

THE TWAIN TIMES

Mark Twain Elementary

SEPTEMBER 2019

Attendance: 797-7213
Office: 797-7200

Vicki Moss Principal
Susan Kaul Secretary
Kelley Knapp Attendance
Jessica Gilbert School Nurse
Sam Cox Health Aide
Serena Casale School Counselor

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

When your child arrives late or checks out early at school. He/she misses the teacher's instructions and the introduction or closure to the lesson. Frequent lateness can seriously disadvantage your child because of the considerable time lost learning in the classroom.

Important Dates To Remember...



WALK-A-THON	09/13
BREAKFAST WITH BOOKS BEGINS	09/18
PTA MEETING @ 7:00 pm	09/24
EARLY RELEASE @ 2:30 pm	09/26
FALL PICTURE DAY	09/27

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year.
5 Minutes	3.4 Days
10 Minutes	6.9 Days
15 Minutes	10.3 Days
20 Minutes	13.8 Days
30 Minutes	20.7 Days



SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9:05 a.m. Please help your child to be punctual.

EARLY RELEASE

THURSDAY

September 26th

2:30 P.M.



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 2019-2020 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. Elementary schools will dismiss at 2:30 p.m. on the following days:

September 26

November 14

January 30

March 12

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS WITH THESE IMPORTANT DATES

During an "Early Release" day:

The elementary school student day will be shortened by one hour, with dismissal at 2:30 p.m. for students in grades K-5.

Starting time and lunch for the day will not be affected.

Bus schedules for elementary school students will be one hour earlier for dismissal only.

Information for the YWCA Kids Place (SACC) program will be available from your site director.



MARK TWAIN ATTENDANCE

Encouraging Good Attendance

The 2019-20 school year has begun and our teachers and staff have exciting learning opportunities planned and high academic expectations for all of our students. We are committed to supporting all students to achieve their dreams and to experience an excellent 2019-20 school year. I am seeking your commitment to support your child's educational growth by making sure your child attends school every day possible this year. Good attendance starts early.



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 for any amount of time can have a negative impact on academic achievement. Students with good attendance perform better academically. 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.

I realize that every family faces challenges. Please let your child's teacher, counselor or me know if you are dealing with a challenge affecting your child's good school attendance. Your school family will help to 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.

VACATION REQUEST

We have a special request form if you plan on taking your child out of school for an extended period of time. Please contact the attendance clerk at 614-797-7213 for any questions regarding this form.

DRESS CODE

Flip flops and sandals create quite a safety hazard as they cause students to trip in the halls and on the playground. Bare toes and feet get scraped on the blacktop, scratched by mulch and sandals without straps fly off running feet. Please make sure your students wear sturdy shoes to school for their feet's sake!



Remember to dress respectfully, no short shorts, tank tops or midriffs are to be worn to school.

Clinic News

Welcome back! I hope you had a healthy and relaxing summer. I will be at Mark Twain on Thursday. Helping in the clinic when I am at other schools is Sam Cox, our Health Aide. I will be screening the Kindergarten, First, Third, and Fifth grades for vision and hearing this fall. If they don't pass their initial screening, I will re-schedule them and if they are still struggling, I will send a letter home to you recommending a professional assessment. If you have a student in any other grade you need screened, please let me know. Please feel free to call anytime you have a concern. The Mark Twain Clinic phone number is 797-7204. I hope this will be a very healthy, happy year for your child.

GUIDELINES FOR SENDING A CHILD HOME:

1. fever of 100 degrees or higher
2. vomiting
3. diarrhea
4. undiagnosed/suspicious rash or head lice

If your child is sent home with a fever, they must be free from medication and fever free for 24 hour before they return to school.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICINES

In order for a child to receive prescription medicines at school the office needs a medical release that has been completed by your physician and signed by the parent/guardian. The medication must be in a prescription labeled bottle. The medication and the label must match the medical authorization form filled out by your physician. If there is a change in the medication dosage, a new form must be sent to school and prescription label on the bottle must match. Over the counter medications can be given at school only if the above guidelines are followed. A form is published in the student handbook or available in the clinic. Please send only a one week's supply of medicine.

EMERGENCY CARDS

It is very important that emergency cards have current information, especially phone numbers and health problems. The emergency card is the way I find your child's medical history and allergic reactions. Please notify the clinic or myself of any changes or information you may have forgotten to inform us about.



MARK TWAIN REMINDERS AND REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION!

MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY 8TH ANNUAL WALKATHON

Join us Friday, September 13th on Walnut Springs Track! Help raise \$12,000 to support our schools! 100% of donations directly benefit all students by providing classroom materials and supplies, playground equipment, enrichment programs, spirit wear, field trips, assemblies, clubs, family events, and more.

BEFORE THE EVENT: Students seek donations from family and/or close friends up until September 11th. Donations should be a flat rate, not per lap total, and students should NOT approach strangers. Please note that to be eligible for prizes, donations are due on or before September 11th (2 days prior to the event). All prizes will be awarded the day of the event!

PRIZES & REWARDS: If our \$12,000 goal is met, the top 5 students that bring in the most money in donations will go OUT TO LUNCH with Mrs. Moss, Mrs. Casale and Mrs. Kaul. Every student who brings in a minimum of \$25.00 will be entered in a drawing to win a raffle prize, (each \$25.00 increment will earn an additional raffle ticket.) Students who bring in a minimum of \$100 will be entered into a separate drawing for a larger prize. The top classroom per grade will be awarded an extra recess and Popsicle party! The top classroom overall will get an ice cream sundae party!

SCHEDULED WALKING TIMES

9:30 -10:30	K (am and all day) 1st and 2nd grade
10:45 - 11:45	3rd, 4th and 5th grade
1:00-2:00	K (pm) on Mark Twain's playground

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF MARK TWAIN!



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.

Doctor Notes...

Headed to school after a morning doctor or orthodontist appointment or leaving early to get to an afternoon appointment? Please remember to ask for a doctor's excuse so that the absence or tardy can be properly coded as a medical excuse.



ATTENDANCE LINE

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,

ATTENDANCE LINE: 797-7213

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





NEWS AND INFORMATION



BREAKFAST WITH BOOKS

Breakfast with Books will begin on Wednesday, September 18th and run for five weeks. We will meet before school beginning at 8:15 am.

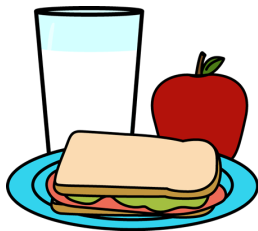
Please do not drop students off before 8:00 a.m. Kids will be grouped by grade and reading level to participate in a small group book club with books at their level. It is a great opportunity to read some new books and learn how to delve into them at a deeper level.

We will serve continental breakfast items that the groups can enjoy while they are reading and discussing in their groups. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Abby Gibson at abigail_price@gmail.com or 614-797-7200 if you have any questions. We look forward to another great season of reading!



ELEMENTARY NIGHT AT WESTERVILLE NORTH

On Friday, September 6th, Westerville North will be hosting an elementary night at Jim McCann Stadium for all students from Mark Twain, Robert Frost, McVay, and Wilder Elementary schools. There will be a free tailgate party sponsored by Lifepoint Church Westerville at 5:30 pm outside the stadium, with kickoff set for 7:00 pm against Thomas Worthington High School. Any student wearing a shirt or apparel from their elementary school will be admitted free of charge to the game (adult tickets are \$7 each). Come out and support the Warriors and show off your school spirit at North on Friday, September 6th!



NEWS FROM FOOD SERVICES

The cafeteria cannot take credit card payments. You may make credit card payments using EZPay in PowerSchool. You may pay for lunch with cash and checks at the school.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCHES: You must apply every year. Applications are online.

Complete and Access Student Information Online

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Student forms can be completed online. If you need your login and password, please contact the office at 614-797-7200 Update contact information, medical information, you can pay student fees and lunch online.

STUDENT FEE & TUITION

Westerville student fees for consumable instructional materials for the 2019-2020 school year are:

KINDERGARTEN	\$18.50
GRADES 1 & 2	\$32.00
GRADE 3	\$28.00
GRADES 4 & 5	\$30.00

School Fees are Dual Fees can be paid online through your student's EZPay account: (a nominal fee is charged for online payments). Or, you can pay by cash or check in our Mark Twain office



This is a one time fee for this school year.

If you qualify for free or reduced lunch prices, the fee amount can be reduced. You must give permission in the PowerSchool parent portal for the food service department to share your information with school officials.

Please pay through EZPay system, check or money order made payable to Westerville Board of Education. Cash payments must be paid in the exact amount. Credit card payments can be made online, not at the school.