

Montessori Moments

Fall 2021



Administrative News

Fall is such a beautiful time of the year and we are embracing all the wonderful things about fall here at GMCS! We began the school year with our annual Back to School Night and Building Ceremony to celebrate our beautiful new building. We welcomed many community members, the architects and contractors who helped plan and build our addition, and family and friends to GMCS to celebrate our school. Hopefully everyone got a chance to meet the wonderful team that helped transform our vision for GMCS into a reality!

In September all students were assessed in both reading and math using Acadience benchmarking. These scores help us determine the effectiveness of our instruction as well as give us a baseline for student growth. Teachers will have benchmarking scores available for parents during parent-teacher conferences and will be able to share individual areas of growth as well as middle- and end-of-the-year grade-level goals.

In October students participated in our annual Scarecrow making event, fall celebration, and costume parade. We also began our fall food drive event that will continue through November. Report cards for the first marking period are now available via your family portal on FACTS. Please contact the front office if you still need to set up your account. Finally, we would like to welcome some new staff members to GMCS. Ms. Windover joins us as our much anticipated librarian, Ms. Green joins our third and fourth grade team as an assistant in Mrs. Dholer's classroom, Mrs. Shetter has moved into Mrs. Needham's classroom as the classroom assistant, Ms. Smith joins our RTI (Response to Intervention) team and will be supporting our kindergarten students in math and reading, Ms. Shank and Ms. Spencer are our new PCA (Personal Care Assistant) assistants, and finally we welcome Mrs. Johnson to our cafeteria staff. When you see these individuals at school please welcome them to the GMCS family!

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD & Christine Kirkpatrick Ed.S.

ATTENDANCE FAST FACTS!

- If your child will be late, please call the office by 8:30 a.m.
- A note is required for every student's absence. Please email your absence and doctor's note to info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org If a student is out for 3 consecutive days, a Doctor's note is required.
- If a student has missed 10 days of school, cumulatively, a Doctor's note is required for every absence beyond the first 10 days.
- If a student leaves early, or comes in late due to an appointment, a Doctor's note is required for the appointment to be excused.

INFORMATION FOR CAR RIDERS

- Car riders can be dropped off at the main lobby door between 8:00 am and 8:25 am.
- Car riders can be picked up at the main lobby door between 2:50 pm and 3:30 pm.
- Your child will need to sign out at car rider dismissal.

WEATHER DELAY REMINDERS:

- Please check our website for weather delays at www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
- Please do not call the school, during early dismissals with general questions.
- Please wait for an email for updates or check our website.
- For specific transportation changes, Email your child's teacher and the office at info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org

AMAZON SMILES

With the holidays approaching don't forget to Support Gettysburg Montessori Charter School when you shop at smile.amazon.com. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-1306185>

Dates to Remember:

- **Veterans Day**
November 11, 2021
- **Movie Night - CANCELLED**
Friday, November 12, 2021
- **Board Meeting**
Thursday, November 18, 2021
6:00pm
- **Morning Muffins - CANCELLED**
Friday, November 19, 2021
7:30am-8:30am
- **Winter Book Fair**
Monday, December 6 - 10,
2021
- **Winter Concert - K**
Monday, December 6, 2021
6:30pm - **CANCELLED**
- **Winter Concert - Grade 1**
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
6:30pm - **CANCELLED**
- **Winter Concert - Grade 2**
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
6:30pm - **CANCELLED**
- **Winter Concert - Grades 3-6**
Thursday, December 9, 2021
6:30pm - **CANCELLED**
- **Holiday Shop**
December 13-17, 2021
- **Board Meeting**
Thursday, December 16, 2021
6:00pm
- **Winter Celebrations** Tuesday,
December 21, 2021

* All dates are subject to change, if schedule conflict occurs.

Classroom Updates

Kindergarten

Mrs. Fleurant & Mrs. Lawrence - It has been an exciting start to our school year! We have been working hard on learning rules, routines, and procedures in our classroom.

In Wonders Reading, we have been reading and discussing weekly topics, including what makes us special, families, what we can do (now that we are getting older), how to be a good friend and using our five senses.

Our sight words so far are: I, can, the, we, see, like. (please practice your sight words at home too!).

Letters of the week: Mm, Aa, Pp, Tt, Ss.

In Eureka Math, we have learned to count, build, read and write, and find the hidden partners within the numbers 1-10. We are beginning to explore connections between these numbers with the phrases "1 more" and "1 less". In our next module we will be exploring how to recognize and make shapes.

During the month of October, we learned about fire safety and started discussing various community helpers. We would like to thank the Gettysburg Fire Company for bringing a ladder truck to the school and teaching us about fire safety!

The students had a great time during our Fall party. We enjoyed dressing up in costumes, playing games and doing crafts.

This quarter we worked on the 4 Montessori Respect Rules: respect self, respect others, respect the environment and respect materials. Throughout the year we will continue to work on how to be independent workers and how to make good choices during work time.

Thank you for your support!

1st & 2nd

Mrs. Needham - We are off to a wonderful start in room 141!

We completed a science study about nocturnal animals. The students loved learning about all the different animals that are active at night. We culminated our study with an animal report about the nocturnal animal they read about during guided reading.

During Language Arts, first grade has learned about their bodies in motion, sharing, and their special pets. Second grade has learned about friends, families, and caring for a pet. Both grades have been doing an excellent job sharing about themselves and their ideas through their daily writing. Ask your first grader to tell you the difference between a sentence that ends with a period, question mark, and exclamation mark.

During Math, first grade has been mastering addition and subtraction to 10 and how they relate to one another. Second grade has been learning about two digit addition and subtraction, measuring items both large and small, and place value. Ask your second grader to tell you the word, expanded, and standard form of a number under 1,000.

We will continue to learn to follow directions given by the teacher, to respect our classroom and supplies, and raise our hand when we have something to share. Ask your child what happens when the teacher says "Macaroni and cheese!"

We look forward to seeing how everyone continues to grow throughout the year!

Mrs. Lansford - Our first quarter in Room 145 has been amazing!

We quickly earned our first class award for the year. The students chose to build haunted houses! I loved seeing each student's individuality shine through in their creations.

We continue to work on meeting classroom expectations by raising our hands when we want to ask a question. We also are learning how to work independently, to respect the classroom, and to manage our time well.

We have learned about bats, which is a perfect topic for October! Bats are interesting creatures. The class enjoyed learning about the different types of bats, especially the large Flying Fox and the teeny-tiny Bumblebee bat.

In 1st grade Language Arts we have been learning how our bodies move, how to share, and how pets can be special. In math, 1st graders have been learning how to create number bonds and addition or subtraction sentences using those number bonds, how to balance number sentences, and how to add and subtract within 10.

2nd grade has learned how families work together, which includes chores family members may have. The students enjoyed sharing what chores they complete at home. We also learned how a pet can be a friend, and how we care for animals. In math we learned how to measure by measuring items in the classroom and comparing their lengths. We are now learning place values, and how to write numbers using their number name, their expanded form, and their standard form.

We are looking forward to next quarter and hope it will be as great as the first quarter was!

Miss. Stowman - The first couple months in Room 143 have been awesome! I've had so much fun getting to know you and your kids over these last few months. Each of the children have grown a tremendous amount already since being back in the classroom. They continue to amaze me very day with how much knowledge and curiosity they have in those little brains!

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We continue to work on meeting classroom expectations by raising our hands when we want to ask a question, and not shouting out comments or answers throughout the day. We are learning how to work independently, respect the classroom and Montessori Works, stay in our seats, and manage our time more efficiently! We are working towards a new class reward when we fill our stellar stone jar, so it's important that we demonstrate qualities of lifelong learning in the classroom, to earn those stones!

Also! A huge thank you to everyone that has donated items to help our classroom continue to run smoothly. We are always in need of hand sanitizer and any kind of wipes! Please remember that students still get snack time each day, which is NOT provided. Please send in a healthy snack and drink for your child each day!

I'm excited for the next chapter and I can't wait to see how much they continue to grow the rest of this year!

3rd & 4th

Mrs. Bechtel, Ms. Dohler & Mrs. Taylor - We would like to welcome our incoming 3rd graders and welcome back our 4th graders! Third and fourth grade comes with new challenges and opportunities to grow. Having the students split for the core subjects allows time to focus on grade level standards, more time to meet the children's individual educational needs, and a more focused

Classroom Updates

environment during core instruction.

We began our school year with our ribbon cutting ceremony followed by an open house. We are excited to be in our new school!

This month the students have enjoyed the "Dream Big, Be a Scientist" science exhibit and are looking forward to our upcoming field trip to Hollabaugh's Farm. Students will be able to pick a pumpkin, pick apples, and enjoy a wagon ride around the farm to coincide with their science unit study of the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin.

ELA - I am excited to start a new year with our incoming 3rd graders and our returning 4th graders!

Both 3rd and 4th grade students have been introduced to many types of genres, including; literature (fiction), realistic fiction, historical fiction, narrative nonfiction, informational text (nonfiction), expository, biographies, fantasy, drama and folktales. We have enjoyed our time studying these genres in our brand new library with Mrs. Windover!

This quarter, third grade has read about many different topics. Some topics include; lessons in stories, different traditions in other cultures, inventions, landmarks and memorials, and working together to solve problems. The fourth graders covered topics about how actions affect others, where good ideas come from, natural disasters, how science helps us understand how things work, starting a business to help others, and messages in stories. Both 3rd and 4th grade students have been practicing building reading comprehension by visualizing, making predictions, identifying the characters, setting, plot, problem and solution, main idea and key details of a text, and asking and answering questions.

We have been working hard in our small groups and will be introducing literature circles in the second quarter! This will provide students an opportunity to dive deeper into the books they read and work collaboratively with one another and challenge each other to grow as active readers! We have also included a Word of the Day study so make sure to ask your scholar which words they have learned about so far!

Math - In Mrs. Taylor's 3/4 math class, students have been very busy. Third graders have already covered multiplying and dividing by 2's, 3's, and 4's, reviewed time, and are now working on measuring weight, fluids, and length! They have become experts at skip counting. Not to be left out, fourth graders have mastered multiplying by 10, 100, and 1,000 as well as converting and solving measurement problems. All students are becoming better mathematicians as they progress.

We are looking forward to what the next semester brings!

Science/ Social Studies/ Writing - Third and fourth graders have been very busy this year so far in Mrs. Bechtel's class! We started the year learning all about being a scientist and the wonders of science. The students are now masters of the steps to the Scientific Method! We moved on to life cycles of pumpkins and sunflowers where the students were able to dissect each one to study their parts. They learned songs for both life cycles.

We have now started our Embryology unit. We have 12 eggs in incubation and in 21 days, the chicks will arrive! During this unit, the students will become egg-sperts on the Life Cycle of a Chicken from the embryo to adult. There will be permission slips coming home with students who are interested in giving the chicks a good home.

Coming soon in the second quarter, we will begin Social Studies. We will be studying the 50 United States and will explore cultures from around the world.

5th & 6th

Mrs. Gulden, Mrs. Naugle & Mrs. Sauter - Quarter one has come and gone so quickly this year. Check out all the fun stuff we have already accomplished!

ELA: First quarter was the start of novels for fifth and sixth grade. Fifth graders have read and enjoyed *The BFG*. We will be beginning a new novel at the start

of quarter two, *Esperanza Rising*. 6th grade has been working through and will continue *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* and connected texts in Greek Mythology. This is by far a student favorite every year.

Math: In 5th grade, we focussed on place value of whole numbers and decimals, as well as decimal operations: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals. Students worked in a variety of different ways to help them understand the value of a decimal. Next quarter, our focus will move into multi-digit multiplication and division of whole numbers. The 6th grade class spent the first quarter learning about ratios. This was a very large unit, but students did a great job representing ratios in fractional form, through charts and graphs, and in equations. In the second quarter we will be focussing on division of fractions and decimals and multi-digit decimal operations.

Science/S.S.: This quarter, 5th grade has covered scientific method and what it means to be a scientist as well as matter. Matter studies included properties of matter and physical and chemical changes. Social studies' focus was on the regions of the United States. 6th grade focused on scientific method to start, followed by layers of Earth and atmosphere. For social studies, we looked at the world map and different types of maps. Next quarter we will be moving into Earth and space and cultures for 5th grade, and 6th grade will focus on the changing earth and regions of the world.

Projects: Students will be completing their first project for the year shortly after the quarter ends. Students did a biography project on an influential person of their choice. Please be on the lookout for your child's next project right after Thanksgiving Break!

Artists in Residence: Students were fortunate enough to get to complete their first round of Artists in Residence in person this year. Students learned about a variety of dances through the decades and had the opportunity to learn how to create lace.

MUSIC NOTES

Hello everyone! It has been amazing to have music class in a classroom for the first time. Students have been making wonderful music. The students have been learning about the basics of what makes music the way it is.



Kindergarten - We have been talking about steady beats, high/low sounds, and fast/slow music (tempo).

1/2 Grade - We have been learning about high/low sounds, solfege, and tempo.

3/4 Grade - We have been learning about the Elements of Music. We have talked about Duration, Pitch (reading treble clef), and Timbre.

5/6 Grade - We have been learning about the Elements of Music. We have talked about Duration, Pitch (reading treble clef, bass clef, and the grand staff), and Timbre.

Excited to see what is to come!
Have a musical day! - Mr. Swiger

ART

We began the year working on our annual fundraiser project. I know students always look forward to being able to create something that can eventually be printed on a shirt, a coffee mug or even be made into a necklace! Further information about the Original Works Fundraiser will be coming out in November.



Throughout October, we made many fall and Halloween themed projects! 5th and 6th grade students made sneaky black cats and haunted houses, 3rd and 4th grade made colorful fall landscapes and 1st and 2nd grade made some very creative pumpkin drawings! Kindergarten has been working through our line unit, first learning about line types and now learning about famous artist Wassily Kandinsky and his use of "scribble" lines! 1st through 6th grades are

making our yearly self portraits. I always love to see how they change each and every year, not just because they've grown in size, but in their artistic abilities as well!

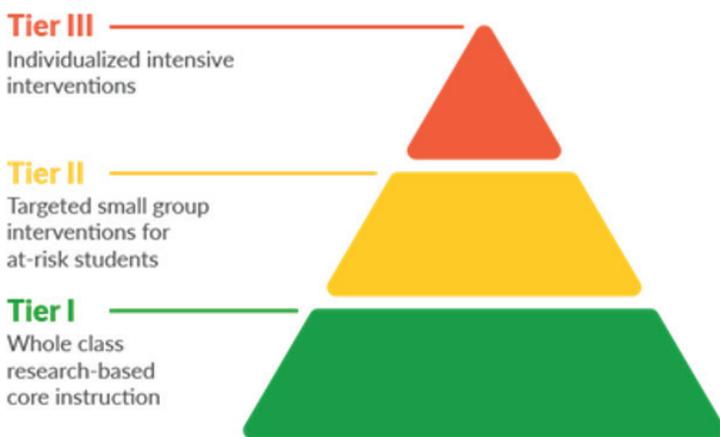
SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our processes for identifying students who may be eligible for special education services include, but are not limited to, school-wide benchmark assessments, Multi System of Tiered Support (MTSS) including Response to Intervention (RTI), Speech and Language screenings, Occupational Therapy screenings, Physical Therapy screenings, teacher referrals, and parent requests. Gettysburg Montessori Charter School currently provides itinerant and supplemental level services to all IDEA eligible students, which may include but is not limited to Learning Support services, Speech and Language services, Occupational Therapy services, Physical Therapy services and Deaf and Hard of Hearing services. Brochures reviewing the student identification process, the parents request for an evaluation process and additional topics are available to all parents and guardians in the lobby. For further information, feel free to contact our Special Education Coordinator, Rebeka Black, at becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

RTI

Response to Intervention (RTI) may sound complicated, but it is a fairly simple process. All students from elementary through high school participate in the RTI process. It starts in the classroom (what we call Tier 1) where students receive core instruction. Gettysburg Montessori Charter School uses Wonders to deliver our core reading instruction and Eureka for math. At Tier 1, the teacher gathers data on the students' performance within the classroom setting. Students performing below grade level will receive Tier 2 services either by the classroom teacher or by a RTI teacher. Lessons are provided three to five days a week for approximately 30 minutes based on student needs. If a student is not making progress, he or she may be moved to Tier 3. Tier 3 means that the student will receive lessons every day for 30-40 minutes in an even smaller group setting, and away from the distractions of the regular classroom. Depending on the growth of the student in this Tier, special education services may be recommended.

RTI is not a specific program or type of teaching. It is a proactive approach to measuring students' skills and using data to decide instructional interventions. The goal is to make each student successful through the use of interventions in the RTI process.



HEALTH NEWS

Dear GMCS Families and Friends,

The autumn season has arrived with its cooler weather and leaves turning to beautiful colors. I hope you all have a chance to take a drive for 'leaf peeping'. It seems to me that students and adults have settled into our new home and have gotten into a rhythm for the school-day.

I will begin conducting various health screenings: vision, hearing, growth, and scoliosis. I will contact you only if your child needs further evaluation.

I am impressed with the number of families who have already sent mandated grade doctor and dentist reports. Here is a list of the grade and exam due this year.

- Kindergartners - physical, vaccine, and dental records
- Third grader's - dental exam
- Sixth Grade [rising 7th graders] physical with scoliosis, booster vaccines, and dental exam

I need loaner pants for spills and muddy falls. I would like gently used sweat pants or leggings, 3 pairs each for Upper Grade level boys & girls Sizes 8 and up. I have more than enough for kindergartners. I also have plenty of shirts and tops.

Check our website for updated information regarding illness, absence, and mitigation efforts.

I wish you all good health and good spirits,
Nurse Adrian

FROM THE BOARD

Upcoming Board Meetings:

GMCS Board meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Upcoming board meetings will be held at 888 Coleman Rd. at 6:00 pm on the following dates:

Thursday, November 18, 2021
Thursday, December 16, 2021
Thursday, January 27, 2022
Thursday, February 24, 2022
Thursday, March 24, 2022

Thursday, April 28, 2022
Thursday, May 26, 2022
Thursday, June 23, 2022
Thursday, July 28, 2022
Thursday, August 25, 2022

DID YOU KNOW our school participates in the programs offered by the Pennsylvania State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC). This program provides valuable resources and classes to a parent representative from participating schools. This month's tip from our SPAC representative is all about exercising our brains and creating new pathways. How can we help our children's and even our own brains grow? By doing these simple and easy moves called crossing the midline exercises, we can encourage brain cell growth and new neural pathways to form. What does crossing the midline mean? Any movement that crosses one part of the body over the middle line of your body from head to toe or side to side. For example, take your right arm and touch your left knee. Or bend in the middle and touch your toes. Make the peace sign with one hand and the love sign with the other hand, then switch. Go back and forth repeating any of these simple movements to encourage brain cell growth. The better you get the more your brain grows. These are great tools for helping students achieve age appropriate learning readiness at home and at school! To make it even more fun, turn it into a game at home and challenge each other. Have fun crossing the midline!

Mckinney Vento Act:

Homelessness is not only living on the streets. If you are living in a shelter, motel, camper or doubling up with someone, you are considered homeless. We are here to help! Please reach out to us!