

THE TWAIN TIMES

Mark Twain Elementary

SEPTEMBER 2020

Attendance: 797-7213
Office: 797-7200

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...



Labor Day NO SCHOOL	09/07
Virtual PTA Meeting @ 7:00 P.M.	09/29

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



bee
kind

VIRTUAL PTA MEETING
SEPTEMBER 29TH
7:00 P.M.



WELCOME BACK

Principal: Vicki Moss
Secretary: Susan Kaul
Nurse: Jenna Martin
Guidance: Serena Casale
Psychologist: Tasha Stoll-Juredine
Media Specialist: Pam Todd
Cafeteria Staff: Kathy Chiero and Jackie McDade
Custodians: John Clark and Thomas Thompson
Duty Aides: Lois Valdez, Barbie Pabst, Mark Edison
Crossing Guard: Kevin Martin
Instructional Coach: Liz Reichley
Reading Specialist: Monica Roberts, Elyson Gerton
Speech and Hearing: Alison Miller
ESL: Chelsie Lakeman, Donna Dixius, Asha Moallin
Success Coach: Sarah Whybrew
Art: Bob Kowalski
Music: Ian Murphy
Physical Education: Karen Garrison
Kindergarten: David Walker, Heather Ivery and Breanna Garrett
Grade 1: Natalie Hostetler, Judith Strain, Amanda Matchack, Carol Loudon
Grade 2: Lizzy Hafner, Natalie Martin, Mary Beth Theiss, Kim Weeks
Grade 3: Jenn Frashier, Alyssa Burkhart, Rachel Green, and Amanda Breckenridge
Grade 4: Kim Glaser, Angie Lee, Cindy Campbell, and Amy McCoy
Grade 5: Chris Henricksen, Shelley Seabury, April Hynes and Greg Mantieniks



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 ATTENDANCE

DELIVERY OF INSTRUCTION- BLENDED LEARNING

As you may have heard, Franklin County's status on Ohio's Public Health Advisory System has been upgraded to Level 2 due to improved health conditions in the region. As a result, we are finalizing a few logistical details on a phased-in return to Blended Learning for students who are not enrolled in our Westerville Virtual Academy.

Several weeks ago, we anticipated that the earliest we could potentially begin Blended Learning was in early October. However, according to the latest health data for the region, recommendations from health officials, and continued progress on our return plans, we will be able to transition to a Blended Learning model of instruction sooner than we first thought.

Given the remaining work to finalize this plan, we expect to be able to share specific dates and details with families later next week. Until then, here are a few important things we want you to know:

The transition to Blended Learning will be scheduled so families have ample time to plan.

Students will be following the [A/B Week schedule](#) as published, but because their return is being phased in, the first few days will be used to bring in smaller groups of students to help them learn how Blended Learning will work while they are at school, as well as while they receive remote instruction.

Phasing in our return to Blended Learning will give teachers and other staff members time to work with students on important details about their school day, such as how breakfast and lunch will work, what recess time will look like, mask breaks, and other safety-related matters.

As we move toward Blended Learning, families should also begin to watch for important information about district transportation services, as well as matters specific to your school, such as student drop-off and pick-up procedures.

We are pleased to share this latest announcement with you. Please watch for plan details to be released later next week, and thank you for your continued patience and support during these most unusual times.

FACIAL COVERINGS

- When in-person instruction resumes, policy/guidelines require staff to wear face coverings/shields (permitted exceptions identified).
- Policy/guidelines also require students in grades PK-12 to wear face coverings when in halls/common areas and classrooms. "Mask breaks" will be built into the school day per a district protocol under the direction of a staff member.
- Recommendation is for staff and students provide own facial mask; district will have supply on hand.
- Facial masks are required for anyone coming onto school property during the day and/or for school functions.
- Clinic staff will be provided appropriate PPE.



Internet access in Westerville city

City building parking lot at 64 E. Walnut St.

Westerville Public Library Parking Lot (126 S. State St.)

Intersection of South State and West Park Streets Westerville City Hall (21 S. State St.)

Intersection of North State Street and West College Avenue

Intersection of North State and West Main Streets

Once at an access point or drive-up Wi-Fi zone, connect your mobile device to the network (SSID) called "WeConnect." In addition to the new drive-up locations, access to free Wi-Fi is provided at every City facility, including the Westerville Community Center, Highland Park Aquatic Center, City Hall and the City building at 64 E. Walnut St.



MARK TWAIN REMINDERS AND REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION!



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

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.

NEWS FROM FOOD SERVICES

MEAL PRICE

2020-2021

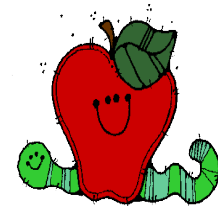
Elementary \$2.75

Reduced Price Lunches: \$0.40

Milk: \$0.60

Breakfast prices remain the same for the 2020-2021 school year.

Elementary \$1.25



Due to recent decisions by the United States Department of Agriculture, and while WCSD provides virtual and/or blended instruction for students, families **MUST** complete the Westerville City Schools Opt-In Form in order to receive a school breakfast & lunch during the 2020-21 school year. Click here [Opt-In Form](#) then click on Next at bottom of page to fill out form. Pick-up location and times will be confirmed soon.

Families who wish to apply for free or reduced-price meals **MUST** also complete the application for meal benefits at www.LunchApplication.com. Once you have agreed to the terms and conditions, select OH for Ohio and then choose Westerville City Schools. Families filling out this application must still Opt-In to receive lunch during virtual instruction.

Paper applications are available at school buildings, the Enrollment Center, and at the district Food Service office located at 125 E. Walnut St. For more information, visit the district's Food Service page.

Questions? Contact Lonnie Robinson in Food Service at 614-797-5993.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

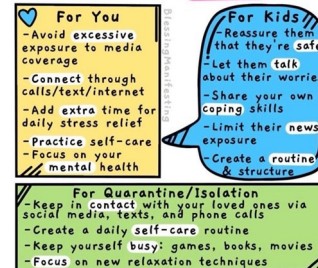


TWIGGLE TIMES—Mrs. Casale

Hi friends, I have created a virtual office. From here students, teachers, and parents will have access to many resources to help students stay successful while learning from home. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need anything or have any concerns.



MANAGING CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) ANXIETY



Feel free to visit Mrs. Casale's virtual office in the student's Schoology portal with the following :

access code: QWTQ-JRJ9-97HR2

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 bame team5@gmail.com)



Mark Twain PTA is going digital!

Visit marktwain.new.memberhub.store to:

*Join the PTA for \$10 family membership

*Order spirit wear (Note: this is in addition to the free t-shirt for all students)

Things to know:

PTA membership is still important even when we're not in the building!
There will be no Back to School picnic or Walkathon this fall.

Not sure if you want to join the PTA? Please still create an account on this website. Our plan is to use this as central communication for our clubs and committees as well as develop a school directory (opt-in) and grade-level/cohort-specific/WVA discussion forums.

PTA meetings will be virtual. Meeting details will come via school-wide email distribution.

More questions? Email: marktwainwestervillepta@gmail.com

Communication Reminders

One thing we heard this past spring from parents is that you wanted streamlined communications and online learning platforms for your students. Everyone has been working hard to honor that request and establish support mechanisms to create a more positive remote learning experience for everyone.

- **Make us a "safe sender"** Much of the information you will receive from the district will be sent through our SchoolMessenger notification system, which uses an email address of info@westerville.k12.oh.us. Even though you've received and are reading this message, it's never a bad idea to identify that email address as a "safe sender" in your email system. Every system is different, but please take a few minutes to find out how to complete this process. It's a simple step to help ensure that district emails make it to you regularly.
- **Know your folders** Some email systems automatically generate folders when they are set up (such as a "spam" folder) and route emails into these folders according to their content. We spoke with one parent who indicated they weren't receiving our emails, only to find all of them in a Gmail "Promotions" folder he didn't even know existed. Get to know your folder structure and check those folders periodically to make sure our messages aren't being filed somewhere else in your system.
- **Don't "opt out" of the system** At the bottom of every email sent through SchoolMessenger is the ability to "opt out" of future messages. Our district and our schools use SchoolMessenger to send many types of messages to families, including urgent safety communications. If you receive an email about the next fundraiser at your school and click "unsubscribe," thinking you'll no longer receive those fundraiser notices, you've also removed yourself from any and all future communications. The same goes for phone calls and text messages sent through the system.
- **Keep your PowerSchool records updated** SchoolMessenger updates nightly by pulling custodial parent/guardian contact information directly from our PowerSchool student information system. If you want to ensure your information is correct in our SchoolMessenger notification system, the only thing you need to do is keep your contact information updated in PowerSchool. It will also be much easier to troubleshoot any other issues that may occur beyond that. Use the PowerSchool portal or contact your school's main office to keep your contact information up to date.
- **Sign up for text messages** The district periodically will use SchoolMessenger to send text messages to parents and guardians. This is especially true during emergency situations. According to federal telecommunications rules, you must "opt in" to receive text messages from us. Using the cell phone(s) you have registered in PowerSchool, simply text the letter Y to 67587 and that will complete the process. To stop receiving text messages on a particular number, text STOP to 67587 at any time.

Follow us on social media We have three primary social media accounts and are about to become more active on a fourth. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WCSOH>; follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcsoh>; and view Board meetings, along with other various video resources, on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/WCSOOhio>. Also, be sure to keep an eye out for future Instagram postings at <https://www.instagram.com/mywcsd/>. Please know that we simply don't have the capacity to be on social media frequently or monitor comments/messages regularly. If you need to communicate with us or ask questions about anything posted or communicated through other means, you likely will receive a faster response by sending an email to our general e-mail address, which is wcs@wcsoh.org. Please continue to contact your school's main office for any building-specific needs.

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 communication 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.



TODAY
is the day to
learn something
NEW