

Mark Denman Elementary

October 2020

Theme:

Focus on collaborating about student learning for substantial results.



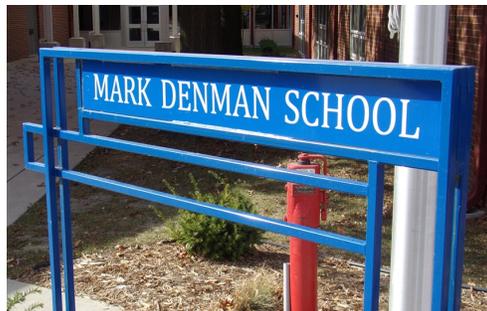
Mission:

Mark Denman will provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where all individuals will be actively engaged in personal and academic growth.

Special Events:

- 10/8: Last day to submit changes in remote/in-person learning
- 10/9: Asynchronous Day
- 10/12: No school
- 10/26: P/T Conferences
- 11/3: No school; election day

Welcome Back, Mark Denman Families!



As we start the new school year, we welcome new staff at Mark Denman. We are thankful that Stephanie Cheng (Speech Therapist), Cami Draper (4th grade teacher), Katie Jones (SW Intern), Danielle Lewallen (Resource Officer), Taylor Matthews (K/1 Cross-Cat), Joanna Robinson (2/3 MATS), and Emily Stevenson (Psych Intern) chose to work in Danville School District 118.

We have a hybrid school model this year with some students working remotely and others attending school in-person. Remote learners should log in daily and on-time, to Google Classroom for Second, Third, and Fourth grades. Kindergarten and First grade parents

should communicate each day through Class Dojo with your child's teacher. Please remember to call the office if your child will be absent. When technology arrives for Kindergarten and First grade students, we will have a tech distribution.

This month, we will review crisis drills with students. We will also have drills throughout the school year.

If you have not done so, please "like" the MDE Facebook page and follow us on Instagram at #gomderockets. We communicate information through those platforms. Please continue to send pictures of your students working at home for our social media platforms. We love to showcase our students.

If you have any celebrations, questions, or concerns feel free to contact us.

Ms. Richardson, Mr. Musselman and
Mr. Hightower



BE at the BUS

As school gets geared-up and buses are rolling, we want to remind everyone of bus safety procedures for your children and our students!

Before waking to the bus stop, please ensure that your child(ren) do not have a temp 100.4 and above and do not have any COVID symptoms. If they do, please contact the school nurse.

Kindergarten Students: An adult must be seen by the bus driver before a Kindergarten student will be allowed off the bus.

Only the student is allowed on the bus - It is illegal for family members or others to board a school bus.

Kindergarten

Wow, what a wonderful start to a new school year! The kids are doing a great job wearing their masks and following the rules. We are getting good at social distancing from our friends!

Feel free to call us anytime if you have any questions or concerns. Please remember to check and empty your child's book bag and folder each night. Please send back any important papers and file all others. If you are remote, please post pictures of work daily; this is how we take attendance.

It is important to have a set bedtime for your child at night. Many of the kids are tired in the mornings. A good night's rest makes for a great school day.

We will continue to review the alphabet. We are working on shapes in Math. Please have your child practice writing his/her name and letters each night. We will begin learning sight words. Our words are: I, like, the and we. Our themes for this month are "Rules at Home and School" and "Every Story has Characters." We will be learning the letters Mm, Aa and Ss.

Thanks for all of your help and support!



First Grade

Welcome to October! What a school year it has been so far. Your First Grade teachers want to thank all families of our Remote and In-Person Learners that have helped us make this unusual school year a successful one so far. We miss our students being in the classroom and are in hopes of being together again in the near future. Here are some things all students can work on at home with their families to help reinforce the skills we have already worked on and will continue to reinforce throughout the year.

- Sight word recognition - words you need to know that cannot necessarily be sounded out; repetition and review to master these; possibly make flash cards out of index cards; know all the words from List 1 posted on Class Dojo. We are starting on list 2 this week.
- Phonics - be able to identify all letters and letter sounds; be able to say letter sounds quickly, with accuracy and fluency.
- Reading - blending 3 letter words
- Writing - Conventions for sentence writing: Using upper case at the beginning of a sentence, finger spacing between words, and punctuation at the end of the sentence.
- Reading Comprehension - being able to answer questions about the story; recall what happens in the beginning, middle, and end of a story.
- Math - counting and writing numbers to 120; using strategies to add two numbers, such as grabbing the big number and counting on or using manipulatives such as dice, playing cards, or a ten frame.
- Handwriting - writing numbers and letters neatly

Second Grade

We have been hard at work in Second grade practicing our reading fluency and comprehension skills, as well as, adding and subtracting double digits without regrouping. Please continue to have your child complete their spelling, reading, and math assignments in Google Classroom and make sure that all remote students are attending their live sessions. In the next week or so you will be seeing progress reports. We will mail progress reports. Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions or concerns. In-Person students will be bringing their chromebooks with them to school each day, please talk about how to safely transport **them back and forth**. We have conferences coming up in October and we look forward to speaking with each one of you. Any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Third Grade

Hello Third Grade families,

What a great start to our year! We, as a team, wanted to take time to remind families of a few things. First, please make sure you are logging on daily and completing online assignments and attending class live! When you miss class, please try to communicate with your student's teacher so we can assist in catching your kiddo up. Second, please remember that classroom behavior while live is the exact same as classroom behavior at school. Third, all "in person" families please remember that your student needs to transport their computer to and from school.

Third grade has been working hard on building a classroom environment and reviewing double digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We have also been moving right along through our 15 days of procedures! These procedures are necessary in not only preparing students for future lessons in class but training them on what is expected during certain learning times. A few examples of things we have discussed so far would be "Active Listening" and "Respectful Conversations".

Third grade is now starting Topic 1 in Savvas (Envision) Math. We started the topic by taking 2 column notes which is new for third graders. The topic focuses on an introduction to multiplication, so it is truly important that your student practice their math multiplication facts at home.

Fourth Grade

Welcome to Fourth Grade! This is definitely a unique year, but we are determined to make it a great year for your child!

We will be starting our unit on Government in Reading and in Math we will continue to work with place value and addition/subtraction. Please have your child practice their multiplication facts now – this will help them in the long run!

If you haven't signed up for Class Dojo yet, please do so! It's a great way to stay in communication with your child's teacher and to see all of the wonderful things your child is experiencing in the 4th grade! If you have Class Dojo, please make sure you are checking it daily for updates or messages from your child's teacher.

We would appreciate your help and your continued support as we navigate this unfamiliar territory. If your kiddo is a remote learner, please remind him/her to be on time for class each day, be prepared with the materials that are needed, and to be in a quiet, focused space where it's easy to stay connected to the lessons the teacher is presenting. We desire the very best for our in-person and remote kiddos and we want everyone to be successful! Thanks for your patience, kindness, and support.

Music

Greetings,

Welcome to a new school year. We are excited to get to know and reconnect with all of our students. This year we will be exploring music through a hybrid process, which will allow our children to connect with music in new ways. We plan on using Quaver to engage students through a multi-media experience, and look forward to the new opportunities that this year brings. Music is the shorthand for emotions

Mr. Crow and Ms. Sparks



Physical Education

News from the Physical Education Department,

First, we would like to say that we understand that this year is different than what we have ever experienced before. We are all trying to do the best we can to adapt to the new requirements.

One of the most important things we try to teach our students is the importance of exercising regularly. The truth is that most diseases can be prevented if we stay fit, strong, and healthy. Our immune systems can be very strong, and they can fight against any bacteria or viruses that come against our bodies. If we all understand that we can help prevent sicknesses and diseases by exercising regularly, then we will be motivated to do it. We do not assess students like in the past, so we ask parents/guardians to encourage your children to exercise and we encourage you to join them. You will all have fun and get stronger in that process.

We are all looking forward to everything getting back to normal, but until then, let us do the best we can with what we have.

Jana McKenna, Steven Dale, and Mihai Murineanu, PE Teachers

AVID

While many things about this school year look and feel different, MDE's AVID expectations have stayed firm and clear! Mark Denman is an AVID elementary school which means we work hard every day to promote a growth mindset for our students and to help them learn and use the tools that will help them prepare for college and careers.

One of the most important tools is ORGANIZATION. For our in-person learners, organization starts with take home folders, binders, and agenda books. It is important for students to not only use these tools everyday, but to understand how and why they can help them be successful. For our remote learners, organization might look a little different, but it is just as crucial. Talk with your student about their organization plan for this school year.



