

Our Mission

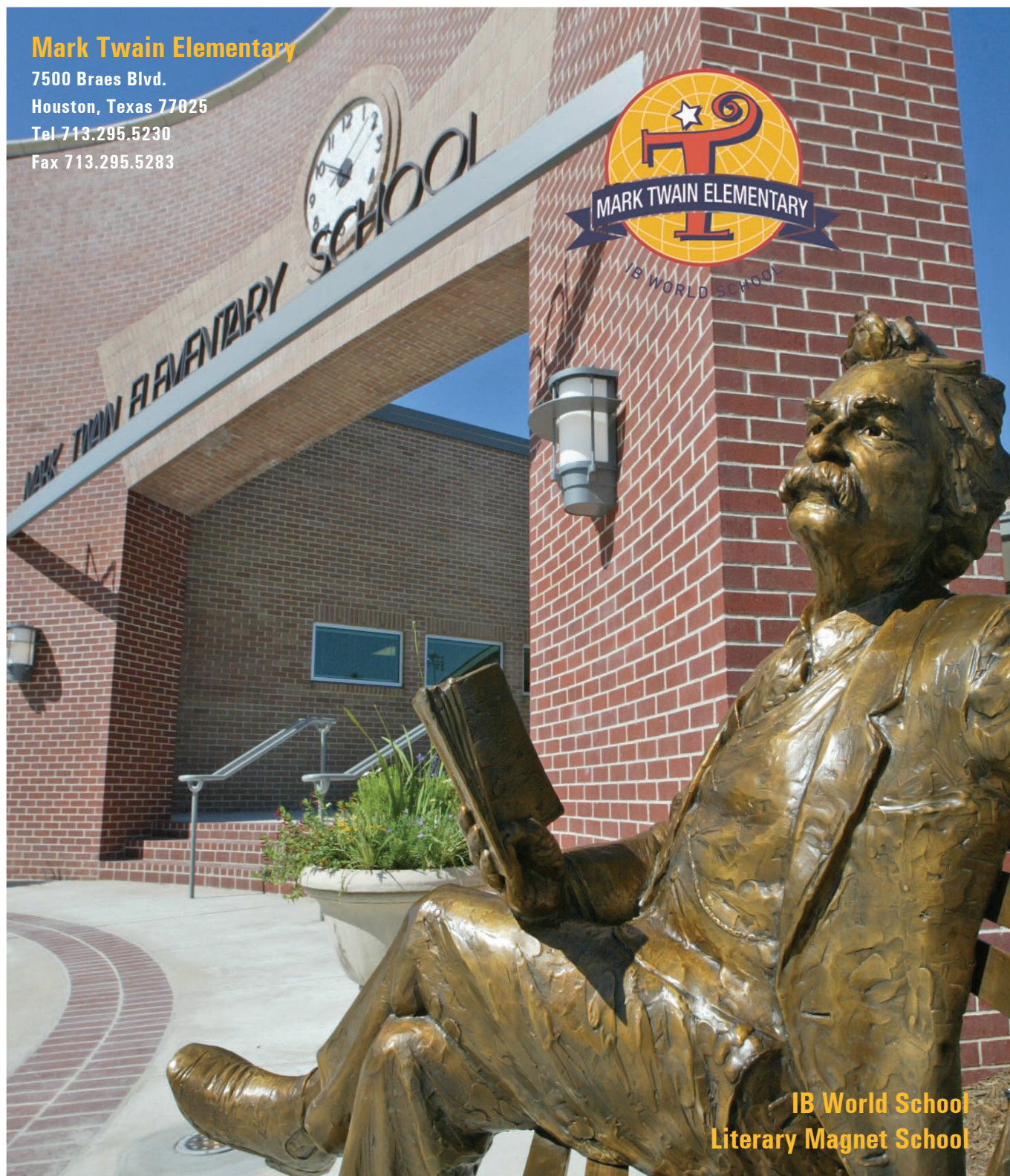
Mark Twain Elementary is a community of life-long learners, built upon a collaborative spirit that fosters inquiry based learning. Our purpose is to promote and develop responsible, active and reflective citizens of the world.

Mark Twain offers academically challenging Kindergarten through 5th Grade classes that are taught by highly-trained faculty members. These dedicated professionals educate, challenge and guide the students to achieve excellence.

It is the policy of the HISD not to discriminate on the basis of age, color, handicap or disability, ancestry, national origin, marital status, race, religion, sex, veteran status, or political affiliation in its educational or employment programs and activities.

Mark Twain Elementary

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**IB World School
Literary Magnet School**

Primary Years Program

Mark Twain is one of the few schools in Texas that is authorized as an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School to offer the Primary Years program (PYP). The PYP program aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who will help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

The School

Mark Twain Elementary was rebuilt as a state-of-the-art school in 2005. It is located in the heart of the Braeswood Place neighborhood near the Houston Medical Center, where people come from around the world to study and work. The school is surrounded by amenities that include the Weekley Family YMCA, McGovern Public Library and Helen's Park.

The Literary Development Center

Mark Twain Elementary's Literary Development Center is a school-wide magnet started in 1988 for K-2 and in 1989 grades 3-5 was added. It is the only magnet of its kind in Houston ISD. The center concentrates on providing students with authentic literary opportunities to use their literacy skills. Children read and are read to. Reading is viewed as a tool in which to learn, not as a means in and of itself. It is an intellectual process; not just a subject to learn to do. The LDC teaches students to write well so that they may express critical thoughts and creative ideas about what they have learned through their reading which is reflective in student achievement.

The LDC is made up of 2 parts, one that services the K-2 community and the other for grades 3-5. Each LDC has a teacher who stays abreast of the latest researched based literary activities to teach the strategies that all readers and writers need to be life long learners. Both LDC teachers are currently mentors for Rice University's School, Literacy and Culture project. They bring their expertise to the LDC classes, creating an ongoing embedded inservice for the teachers who are an active part of each lesson. Because both the LDC teacher and the classroom teacher work together, the class ratio is reduced from 22:1 to 11:1. Each LDC class is an hour long, meets each day for two weeks, and rotates through as each class has its turn. The classroom teacher participates in new activities that can then be used in their own rooms.

Vanguard Neighborhood

Vanguard Neighborhood is designed to meet the needs of gifted and talented students. This non-graded curriculum modifies the depth, complexity and pacing of the general school program. Students must be tested to be identified as gifted and talented.



Dual Language

This two-way bilingual full immersion program is designed for the students to be academically fluent in both English and Spanish speaking students. Students must apply to the program.

Ancillary Enrichment Programs

- > Art
- > Music
- > Science
- > Spanish
- > Physical Education
- > Library
- > Computer lab

Extras

- > International Festival & Potluck Dinner
- > Spooky Spaghetti Carnival & Dinner
- > Family Nights for Math, Art, Spanish & Science
- > Violin program
- > Science Fair
- > Art a la Carte
- > Name that Book

The Parent Teachers Organization (PTO)

The PTO at Mark Twain Elementary has been recognized as one of the best volunteer organizations in the HISD Central Region. We encourage parents to volunteer in the classroom and to get involved in PTO-sponsored activities and fundraisers.

Academic Achievements

In 2009, Mark Twain was rated as a TEA Exemplary School. In 2008, it was also named a TBEC Texas Honor Roll School for having three consecutive years of high performance in all subjects. Mark Twain was among the top 4 in the Central Region in each of the subjects in 2009.