



Bettendorf
Community
School District

Questions About MT/TJ Transition

Feb. 20 Parent Meeting

2-28-19

School Day

Arrival/Dismissal Times

Start and dismissal times will remain the same as the rest of the district elementary schools (8:30 am to 3:20 pm). We will work with parents who have students at both locations and need some additional flexibility.

How is the need for crossing guards at the TJ campus being addressed with the lack of 5th grade safety patrols? The Bettendorf Police Department oversees the crossing guards, and they are working on a plan.

Before/Afterschool Program & Intramurals

Steamer Success Academy (21st Century Community Learning Center)

Are TJ families allowed into SSA? Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the Thomas Jefferson and Ross College campuses will be sites of Mark Twain Elementary School. All students will be given the opportunity to register for the before and after school program. According to the grant, we will give priority to students who exhibit academic deficiencies. All programming is free from discrimination and provides equal opportunity for all.

Will there be an increase for SSA? The Steamer Success Academy is currently in its fourth year of programming. Our current grant provided five years of government support. After the 2019-2020 school year, we are hopeful that our site will be awarded a new grant. We will be researching and investigating how to write the new proposal to best reflect the school consolidation and increased need we are experiencing.

Has the state approved budgetary appropriation for the influx of the newly serviced students?

We are doing what we can to ensure that we are able to support the maximum number of students possible within the confines of our grant stipulations. We are in communication with state officials about our unique situation.

Have considerations been made guaranteeing the fulfillment of grant expectations and guidelines for 21st Century Community Learning Center? We are obligated to follow the grant guidelines that were established prior to our school consolidation. We take our student to staff ratio very seriously and work to provide the highest level of care and learning opportunities for the students.

Where will 5th grade intramural be held? Practices and home games will be held at the Mark Twain TJ campus.

How will school wide events be held, such as PTA, scouting groups, etc.? We will work with these groups to accommodate their needs.

Ross College Campus

How is the cost of \$359k for the new site at Ross College funded? The cost is part of the construction project and is funded through sales tax dollars.

How are you enforcing the separation of parking between Ross staff and students, and BCSD staff/parents? There will be designated parking areas with signage.

Portable Restrooms

- **What is the bathroom procedure for the portable restrooms?**

We will follow similar procedures that are already in place. Classroom teachers will accompany their classes to the restrooms for class breaks or after recess. These breaks will be coordinated to avoid long lines. Individual students will sign out of their classrooms other times to use the indoor restroom. Any student utilizing the portable restroom will be accompanied by an adult.

- **Will adults and children be using the same bathroom facilities?** Yes.

Are there tornado, fire and active shooter plans? Safety protocols and plans are being developed for the Ross College campus just as we do for all district buildings. Students and staff will have scheduled drills for emergency scenarios as they have during the current school year.

Who will be doing lunch duties if students are in the classrooms for lunch?

We will develop a duty schedule that provides supervision by staff members, as we currently do.

How is Ross College addressing the issue with sharing a facility with elementary children, ie. smoking, drug free zone, sex offender registry and weapons? Ross College follows and enforces all Federal, State, and local laws regarding "Smoke-Free Work Areas." Possession of firearms or weapons of any sort within Ross Education, LLC buildings by anyone other than sworn police officers authorized to possess firearms is absolutely prohibited. Ross Education, LLC maintains a no tolerance workplace violence policy, and violations of this policy constitute grave misconduct and may lead to disciplinary action including suspension or termination.

The schools will have separate entrances. Our campus will have a buzz in system to our main office with the Raptor Visitor Management System checks for all visitors.

Is the building ADA compliant? Ross College is ADA compliant.

Will there be school signage/lights on Kimberly Road? The City Engineer has reviewed the potential need for a School Zone designation with the Bettendorf Police Department and the City of Davenport Traffic Engineer. They all agree that school signage/light would not be warranted in this situation. We will only be occupying the building for approximately 4 months. In addition, out of a concern for student safety, Ross College Campus students are not allowed to walk or bike to school.

ROOM AREAS SCHEDULE		
NO.	ROOM NAME	AREA/ SF
141	MAIN OFFICE	509
142	4TH GRADE CLASSROOM	702
143	4TH GRADE CLASSROOM	566
144	4TH GRADE CLASSROOM	698
145	2ND GRADE CLASSROOM	575
146	3RD GRADE CLASSROOM	575
147	3RD GRADE CLASSROOM	573
148	3RD GRADE CLASSROOM	605
149	5TH GRADE CLASSROOM	811
159	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	49
180	MEN'S RESTROOM	141
181	WOMEN'S RESTROOM	167
178	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	19
155	5TH GRADE CLASSROOM	793
163	5TH GRADE CLASSROOM	649
164/179	NURSE/ COUNSELOR OFFICE	344
161	2ND GRADE CLASSROOM	523
162	2ND GRADE CLASSROOM	511
126	TITLE I/AI	306
127	COACH'S	115
128	SPECIAL ED CLASSROOM	115
129	SPECIAL ED CLASSROOM	114
119	SPECIAL ED	194
125	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	1380
132	LIBRARY	243
136	FOOD SERVICE	129
137	FOOD SERVICE	331
124	MUSIC PRACTICE	259
139	SECURE VESTIBULE	154

New Mark Twain

When will the plans of the new Mark Twain be shared publicly? The plans are on the district's website. <http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/our-district/facilities-plan/new-mark-twain-elementary>

How are staff and parents being involved with the development of the new building? Community and staff were invited to the initial architect design meeting on May 1, 2018. Staff has been involved in the design process with the architect, and they continue to be involved in room design, furniture selection, and interior decorating decisions. PTAs have been given the opportunity to contribute to a building project.

Transportation

Transportation for Students

All students who will be attending the Mark Twain alternate sites Ross College campus and Thomas Jefferson campus will receive free busing if the parent chooses this as an option to get their student to

school. Once the new Mark Twain School opens, the district walk limits will be in effect and those students within the limit of 2 miles who wish to continue busing will have to pay.

Students who will be attending the Thomas Jefferson campus until it closes, and live within the district walk limit will not get free busing. Once the school closes, all students who live outside of the Mark Twain district walk limits will receive free busing if the parent chooses this option. Busing is always available for a small fee for students that live within the 2 mile limit.

Link to transportation information -

http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/application/files/1515/5077/2343/Mark_Twain_Transition_Packet.pdf

- **What is the total cost of busing to district?** Cost is unknown until we know how many students are being bussed. We anticipate that there will be some additional cost for our transportation plan for the first semester. We will know the cost when parents have registered for busing.
- **After students go to the new building, are all children bussed under 2 miles, will they be charged?** Yes, at this point in time, unless the board decides to change the policy.
- **If there is an increased number of student bus riders transferring at BMS, will there be additional support staff at the transfer location?** Yes, please refer to the transportation plan. http://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/application/files/1515/5077/2343/Mark_Twain_Transition_Packet.pdf

What walking paths will there be for TJ area students to the new building? It appears unsafe due to walking through 2-3 major intersections and under a major highway, forcibly putting the burden on parents. We have relayed this concern along to the City of Bettendorf. The district has an option for all students to register for bus services. Busing is still available for students who live under the district bus limits for a fee.

Open and Choice Enrollment Options

Will MT and TJ be given priority over all other students in and out of our district for next school year? Students who wish to open enroll will follow the normal state approved process. Open enrollment approval is granted as long as the open enrollment form is filed by March 1, 2019 (September 2, 2019 for Kindergarten students). Choice enrollment requests are granted, if available space, after building boundary students are placed.

Staffing

Will specials (art, P.E., music) be full-time or .8?

The specials teachers contract times will remain at the same FTE (full time equivalent) across the elementary schools.

All but 3 staff members from both schools will be required to move twice during the year. What accommodations will be provided to move those classrooms as well as the time allowed to set up classrooms? Procedures will be put in place to accommodate the moving process. This will be

similar to the Grant Wood process followed in 2018. The district will provide storage for the teacher's classroom materials.

What is the transition plan and location for both therapy dogs? Because of staff (therapy dog handler) movement, Mark Twain will not have a therapy dog next year.

Will there be nurses on both sites? Each site will have a nurse.

Will there be principals at both sites? There will be administrators at both sites.

Will there be counselors at both sites? School counselors will be available for students at both sites.

Transition Activities

The PTAs sponsored a successful joint movie night for students and families in early February, and more activities are being planned. Each grade level team of teachers is collaborating to plan activities that will promote community building among their classes. We will have a combined Kindergarten Round-Up at TJ on March 1. A "fly-up" day will be held during May, where students will meet their new teacher and classmates for the fall.

List of Transition Activities

- **Construction Videos** - Each week, our library paraeducator films the work that is happening at the new building site. The video is shared with all TJ and MT staff, and is placed on the MT website.
- **Family Movie Night** - February 1, 2019 - Held at GW and hosted by both PTAs
- **Combined Kindergarten Round-Up** - March 1, 2019 - Held at TJ, three sessions. Parents and students will meet principals, teachers, and other staff
- **Skating Party** - March 28, 2019 - Being organized by PTAs
- **Pen Pals Initiative** - March-June correspondence among grade level peers. Culminate with a field trip (park, picnic) to meet pen pals.
- **Fun Fest** - April - The MT PTA is hosting our Fun Fest at Veterans' Park on 4-26-19. TJ students will be invited, and there will be bounce houses, food, and games to play.
- **Spring Moving Up/ Fly Up Day** (Last week of school) - All current K students will visit and tour TJ and spend some time with peers. Current grade 1-4 students will visit Mark Twain and meet their teacher and classmates for the upcoming school year.
- **Summer Postcard from Teacher** - Each student will receive a postcard from their teacher, welcoming them to their class and to new school year.
- **Open House/Unpack Your Backpack** - Held at both locations prior to the start of school. Parents will be given tours of both campuses.
- **Staff Activities**
 - Teachers have been meeting on a weekly basis in collaborative grade level groups to analyze data, plan instruction, and create common assessments.
 - Staff members from MT are inviting TJ staff to join them for social hours after work.
- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Tours / Open House** - December 2019-January 2020

- **Hop into the New Year** - January - All students are invited to listen to a DJ, to dance, to snack, to get their faces painted, and even play basketball in the gym.