



Twain Weekly update for the week of 5/4/2020

Good morning, Twain Families. I hope you all were able to get outside and get a bit of fresh air and sunshine this weekend. What a wonderful Spring weekend and a great chance to take a deep breath and maybe find some good in the midst of these challenging times. This week, I'm grateful for my family's health, for the budding trees, and the sounds of nature coming to life. I hope you and your families are also able to find some simple joys and reasons to feel thankful, despite the real hardships that so many of us are facing. I think of our Twain families constantly and continue to hope you're all doing okay.

As I've mentioned, today kicks off a week-long celebration of teachers and school staff members during National Teacher Appreciation Week 2020. Now more than ever, our teachers and staff are working so hard to make the most of this very tough situation to give our students the best possible experiences so they can continue to grow academically and make connections to each other and to us. Like the rest of the world, teachers were not given much time to prepare for this new reality. But during the past seven weeks, they have continued to learn new methods, make adjustments, and work nearly around the clock because they love their students and want to give them their best. I've never been so proud to be a part of this team.

Thanks to the MANY Twain families who sent pictures to include in our teacher & staff appreciation video, which I shared with our staff last evening. If you missed the deadline for the video, it's not too late to share your pictures. Simply email them directly to your child's teacher(s) to show your appreciation in that way. [Here is a link to the video.](#) Thank you for helping me share your love and appreciation with our very deserving staff!

This week, I encourage you and your kids to send a quick email to any staff member who is making a difference for your child (or has previously). Here is the [link to our staff directory](#) for their email addresses. If you need an email address for another member of our staff like a paraprofessional or interventionist who isn't listed, please reach out to me. I know everyone has a lot on their plates, but I hope you and your kids will be able to take a moment to thank the educators who matter to them this week. ☺

Weekly Student Engagement

While most of our families are doing a great job of making sure their students are logging into itslearning and participating in learning activities each week, I just want to stress again that it is very important that our students don't stop learning over these months and fall behind before next school year. We are keeping detailed records of which children are not participating, and this will be reflected in their June Report Card and will likely impact their future learning when we return to school next year. If we aren't seeing your children participate, we will continue to reach out to you to figure out how we can support your family and get your child(ren) engaged in learning. Likewise, please reach out to me at any time if you need assistance.

Important Reminders

- [Return to Twain/ Fraser Form](#) – Thanks to all who have already submitted. If you have not yet done so, please fill this out ASAP to help us to begin to plan for next year.
- Families who need books to read can help themselves to the books in the Book Box outside the main entrance at Mark Twain. We will continue to restock as needed so families have access to books for their children to read.

Helpful Resources

- Updated Fraser Public Schools EOL
Page: <https://www.fraser.k12.mi.us/EOL>
- If your family is in need of social/ emotional support, our district mental health team has put together [these resources](#) to help support you.
- Meals are being distributed at FHS each weekday from 9am to Noon and at Twain from 10-11am.
- If you have any issues with the technology, please don't forget to use enter a ticket for district tech support [here](#). Or, reach out to me, and I'll help make sure we get you connected to the right person to help you solve the issue.
- **In addition to email, I can also be reached by text or phone call at this number during the school closure: (586) 533-4319.**

We look forward to seeing all of you and your Comets online this week at our GoToMeetings. Again, we miss you all so much, and we hope you are doing okay and are able to stay home as much as possible to stay healthy. If you or your child is struggling or facing illness or another hardship, please reach out to me, your child's teacher, or another member of our team at any time so that we can support you and work with you.

Laura Woods

Principal

Mark Twain Elementary