropriate seasonal clothing (boots, hats, gloves) for playground activities. A reminder from the clinic, if your child is attracted to the mud, please send a change of clothes in their backpacks.

STAY WARM!

MARK TWAIN REMINDERS AND REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION!

Students have busy days!

Students need lots of rest. Make sure your child goes to bed early so they are well rested and ready for a busy day at school.



Congratulations to our October Teachers of the Month

Natalie Martin



"Mrs. Martin is an absolutely PHENOMENAL teacher! She is so calm and collected and somehow makes every student always feel like they are being heard and understood which is a lot to accomplish in a classroom of 28 Students"

Mark Twain parent



VIRTUAL PTA MEETING

October 27TH

7:00 P.M.



PARENT PREP

Westerville City School District officials invite parents and guardians to mark their calendars for November 11, 12 and 14, 2020, and encourage them to virtually "attend" one or more live and/or recorded Parent Prep sessions. Parent Prep is a district initiative offering sessions in which participants will learn strategies in the areas of Mental Health, Wellness & Student Well Being; Technology; College & Career Readiness; Race, Racism and Equity; and Study Skills, Organizational Skills & Family Resources.

Parent Prep sessions offer valuable information to families of children at all grade levels and will address Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) topics such as Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making, and Relationship Skills. An electronic registration form is being finalized and soon will be available for parents/guardians to access. Attendees will be able to choose what sessions to participate in that most interests them. Classes will target age-appropriate strategies for Stress Management, Anxiety, Students and Technology, and COVID and changes in the school environment. Due to the sensitive nature of some topics, sessions are meant for adults only; students or other children are not permitted to participate.

SEL is the process of developing self-awareness, self-control, and interpersonal skills necessary for school, work, and life success. According to the Committee for Children, people with strong social-emotional skills are better able to cope with everyday challenges and benefit academically, professionally, and socially. Children thrive. Schools win. Workplaces benefit. Society strengthens. Learn more at <https://www.cfchildren.org>.

The Westerville City School District thanks Westerville Education Challenge (WEC) and Westerville Parent Council for their support of this Parent Prep event.



NEWS FROM FOOD SERVICES

SCHOOL MEALS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

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 thomasrl@wcschools.org.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is eligible for the free meal benefit?

All WCSD students in grades K-12 are eligible.

Do I need to qualify for these meals?

No. Every meal will be free until the USDA tells us otherwise. They will receive their free meals during regular in school breakfast and lunch and follow regular building lunch or breakfast instruction.

What is Opt-In and how do I do it?

Families need to opt in to receive free meals during virtual instruction (blended for weeks they are at home or in WVA). See the Cohort Information and Opt-In form below.

What meals are included in the free meal benefit?

Breakfast and a "meal deal" lunch, which includes a main item (protein and grain), veggies, and or fruit and milk. The food service staff at your school can help students identify what is included and there are multiple signs in all cafeteria. Most children that have eaten in our cafeterias understand this process. It's practiced at all levels elementary, middle and high school.

How does the meal pick-up work? Do we still pick up food, but every other week now?

Students in Cohort A&B will take home their weekly allotment of meals on the Friday while they are in the building before they start their week of virtual learning.

- **Cohort A&B** - High school and middle school students bring home food on Fridays. Elementary schools are working with the Food Service Department on details on how the food comes home from each school and may be split for a couple of days.
- **Cohort C** eats at school. Their breakfast and lunches are free at school but will not have an option to take food home. For students in Cohort OL / WVA:
- Starting **Saturday, Oct. 17**, families can pick up meals 8-10 a.m. every Saturday at Westerville South High School (303 Otterbein Ave. Westerville, OH 43081 Door #20)

If I have multiple children in WVA can we pick up at one location?

Yes. Contact ThomasRL@wcschools.org and we will work with you to make that happen.

Will we be notified if funding stops and will I be responsible for the meals price after that?

The USDA has told us they will give us notice if the funds are close to being depleted. Once the program stops families will go back to the status of full pay, or free or reduced if they have submitted an application this school year and have already been approved. As of October 1, 2020, any family that has not submitted a free- and reduced-meals application for this year will revert back to full pay.

Should I still submit a free and reduced lunch application?

Yes. This latest benefit of all meals being free will eventually go away and a family's status will revert back to full pay or free and reduced depending on application approval.

If I have already been approved for free and reduced lunch do I still need to fill out the Opt-In form?

Yes. If you want to receive meals during virtual learning, fill out the Opt-In form. It is a different process from the application.

What happens to the funds in my kids' lunch account?

The funds will remain in your child's account until this program has ended and the child will then start using the funds again or they can be used by your student to purchase a la carte items.

Can I opt-out of the virtual meal pick up?

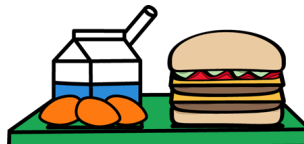
Yes. Submit your request to opt-out at any time to ThomasRL@wcschools.org

Are there menus available?

Yes. Go to www.nutrislice.com/westerville to see your menus, nutritional facts, allergens and carb intakes. This shows weekly food for opt-in meals and in-school meals. Menus are subject to change due to the pandemic and changes in the distribution of certain products. Menus will be updated daily as needed.

Questions?

Contact Food Services at 614-797-5993 or email thomasrl@wcschools.org.



NEWS AND INFORMATION

Clinic News

While handwashing and other measures help control the spread of coronavirus, wearing masks properly and maintaining social distancing are two of the greatest contributing factors to one's personal health and the health of others. These are also probably the two most visible actions we can take that others will see, including all of our students who take in the actions of the adults they trust. Many of us are visual learners, so if you need a refresher on the proper way to wear your mask, here's a simple illustration:



2020-2021

Mark Twain Elementary School

PTA Board Members

President:	Kelly Mazak (kmazak2002@yahoo.com)
Vice President:	Abby Gibson (Abigail_price@hotmail.com)
Treasurer:	Katie Simon (kitzler.katheryn@gmail.com)
Treasurer:	Judie Barsch (judie_ann@hotmail.com)
Financial Secretary:	Jessica Linek (jessicarose27@gmail.com)
Recording Secretary:	Leia Bame (the bameteam5@gmail.com)

No School

WE Day/Election Day November 3rd
Thanksgiving Break November 25th, 26th and 27th



BECOME A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER OUR SCHOOLS NEED YOU

Ever considered substituting?

The ESC of Central Ohio Substitute Consortium provides Central Ohio schools with substitutes in both teaching and non-teaching positions. It's a rewarding and flexible job, and becoming qualified is simple!

Get Started:

www.escco.org/substitutes

