

# THE TWAIN TIMES

SEPTEMBER 2017

Attendance: 797-7213  
Office: 797-7200

Mark Twain Elementary  
Vicki Moss: Principal  
Susan Kaul: Secretary  
Kelley Knapp: Attendance  
School Nurse: Jessica Gilbert  
Sam Cox: Health Aide  
Serena Casale: School Counselor  
Roshonda Elder: Intern



## Important Dates To Remember...

PTA Back to School Picnic 5:30 to 7:00	09/07
PTA Walk-A-Thon	09/15
PTA Meeting @ 7:00 pm	09/26
Early Release @ 2:30 pm	09/28



### RECESS

1st 11:00 - 11:30  
2<sup>ND</sup> 11:25 - 11:55  
ADK 11:45 - 12:15  
3<sup>RD</sup> 11:50 - 12:20  
4<sup>TH</sup> 12:15-12:45  
5<sup>TH</sup> 12:40 - 1:10

### LUNCH

11:30 - 11:55  
11:55-12:20  
12:15-12:45  
12:20- 12:45  
12:45 - 1:10  
1:10 - 1:35



### BELL SCHEDULE

First Tone (doors open) 8:50 a.m.  
Second Tone: 9:05 a.m.  
Get Ready Bell 3:20 p.m.  
Walkers & Car Riders 3:28 p.m.  
School Bus 3:30 p.m.

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!

**Principal:** Vicki Moss

**Intern:** Roshonda Elder

**Secretary:** Susan Kaul

**Attendance Clerk:** Kelley Knapp

**Nurse:** Jessica Gilbert

**Health Aide:** Sam Cox

**Guidance:** Serena Casale

**Psychologist:** Nikki Placencia

**Media Specialist:** Pam Todd

**Cafeteria Staff:** Kathy Chiero and Jackie McDade

**Custodians:** Walt Nelson and Bob Kessell

**Duty Aides:** Lance Hudnell, David Payton, Lois Valdez, Barbie Pabst, Julie Day, Terri Sheilds

**Crossing Guard:** Lois Valdez

**Instructional Coach:** Geriann Patterson

**Reading Specialist:** Monica Roberts, Kelly Calhoun

**Speech and Hearing:** Allison Miller

**ESL:** Chelsie Lakeman, Susan Kafoure, Donna Dixius, Suad Ibrahim,

**Art:** Bob Kowalski

**Music:** Ian Murphy

**Physical Education:** Karen Garrison

**Kindergarten:** David Walker, Heather Ivery

**Grade 1:** Natalie Gardner, Judith Strain, Amanda Matchack, Carol Louden

**Grade 2:** Elizabeth Cumming, Natalie Martin, Marybeth Theiss, Kim Weeks

**Grade 3:** Jenn Bichsel, Alyssa Burkhardt, Lizzy Hafner, and Amanda Eschleman

**Grade 4:** Kim Glaser, Angie Lee, Cindy Campbell, and Amy McCoy

**Grade 5:** Chris Henricksen, Shelley Seabury, April Hynes and Greg Man-tenieks



## MARK TWAIN NEWS

### Mark Twain Attendance....797-7213



If your child is going to be absent, please call the Attendance Line first thing in the morning. When reporting an absence, we need the following information: Caller's name and relationship, student's name, teacher, and the specific reason for the absence (including any type of rash, fever, cough, or stomach issues.) Please remember that student absences need to be called in daily. If your child has had a fever, s/he must be fever free (without meds) for 24 hours before returning to school. If you have any questions about your child's return to school after being ill, please call the Mark Twain Clinic directly at 797-7204.

If you need to pick up your student from school early for an appointment, please send a note in stating the reason for early departure and the time you will be picking him/her up. The parent or guardian will need to sign the student out in the school office prior to leaving the building. **Please bring the doctor/dentist's office excuse in upon return.**

## CHANGES IN ATTENDANCE

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways schools and families can work together to prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When we make school attendance a priority, we help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

The State of Ohio, specifically House Bill 410, also recognizes the importance of student attendance. House Bill 410 requires schools and families to work collaboratively to improve school attendance.

As the primary caregiver to your child, you need to be aware of the new terminology regarding school attendance and House Bill 410.

**Excessively absent** is defined as a student missing 38 plus hours (excused or unexcused) of school in one month OR 65 plus hours (excused or unexcused) of school in one school year

**Habitual truancy** is defined as a student missing 30 consecutive hours (unexcused) of school; OR 42 hours (unexcused) in one month; OR 65 hours (unexcused) in one school year

**Attendance intervention team** is a group of individuals who gather with the primary purpose of developing a plan to improve a student's school attendance

Please know that if a student accrues any additional hours of unexcused absences, they could become "habitually truant". Once a student is identified as being habitually truant, a plan must be developed and implemented by the school and family of the child; with the purpose of improving student attendance.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the attendance 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, and being prepared to learn. I choose to be a leader at all times.**



### EARLY RELEASE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER  
28TH

2:30 P.M.

### TRANSPORTATION

As the 2017-18 school year gets underway, I would ask our families to become familiar with traffic and parking signage on school grounds, as well as in our surrounding neighborhoods. During school events, or when student drop off and pickup occurs, the increase in vehicle traffic can sometimes create traffic issues for local residents. We want to be good neighbors and your support in following posted traffic and parking signage goes a long way toward allowing this to happen.

# MARK TWAIN REMINDERS AND REALLY USEFUL INFORMATION!



## PLEASE DO A DAILY BACKPACK CHECK.

Most school information will come home on Friday in Friday Folders. When young children come home, look through their backpacks with them. What assignments do they have? Are there papers for you to sign? Older children should have a special spot, such as a basket, kitchen table, or file, in which to put information for parents.

PLEASE.....remember to label all of your student's supplies and personal items with their name. It is easier to return a coat if we can identify the owner!

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.



## FALL PICTURES

FRIDAY, September 29th

SAY CHEESE!



**JUST A REMINDER...** Due to the number of students involved in selling items for extra curricular activities..... it has become very difficult to purchase from every student. PLEASE refrain from sending these fundraisers to school!



School Fees are Due! 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.

## NEWS FROM FOOD SERVICES

### MEAL PRICE INCREASE

2017-2018

Elementary \$2.75

Reduced Price Lunches: \$0.40

Milk: \$0.60

Breakfast prices remain the same for the 2017-2018 school year.

Elementary \$1.25

Reduced Breakfast: No charge

WCS has a "lunch account system" that each student can access by using his/her six digit student ID number. The cafeteria will attempt to notify students when their accounts are low, but we ask that you track this at home as well. Payments can be made by cash, check (payable to Westerville City Schools—Food Services), or online through the Easy Pay program (there is a service charge). Please place payment in an envelope and write student's name, teacher and ID number on it.

If you think you would qualify and would like to apply for free or reduced price meals, we encourage you to use the on-line meal application at [www.lunchapplication.com](http://www.lunchapplication.com). Breakfast is served at all Westerville elementary schools from 8:50—9:05 a.m.



# NEWS AND INFORMATION



2016-2017

## Mark Twain Elementary School

### PTA Board Members

- President: Denise Ockerman
- Vice President: Lori Krupa
- First Treasurer: Abby Gibson
- Second Treasurer: Kristi Hageman
- Financial Secretary: Kelly Mazak
- Recording Secretary: Shayla Werner

### ATTENTION MARK TWAIN VOLUNTEERS

Westerville Board of Education policy has made it mandatory that we have on file a Volunteer Statement for every person working as a volunteer in our building or chaperoning on a class field trip. If you are planning to serve as a volunteer in our building or as a chaperone and you have not already completed a form for this school year, please obtain the necessary form from the school office. **It is required that each volunteer/chaperone complete a form for each new school year.**



Please contact our school office at 797-7200 if you have any questions.

### BREAKFAST WITH BOOKS HAS MOVED TO THE FALL!



Breakfast with Books! will begin on Wednesday, October 4th and run for six weeks. We will meet before school beginning at 8:05 am. 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 Angie Lee at [leea@wcsoh.org](mailto:leea@wcsoh.org) or 614-797-7200. We look forward to another great season of reading! Sign ups will be coming home soon!

### Back to School Picnic

Thursday, September 7, 2017

5:30–7:00 p.m.

PTA will provide hot dogs, lemonade and water!

K–3 grade families please bring a side dish

4–5 grade families please bring a dessert

Music will be provided !

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CHAIRS OR BLANKETS!**



### DISTRICT POLICY REGARDING BIRTHDAY TREATS

As we start the 2017-2018 school year, Mark Twain Elementary School is taking an active role in promoting, supporting, and modeling healthy eating habits for our students. While we recognize that our children love to celebrate special events such as birthdays with their peers and teachers, we also recognize that we have a tremendous opportunity to promote healthy behaviors and to show students how to enjoy special moments such as birthdays without making food the focus of our celebrations. In an effort to nurture healthy choices and to strengthen our school-wide commitment to wellness, we will be implementing new practices for individual student celebrations (birthdays, moving to a new school, etc.) and we will no longer allow students to distribute edible treats for these events. Instead, we have identified other celebration options. Below are our school's approved choices for alternatives to food treats:

- Donate a book to your child's classroom or to our school library's Birthday Book - Club. You may want to contact your child's teacher for book suggestions.
- Donate an indoor recess game to your child's classroom.
- Distributed small tokens such as stickers, birthday pencils, or pencil toppers to the class.
- Provide an autograph book or tee shirt for your child that classmates can sign.



We appreciate your partnership as we implement our new school practices. Please note that any food-item sent to school will NOT be opened or distributed and will be returned home with the child. We will continue to have schoolwide celebrations such as the Fall Party, Winter Party and Valentine Party, at which we will continue to share nutritious snacks and will allow classrooms to share some treats. Children embrace being recognized by their peers and teachers for special occasions and our new practices will ensure the focus of our celebrations are on the student and not the edible treat. We invite our Mark Twain school community to join us in our efforts to promote lifelong, healthy, and nutritional habits in our students. We will continue our class parties with food but will have limitations for all students to enjoy.