

Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.
- Mark Twain



Dear Mark Twain Friends and Family,

Welcome to another amazing year at Mark Twain Elementary and to the the Mark Twain Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO includes every parent or guardian in the school and has representatives from both administration and faculty. Our goal is to build community and raise funds to support educational programming and expenses. We are unwavering in our commitment to help Mark Twain Elementary remain a wonderful place to learn; and to accomplish this, we are asking for your help by contributing to the Friends & Family campaign.

Our Friends & Family campaign is an opportunity for you and all friends and family of our students to make a tax-deductible donation to the Mark Twain PTO. Funds raised through our Friends & Family Campaign support:

- The International Baccalaureate (IB) program through teacher training and program fees
- The Literary Development Center (LDC) through supplies and consultation fees
- Books for our our library, LDC and classrooms
- Classroom equipment and supplies
- Technology and communication tools
- PTO events and programs such as International Festival, Art A La Carte and Math and Science Night

This year we have an especially important focus for fundraising - **substantially increasing support of the LDC as HISD is phasing out magnet funding for this program.**

The LDC is a unique language arts lab where students participate in real life reading-writing units that integrate many curriculum areas. Because our LDC teachers work with each student starting in kindergarten and continue through 5th grade, learning becomes more individualized as student progress is monitored from grade to grade. It is one of many programs that make Mark Twain such a uniquely wonderful place for our students to grow and learn.

With your help we can accomplish our goals. Please take a moment to make a tax-deductible monetary donation to our Friends & Family fund so that we can enrich the educational experience of each child. You may be able to increase your donation by participating in a “**Corporate Matching**” program at your place of work. Please consider contacting your HR department to see if this is available. We are happy to help you complete the required paperwork. Information regarding donation levels and associated benefits for your family is enclosed along with a donation form. You can return the completed donation form and check to the PTO workroom box labeled “Friends and Family” - OR - donate online at marktwainpto.org.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration. We hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Megan Rose
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Moya Varner
PTO President