

**The Mark Twain Ringers are a group of talented students from diverse backgrounds within the Los Angeles area.** They are a multicultural group who have devoted much time and energy to perfecting the art of English Handbell ringing. Through music, they learn discipline and management skills that help them in the classroom. The fact that they are a close family of musicians at school helps them with their interpersonal skills and allows them to create a strong sense of community both at school and at home. These young ringers are an inspiration to their peers and to all others who are around them.

Mark Twain's youthful ringing group was formed in September 2000, during school lunch break. Handbells are now offered as an elective to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students, while high school alumni come back and participate in after-school rehearsals and instruction. This keeps their skills sharp and allows them to do what they love—ring English handbells.

These talented young people have been featured at Knott's Berry Farm, Disney World in Orlando, Florida, and various Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) functions. In the summer of 2006, the Mark Twain ringers were recognized by the LAUSD Board of Education as official Youth Ambassadors of Southern California.

