

Mark Twain Middle School:
Brag Sheet 2008-2009
Updated June 18, 2009

Bragging about Our Students!

September: Congratulations to September Team Mark Twain MS Students of the Month: Nebeyu Daniel; Liz Togbe; Katherin Hernandez; Jane Eyre; David Breinhart; Judy Nguyen; Steven Galeas; Jose Letona; Richard Clemmons; Veronica No; Maya Williams; Brandon Rodgers; Jamie N. Avila Hernandez; Morgan R. Cheatham; Dibora Wubershet; Lindsay Flowers; Lance Clark; Samuel Yoo; Juliette Cross; and Cliff Ballena.

October: Congratulations to 8th grader Nicole Lyon for winning the girls 12-4 age group at the Run With The Eagles 5K on Saturday, October 18. Nicole ran 30:23 for the 3.1 mile course down Franconia Road. Proceeds benefited the Edison Athletic Boosters Club. Nicole is a member of Mark Twain Girls On Track. Way To Go, Nicole!

October: Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Mark Twain MS National Junior Honor Society: President: Cameron Spera; Vice President: Matt Kaufax; Secretary: Annmarie Carroll; Treasurer: Chelsea Pixa; Historian: Megan Chaplin

October: Congratulations to the following students who made it through the first round of the Math Counts competition! Carrie Sun, Sean Waterton, David Anderegg, Hassan Almas, Quark Wei, Nicholas Brown, Surya Srirangarajan, Chris Wu, Morgan Cheatham, Rasul Gupta, Shadid Sayed, Nikhil Gupta, Sam Yoo, Justin Nguyen, Mossab Alsadig.

October: Congratulations to James Stull, Clayton Mottley, Hannah Smith, Michelle Lam, and Nastassja Cordero for participating in Fall Regional Technology Student Association Rally which is the first step toward Regional Competition in March 2009.

Congratulations to October Team Students of the Month, as voted by teachers for a variety of reasons for excellence: Katherine (Kat) Motsko, Ayman Juburi, Nastassja Cordero, Alex (Jonathan) Freitag, Cristian Torres, William Woodward, Elizabeth Thomas, Kevin Cheng, Latrice Smith, Lidia Mengestu, Bryce Moorehouse, Nemesis Garcia, Andrea Uribe, Evelyn Zelaya, Matthew Kaufax, Jennifer Gomez, Maria Letona, Erica Benitez, Minelik Lemma, Lydia Clites, Chris Holt, John Melgar, Margaret Northrup and Reese Shaw.

November: Way to go, Latin Students! Ad Fontes Certamen was held at GMU on Sat. Nov. 15th. Congratulations to Team Huck Finn: Morgan Cheatham, Sarah King, Erika Weiskopf, and Quark Wei who came in 5th place; Team Tom Sawyer: Alana Whitman, Niara Lezama, and Tiara Diaz who came in 9th place; and Team Life on the Mississippi: Reily Polka, Surya Srirangarajan, Michaela Mulokey, and John Watson who came in 14th place!

November: Congratulations to the MTMS Turkey Trot Winners!

8th gd boys: 1st: Chris Benavides; 2nd: Cris Flores; 3rd: Julian Vargas
8th gd girls: 1st: Catherine Babiec; 2nd: Chelsea Pixa; 3rd: Olivia Herder
7th gd boys: 1st: Louis Colson; 2nd: Karim Gharbi; 3rd: Melkiz Palencia
7th gd girls: 1st: Chania Ray; 2nd: Natalie Melendez; 3rd: Kenza Mdarhri-Alaoui
Adaptive PE: 1st: Sean Wood; 2nd: Yonathan Tilahun; 3rd: Tad Twoney

November: Congratulations to all the Mark Twain GirlsOnTrack runners for a great job Saturday, December 6, 2008 at the Girls on the Run Race! Reindeer Romp. Nicole Lyon was our top finisher in 28:32 followed closely by Lydia Clites and Elizabeth Thomas. Great job also to Ahdyea Husseinkael, Zohnnie Milton, Mikea Green and Leslie Alfaro for completing their first 3.1 mile race! Thank you to teachers, Ms. Flynn and Ms. Gray, for their support.

November: Congratulations to the November Team Students of the Month:
Congratulations to November Students of the Month: Dallas Walker, Isabelle Walton, Grace Webber, Hector Machado, Veronika Mironenko, Jimmy Portocarrero-Yanez, Kathleen Pena, Dante Degregori, Diego Alzugaray, Amy Castillo, Megan Chaplin, Archal Jain, Brad Cooley, Darleen Nguyen, Ye Kyaw, and Jada Carpenter!

December: Twain's Got Talent! Congratulations to all the students who showcased their skills at the Talent Show on December 17, 2008! Wow!! Erika Weiskopf, Sara Moustaid, Urgessa Duguma, Paul Furman, Tyler Everett, Regina King, Kim Bazemore, Bryan Moore, Liam McElroy, Cameron Spera, Megan Chaplin, Juliette Cross, Autumn Lynn Dawson, Delena Bell, Richy Jones, Gilda Nimoh. And, staff members Mr. Hay and Ms. Lebowitz! Shout-out to the techies too who supported to make sure we could SEE and HEAR the talent! Nick Blewett, Sam Glad and Catherine Jordon. They also did some improv—what talent!!!

December: Way to go to the following students who made the District 10 All-District Honor Band: Grace Webber, Kaitlan Forsythe, Nicholas Brown, Niara Lezama, Elizabeth Thomas, Vaughn Varma, and Jessica Sheldon!

December: Congratulations to Shantel Schexnayder and Carolyn Elliott whose artwork was featured in the Springfield Connection, Children's Connection, December 30, 2008-January 6, 2009 edition.

Congratulations to the December Students of the Month: Pourash Bhandari, Najiyah Prome, Conner Hall, Fawzia Masud, Euginia Mensah, Jimmy Zheng, Usman Haq, Cloe Herrera, Cayman Hatton, Hannah Deal, Alana Whitman, Rasul Gupta, Himica Kumar, Zach Francis, Dylan Siasoco, Madelyn Luansing, Arman Husseinkehl, Alesandre Velasquez

January: Congratulations to Isabelle Walton and Quark Wei participated in the District 10 Honors Orchestra Event at TC Williams High School!

February: Congratulations to the MTMS students who participated in the District 10 All-District Honor Band on Saturday, February 7 at 3pm at Hayfield Secondary. Grace Webber, Kaitlan Forsythe, Nicholas Brown Niara Lezama, Elizabeth Thomas, Vaughn Varma, Jessica Sheldon, Megan Chaplin, and Katie Necochea!

February: Congratulations to MTMS Latin Students who participated in the Riverbend Certamen in Spotsylvania, VA where Twain had three teams compete. Twain took 3rd place out of all the level 1 teams (high, middle, and elementary schools; public, private, and home-schooled). The team beat TJ's teams, and (for the first time), they beat the Frost team. Frost and Twain teams faced each other in every round. Team members included: Team Huck Finn: Morgan Cheatham, Surya Srirangarajan, Quark Wei, and Erika Weiskopf; Team Tom Sawyer: Niara Lezama, Katie Necochea, Dominique Rowinski, Alana Whitman; and Team Life on the Mississippi: Tiara Diaz and John Watson. Congratulations, Ms. Graham, teacher-coach of the teams!

February: Congratulations to the following ladies who were selected to sing in District 10's Middle School Honors Choir next week: Sopranos: Jasmin Adous, Robin Maline, Dominique Rowinski, Nadia Shaikh, Annalisa Sheldahl, Molly Sternberg, Alana Whitman. Altos: Carloyenne Barrow, Juliette Cross, Amy Keller, Victoria Payne, Andrea Uribe, Anna Williams.

February: Congratulations to the MathCounts team of Hassan Almas, David Anderegg, Carrie Sun and Quark Wei who placed first in the MathCounts Chapter Competition on February 7th. This team has qualified to participate in the state competition in Richmond. Sean Waterton had the second highest overall score in the chapter and will also be eligible to participate in the state competition next month. In addition to the students advancing to the state competition, Morgan Cheatham, Rasul Gupta, and Nikhil Gupta also participated in the chapter competition on February 7th. Other MathCounts participants include: Mossab Alsadig, Nicholas Brown, Justin Nguyen, Shadid Sayed, Surya Srirangajan, Chris Wu, and Sam Yoo.

February: Congratulations to the entire Science Olympiad team who competed in the Virginia Regional Tournament at the University of Mary Washington to battle against schools from across the region. The team did extremely well, especially the following students who won first place in their respective categories: Dominique Rowinski, Katie Necochea, Sean Waterton, Shadid Sayed, Chris Wu, Chris Hughes, Pegah Bakhshi, and Chelsea Pixa. The team will compete again on March 21st in the State Tournament at Randolph Macon College.

February: The Twain Twisters Special Olympics basketball team won their divisional games last Sat, Feb 21 at Hoop Magic Sports Complex in Chantilly. Congratulations to Mark Vito, Tad Twomey, Yonathan Tilahun, Taylor Seawright, and Eric Wallace!

March: Congratulations to the STUDENT basketball team who competed against the faculty on March 26, 2009. The student team included: Jacob Ferree; Matt Kaufax; Nezam Seraj; Achal Jain; Chris Hughes; Danny Riley; Nebyu Daniel; Omar Sefer; Sara Schoen; Isabella Walton; Chania Ray; Kyra Fontaine; Maddy Naide; Julia Kaiser; James Campbell; and Sarah Roegner.

March: Congratulations to the Winners of the Mark Twain MS Character Education Caring Essay Contest. First place went to Stephen Barnett, Second place to Erika Gallagher, and third place to Reemah Hashem!

March: The Twain Twisters Special Olympics basketball team won 2nd place at the Virginia Special Olympics in Fredericksburg, VA on March 21, 2009. Way to go, Mark Vito, Tad Twomey, Yonathan Tilahun, Taylor Seawright, and Eric Wallace! Prior to that, the team played four games between January and March and won three of those games! It was their 3-1 record that allowed them to be invited to compete at the state level for the championship!

March: Congratulations to the Math Counts team of Hassan Almas, David Anderegg, Carrie Sun, Sean Waterton, and Quark Wei who placed sixth in the state Math Counts competition on March 28, 2009 in Richmond, VA.

March: Congratulations to the entire Science Olympiad team who competed in the Virginia State Tournament. The team travelled to Randolph Macon College to battle against schools from across the state. The team did extremely well, placing 7th overall out of 17 schools in the Middle School division. Twelve students won at least one medal, but special congratulations go to the following members who placed in the top three in their events: Christopher "Chipper" Brink, Erinn Fecteau, Dominique Rowinski, Katie Necochea, Joel Williams, Pegah Bakhshi, Nikhil Gupta, and Chelsea Pixa. This season, the Science Olympiad Team won nearly forty medals and proved to the rest of the region and the state that Mark Twain Middle School is a team not to be taken lightly. With exceptional members set to return next year, the MTMS Science Olympiad Team expects to improve on this year's stellar season.

March: It was a close game, but the staff of MTMS was victorious in the MTMS Student-Faculty Basketball game on Thursday! Rematch will be thanks to the PTA on May 1, 2009 at Edison HS. Bring your best moves! Way to go, student team: Jacob Ferree; Matt Kaufax; Nezam Seraj; Achal Jain; Chris Hughes; Danny Riley; Nebyu Daniel; Omar Sefer; Sara Schoen; Isabella Walton; Chania Ray; Kyra Fontaine; Maddy Naide; Julia Kaiser; James Campbell; Sarah Roegner.

March: Congratulations to the MTMS Step Team, called the Youngin's Stepping Out: Sydney Armstrong, Melvena Keith. Breyonna Peterson, Gabby Ramage, Maleka Butler who accepted an invitation from and performed at the Edison High School Fashion Show on March 20, 2009. They also performed at the Student-Faculty Basketball game on Thursday! Way to go!

April: Congratulations to the MathCounts team of Hassan Almas, David Anderegg, Carrie Sun, Sean Waterton, and Quark Wei who placed sixth in the state MathCounts competition in Richmond, VA.

April: Congratulations to the the Cast and Crew of the MTMS 2009 Spring play, "Nothing But the Truth." Four performances were phenomenal! Thank you to the community for coming out to support our students and their hard work! What an awesome show, plot, conflict, and theme!

April: Student Achievements to Celebrate! The final state of Virginia Latin Certamen was in April. MTMS was represented by two teams: Morgan Cheatham, Tiara Diaz, Quark Wei, and Erika Weiskopf who won 1st place and Niara Lezama, Dominique Rowinski, and Alana Whitman who won 4th place. In the final round, the scores were: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology-120; Mark Twain MS 105; Flint Hill School 70. Teacher sponsor, Ms. Graham, noted not only the academic achievements of our students but their manners and polite interactions with other teams and schools.

May: Congratulations, Mark Twain MS's Technology Student Association who competed at Technosphere! All of our students were finalists in the competition! Way to go! Jimmy Stull and Clayton Motley - Environmental Challenge; Daniel Vermillion, William Woodward, Sefora Cusestas - Manufacturing Challenge; Daniel Carballo, Nastassja Cordero, Clayton Motley - Leadership Challenge; Michelle Lam - Video Challenge; and Daniel Carballo and Nastassja Cordero - Problem Solving Challenge!

May: Congratulations, Women's Chorus! The MTMS won FIRST PLACE and a SUPERIOR RATING at that state "Music in the Parks" Festival!

May: Congratulations, Concert Bands! The MTMS Concert Band and Intermediate Bands BOTH won FIRST PLACE and earned SUPERIOR RATINGS in their respective categories. Congratulations to Concert Band Saxophonist Serena MuChoney who was selected as the OUTSTANDING SOLOIST and to the PERCUSSION SECTION of the Concert Band who won the OUTSTANDING SECTION AWARD: Meredyth Ellington, Achal Jain, Brandon Rogers, Branford Rogers, Scott Schwartz, Isaiah Stephenson, Julianna Lee, and John Sanders. The Concert Band won the BEST OVERALL AWARD which is the highest award given.

May: Congratulations and a Special Thank-You on Behalf of the Mark Twain MS Staff to students who performed for the Staff on Tuesday afternoon to show their appreciation for the adults in Mark Twain MS: Annmarie Carroll, Chelsea Pixa, Catherine Babiec, Parker Collins, Christina Torres Fuentes, Ali Schneider, Jane Eyre, Jamie Barr, Maddie Watson, Morgan Cheatham, Megan Chaplin, Urgessa Dugama, Regina Song, Gilda Nimoh, Sydney Armstrong, Gabby Ramage, Raquan Stuppard, Richy Jones, Cameron Spera, Sara Moustaid, and Dominique Rowinski!

May: The 2009 Bay Critter Idol Competition is proud to announce and congratulations the following students: FCPS Apple 21 News Crew came and is expected to do a feature of this unique learning experience! 1st Place: Ruddy Duck-Arianna Reichardt, Ericka Lezama, Jennie Yun and Nardos Zecharias! 2nd Place: Blue Crab-Victoria, Sulma, and Erica! 3rd Place: Sea Turtle-Katie Roberts and Tommy Ronanyne! Congratulations to all the students who competed!

May: Way to go, MTMS Robotics Team who competed on May 16, 2009 at the NXT Robotics Challenge held at Robinson Secondary School. The teams won second and third place. Plaques and photos are displayed in our main lobby of the school. Congratulations goes to David Anderegg and Sean Waterton awarded second place and Jacob Ferree and Matthew Kaufax awarded third place in the NXT Robotics Challenge. Distinguished participants also included: Vaughn Varma, Christopher Hughes, Matthew Kaufax, Jacob Ferree, Joel Williams, Fenil Bhatt, Ian Reddy, Didi Silva, Ty Everett, James Campbell, Carrie Sun, and Hassin Almas.

June: End of Year Awards

Twain Tiger Citizenship Award: Oni Alvarado Velasquez
Twain Tiger Citizenship Award: Schquita Young

Faculty Award: Liliana Gonzalez
Faculty Award: Justin Morales

Mark Twain Award: Tommy (Tu) Tran
Mark Twain Award: Andrea Uribe

Bragging about Our Staff!

August: Congratulations to Pathfinders English Teacher, Laura Mathurin, who was featured in the National Education Association's monthly publication. Her tips and strategies for classroom management are sure to inspire educators across the country!

September: Congratulations to Assistant Principal Jeremiah Caven who was featured in the Springfield Connection newspaper as we welcome him to the MTMS community!

November: Congratulations to Christine Arocho, science department chair, for being awarded a grant to purchase Venier Probeware for the 7th grade science curriculum! This grant was made possible by the AFCEA - Belvoir Chapter Education Grant Program.

December: Congratulations to the MTMS Math and Civics Department. Their vision for how to teach financial literacy to 8th grade students was featured in the Washington Post on December XX, 2008!

February: Congratulations to Lead Counselor, Denee Scott, who was awarded a grant to attend: A Dream Deferred™: The Future of African American Education Conference in Los Angeles, California in May of 2009.

February: Congratulations to the following staff members who submitted mini-grants to the Mark Twain MS PTA. All received funding for their vision: Armand

Grez, Jane Miller, Gretchen Crapa, Pam Ellison, Kelly Barry, Jorge Gonzalez, Stephanie Gray, and Maria Roberts.

February: Congratulations to Debra Boullianne, who was awarded a grant to attend the Virginia Administrative Assistants Conference!

April: Way to go, Megan Farrelly, website curator and mathematics teacher whose work earned a January-March 2009 FCPS WebStar award!

April: Congratulations FACS Teacher Michelle Bevis who was a nominee for the New FACS Teacher of the Year Award in Fairfax County Public Schools!

May: Congratulations, MTMS Band Teacher Michael Hairston who was named the President-Elect, of the FEA! This is a voted position by all the members of the Fairfax Education Association! What an honor! The term will officially begin August 1, 2010. In 2009-2010, he will serve as the President-elect, and we are fortunate that he will still be an active member of our staff leading the band and our school to greatness! <http://www.fairfaxea.org/>

May: Congratulations Ms. Flynn who was honored in the community. Berni Flynn! Health and Physical Education and Adaptive Physical Education teacher Bernadette Flynn was named Edison High School Female Coach of the Year, was selected as the Fairfax County Coach of the Year as awarded by the Fairfax County Women in Sports Award Committee and was honored by the Women's Sports Foundation for Outstanding Achievement in Women's Sports for 2009.

June: FCPS BEST THE WEB WINNER, Ms. Farrelly. Congratulations, Megan Farrelly who received the FCPS Best of the Web 2008-2009 Award for the MTMS website!

June: Congratulations MTMS Science Department who was featured on Apple21 TV NEWS for their 2nd Annual "Bay Critter Idol" Competition. Students demonstrated their learning about the Chesapeake Bay "critters" and the relationship between the bay and the survival of the critters.