

Mark Twain Elementary School

Family Updates



April 1st, 2020

Hello Mark Twain Families!

We hope this update finds you and your family healthy. We miss all of you so much. While we are unable to learn together at this time, our goal is to stay connected with families through regular updates and ideas to engage your scholars in their learning.

Starting today, Wednesday April 1st, Mark Twain staff members will be reaching out to families by phone to ask some questions about technology access. Staff members will be using Google Voice accounts to make these calls. Please note, the area code may look unfamiliar when the call is made. Please make every attempt possible to answer the call if you are able. If you are unable to pick up the phone, please call back no later than Friday afternoon so this information can be submitted.

Below is a list of questions families may have during this time.

Are additional resources available?

Please check the FWPS website for additional resources about at-home learning.

Grades K-2: <https://www.fwps.org/Page/7462>

Grades 3-8: <https://www.fwps.org/Page/7464>

Resources are also available on the Mark Twain website. This page will be updated throughout the duration of the closure. <https://www.fwps.org/marktwain>

When can I expect to hear from my child's teacher?

Teachers will be reaching out to families via email two times each week.

Where can scholars go for meals?

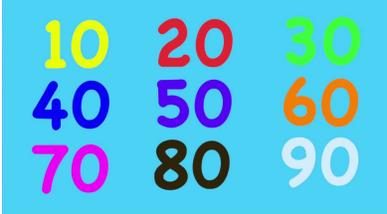
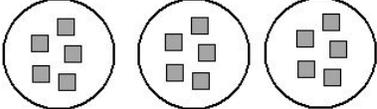
Two primary locations for Mark Twain scholars:

- Mark Twain Elementary, Monday-Friday, 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Crestview West, Monday-Friday, 1:55-3:00 PM
- Other sites and information are located on the FWPS website:

<https://www.fwps.org/Page/7460>

MATH

Math is fun and easy to do at home. Here are some ways to practice for every grade level!

Kindergarten & 1st Grade: Counting by 5s and 10s		
<p>Practice counting out loud by 5's and 10's. See if you can count to 100!</p>  <p>Challenge: Count by 5's or 10's to 200!</p>	<p>Do you speak another language?</p> <p>Try counting by 5's or 10's in that language too!</p>	<p>Count out 100 items...beans, noodles, buttons...whatever you have.</p> <p>Make groups of 5 and then practice counting by 5's.</p>  <p>Make groups of 10 and then practice counting by 10's!</p>

2nd & 3rd Grade: Telling Time		
<p>What kinds of clocks do you have in your home?</p> <p>I have ___ analog clocks.</p>  <p>I have ___ digital clocks.</p> 	<p>Make a schedule of your day. Include when you wake up, when you eat, when you read, when you go to bed, and more!</p> <p>Next to each activity, write the time on a digital and analog clock.</p> <p>Example:</p>  <p>Wake up</p>	<p>Here are blank clocks you can copy:</p>

Students can:

- **say the words**
- **write the words**
- **say/write the word in a sentence**
- **find these trick words in their reading**

Grade Level	Trick Words
Kindergarten	a, and, are, as, has, his, is, the, to, was
1st Grade	about, any, between, down, each, how, many, now, our, out, say, says, see
2nd Grade	America, away, breakfast, country, early, favorite, great, head, ocean, ready, school, son, thought, whose, won

Preposition Practice! Prepositions are important little words that help us understand how ideas go together. Draw a picture to show what each of these words means. Families, you can also help English learners with prepositions by having your student act out these prepositions.

In

Between

On

Under

Above

Next to

Below

Beside

Between

Over



WRITING GRADES 3-5

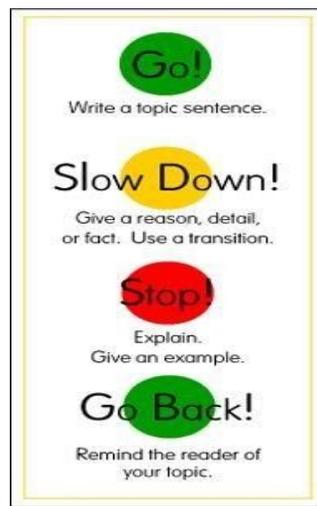


How to win arguments and get what you want!

Do you want to become skilled at arguing and getting your way at home and school? Who doesn't, right? Well here's how.

Being able to state your ideas and offer evidence for your arguments is an excellent skill to have! If you can convince people that you are right, you will be able to achieve so much more with your friends, family, teachers and new people that you meet. Persuasive writing is about trying to get the reader to agree with your opinion or ideas.

Try using our stoplight colors and graphic organizer to help you organize your thoughts when writing an opinion paragraph.



How to write an opinion paragraph

- 1st Introduce your argument in the topic sentence
- 2nd Support your argument with at least 3 reasons
- 3rd Provide evidence for each reason
- 4th Finish your argument with a strong closing statement (summarize your ideas)

Why We Should Get a Dog!

Topic Sentence (state your opinion)

Dogs make great pets for several reasons.

Reason

One reason dogs make great pets is that they are loyal.

Evidence/Example

They wag their tails when you come home because they are glad to see you and some dogs have traveled hundreds of miles just to be with their humans!

Reason

Another reason dogs make great pets is because they are fun and playful.

Evidence/Example

Depending on their size and strength dogs can do many activities with humans, such as running, hiking, swimming and playing ball.

Reason

Finally, dogs make great pets because they can be helpful to humans.

Evidence/Example

Dogs can be trained to guard, hunt, protect and serve as guides to people with physical or mental challenges.

Conclusion (summarize your ideas and leave them believing)

I believe we should get a dog because they are faithful, fun and an overall perfect pet!

❖ **TIP for making your own graphic organizer** - Fold your paper in eighths, hot dog style.

You will have 4 boxes on each side. Then color-code each box.

What do you want to make happen? Opinion Topics

- ★ I should be able to go to bed when I want.
- ★ I should be able to stay home alone.
- ★ I should be allowed to eat ice cream every day.
- ★ Convince your family to let you watch your favorite show or play your favorite game.
- ★ Convince your family to get you a pet.
- ★ Convince your family which sport you should get to play.
- ★ Persuade your family to give you an allowance, a bigger allowance.
- ★ Persuade your family to let you open a birthday present the day before your birthday.
- ★ All classrooms should have a class pet.
- ★ There should be no homework at school.
- ★ Break times at school should be longer.
- ★ Students should be allowed to pick their own seats in class.
- ★ School vacations should be longer.
- ★ Students should be allowed to choose their teacher.
- ★ We should have 3 day weekends.
- ★ Choose one and tell why:
 - Imagine you're in the future, you can live on land or underwater.
 - Imagine you can choose a superhero power, fly or stop time.
 - Imagine you get to live in another country.

Try it out and have fun convincing others to believe or do something!



WRITING GRADES K-2

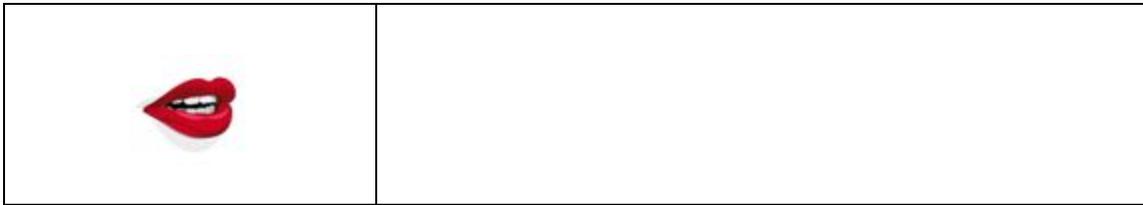
Spring is here, which means this is a great time to make nature observations! An observation is what you can see, hear, feel, smell, and/or taste. Use your senses to make an observation about something you see in nature, like a tree, flower, plant, or an insect. Before starting, follow these directions:

- 1) Get ready to go outside! Make sure you're with an adult or a responsible person (like an older sibling), and always get permission to go outside. If you cannot go outside, that's okay. You can still make a nature observation by looking outside a window.
- 2) Take a pen or pencil, the Nature Observation Form, and if you have it, something hard to record your observations on (e.g. clipboard, notebook).
- 3) Choose something to observe.
- 4) Use pictures and/or words to describe what you're sensing. Note that not all senses may be used (for example, tasting is probably only appropriate if you're observing a piece of fruit or vegetable).
- 5) Have fun!

Nature Observation Form

Observation Topic: _____ Date: _____

Sense	Description using pictures/words
I saw 	
I heard 	
I felt 	
I smelled 	
I tasted	



MUSIC



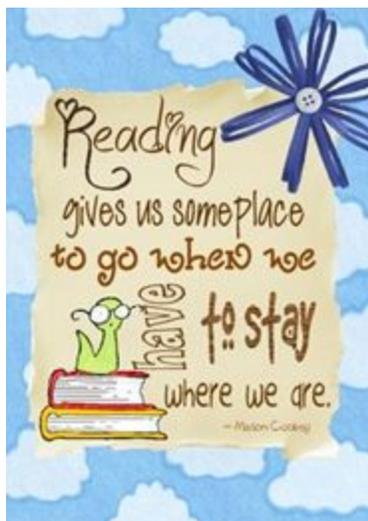
Here are some resources and activities to keep practicing music at home! How many can you do?

<p>Here is a YouTube playlist with songs and activities. More are added every day! https://bit.ly/2QHaqWt</p>	<p>Teach your family a dance we learned in class!</p>	<p>Explore different items that could be used as drums? Can you make it into music? What other types of sounds can you create?</p>
<p>Teach your family a song we learned in class and make up your own movements!</p>	<p>Think of words that rhyme, then make up a song using those words.</p>	<p>Use pat, clap, stomp, and snap to create your own new body percussion pattern.</p>

What music have you been listening to at home? Specific artists or styles?

Send me an email with the music you've been listening to!
whitewhatton@fwps.org

LIBRARY



Poetry Month

Hi Bullfrogs! Did you know April is Poetry month? That's right. This month we get to celebrate one of the most creative forms of writing. With poetry, you can express yourself your way. Poems can rhyme, but they don't have to rhyme. Either way, it's up to you. Poems are a great way to describe how you are feeling, or what your world is like.

This week I am encouraging you to write a poem using one of your five senses: sight, hearing, smell, taste, or



touch. Spend a couple of minutes writing down what you observe, then turn it into a poem. Here's a poem about hearing from my friend, Ms. Young, the librarian at Wildwood and Lake Grove.

Sounds

An airplane roars overhead like a lion,
Birds sing in the trees outside.
Inside I hear the buzz of the dryer,
And water dripping in the sink.

Outside I hear voices and laughter.
Inside, the tick of the clock.
I hear the rush of my breathing,
As I sit and listen and think.

Enjoy your writing. Remember, it's not a requirement, it's just for fun. If you want some other ideas, you can explore more at <https://poetryfoundation.org>

Happy writing! Keep reading!
Mr. Mayer
smayer@fwps.org

PBIS

Virtual Frog Slips!

At school, we give out "Frog Slips" to scholars when they show they are being safe, respectful, and responsible. We'd love to capture our amazing scholars being safe, respectful, and responsible when at home, too!

To do this, we will use "Virtual Frog Slips."

Please go to <https://forms.gle/txmzUVXw1SQc4MSV9> fill out a Virtual Frog Slip and let us know how your scholar(s) was safe, respectful, and/or responsible at home. We will compile a list of all these Virtual Frog Slips to share and celebrate our awesome scholars. ~Ms. Veling & Mr. Lurker

BULLFROGS ARE...SAFE, RESPECTFUL, AND RESPONSIBLE!

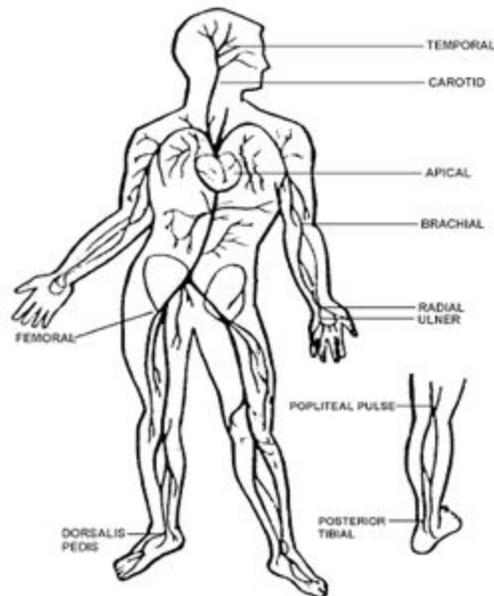
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Cardio Unit K-5

7 Places to locate your pulse:

Cardio Unit Grades K-5

*Underline/circle terms*Color the character*Point to each spot on your body



COUNSELOR'S PAGE

Helping Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic

There are some things families can do to support their children during school closure related to the COVID-19 pandemic. While health and physical safety is a priority, it is also important to consider how children are thinking, feeling and talking about what is happening around them.

Talk to Your Children:

- Ask your child to tell you what they know about COVID-19 and share the facts as needed.
- Help children draw pictures or other activities to express their feelings.
- Be extra patient and provide comfort if children say they are worried.
- Limit screen time about COVID-19

Be mindful of Your Routine:

- Mark off the days on a calendar. Show children that school will start again in a few weeks.
- Keep your family's bedtime, meal, and exercise routine consistent.
- Find ways to include movement and physical activity, such as dance, stretches, yoga, and/or calisthenics.
- Do things at home that have made you and your family feel better in other stressful situations, including, watching movies, listening to music, playing games, exercising, or practicing religious activities.
- Make a routine for school work and house chores and screen time.

Care for Yourself so You Can Care for Others:

- Take small breaks.
- Be aware of your feelings, practice deep breathing and focusing on what you CAN control.
- Connect with others, reach out by phone, text, or email.
- You are a role model for your children. How you handle this stressful situation can affect how your children manage their feelings.

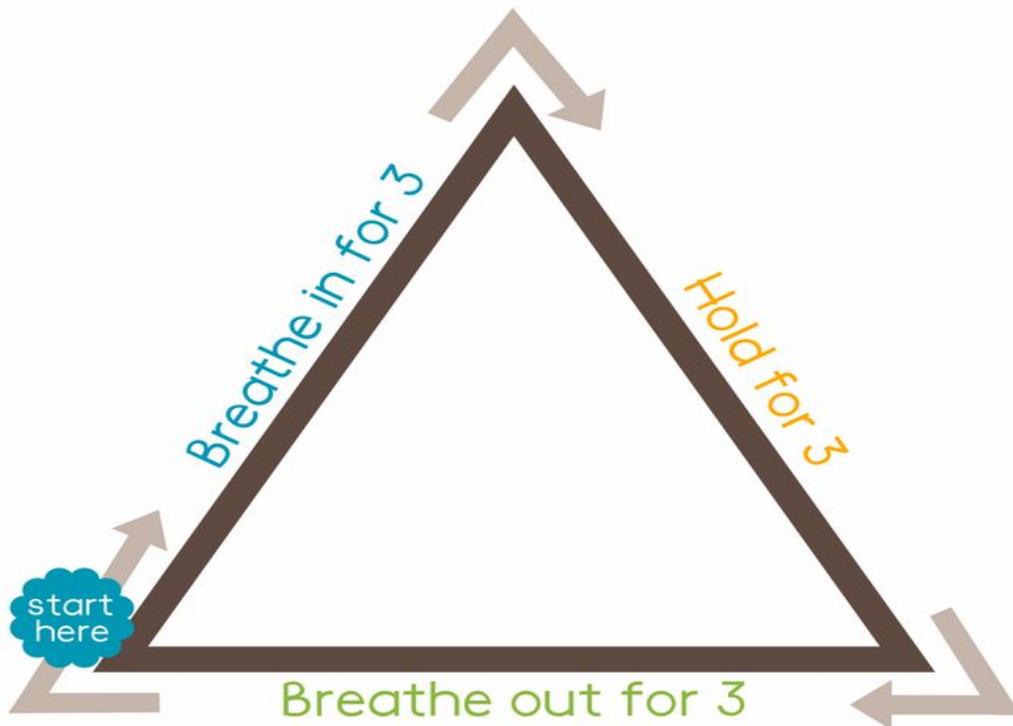
Please use the below resources if you are feeling overwhelmed and need to talk:

National Parent Helpline: 855-427-2736

Suicide Prevention: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Triangle Breathing

Start at the bottom left of the triangle. Follow the sides around the whole triangle to complete one deep breath.



www.copingskillsforkids.com
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RESOURCES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND ALL SCHOLARS

Hi Mark Twain staff, students and families,

We hope you are all doing well and enjoying our sunshine!

Below you will find a variety of websites to support Literacy, English Language Arts, and English language development.

Also, please feel free to reach out to us directly at any time for help or support during this unique at-home learning time: cbradber@fwps.org, kgulotta@fwps.org, evoboril@fwps.org.

--Mr. Bradberry, Ms. Gulotta, and Mr. Voboril

Readworks.org <https://www.readworks.org/>

Reading passages and comprehension questions for a large range of grades and reading levels.

Their website states [ReadWorks is here to support educators and families facing the unprecedented challenge of remote learning due to COVID-19. Please find remote learning resources for educators here, families here, and our updates & policies here.](#) As always, as part of our nonprofit mission, ReadWorks platform and materials are completely free.

Newsela.com: <https://newsela.com/>

This website is geared toward teacher use but families may also be able to access. It offers a range of text topics aligned with national and state learning standards.

Their website states: [Whether your school is teaching through a closure or building plans to prepare, we're here to help you ensure that learning doesn't stop. We're offering free access to Newsela's entire product suite for the rest of the 2019/2020 school year.](#)

Colorin Colorado: <https://www.colorincolorado.org/>



This is an amazing English learning site with lots and lots of useful resources, research, videos, and an entire section devoted to “For Families”.

Their website states: *A bilingual site for educators and families of English Language Learners*

Starfall: <https://www.starfall.com/h/>

An educational website for students preK-3rd grade or for English newcomers. This site has many free aspects but at this time a low cost fee will give you expanded availability and content.

Their website states: **Starfall activities are research-based and align with Individual and Common Core State Standards in English language arts and mathematics.**

TIPS AND STAYING IN CONTACT

Tip: Children who have routines at home are the most successful with routines at school.

Create a daily routine for your child, so there is a sense of predictability in your child’s day. It does not have to be rigid, but it should be practical and easy to stick to. It will also help when it is time to transition back to school when we return.

Thank you for reading this week’s edition of Mark Twain Family Updates! We encourage you to stay engaged with us throughout the week.

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/MarkTwainFWPS/>

TWITTER: <https://twitter.com/MarkTwainFWPS>

Send photos of your scholars learning at home to socialmedia@fwps.org

We are including email addresses for staff members on the next page. Please reach out with any questions you may have.





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