



Montessori Moments

FALL 2022

Administrative News

Autumn is the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful. At GMCS, we embrace change as we continually evolve and make improvements to provide the best possible education for our wonderful students. We appreciate our staff, students, families, and the community who work together as a team to create a positive and welcoming place of learning where our students thrive.

The 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start as we anticipate a year of normalcy after two years of uncharted territory due to Covid. Our enrollment has been on the uprise and has been steadily climbing at almost 280 enrolled students. In August, everything was back in full swing as students came eager to learn with smiling faces. We enjoyed seeing everyone at our annual back-to-school night and welcomed many new families.

Our teachers have also been busy learning. They participated in a week-long training of professional development classes to aid in implementing curriculum and learning strategies.

In October, we had a visit from Skydome, a 45-minute journey through the universe in a traveling, inflatable planetarium that came right to GMCS! Budding astronomers were dazzled as they were taken on a tour of the solar system. Students also had the opportunity to create scarecrows which were delivered to local businesses to raise money for the SPCA. In addition, our first annual participation in the Gettysburg Parade took place on October 25th.

November has brought lots of fun educational opportunities as well. Students celebrated Veteran's Day and World Kindness Day. Lots of special activities were planned including writing letters to Veterans and incorporating acts of kindness to further emphasize our school mantra: "Always remember to be kind".

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, M.Ed., Ph.D. & Tammy Hogan, M.Ed., Ph.D



Save the Date:

- **Tutoring Club Started**
11/01/2022
- **Early Dismissal @ 12pm**
12/09/2022
- **Holiday Shop**
12/09/2022 to 12/21/2022
- **WOW Student Store**
12/15/2022-12/21/2022
- **Winter Spirit week**
12/15/2022-12/21/2022
- **Popcorn Fundraiser**
12/01/2022-12/31/2022
- **Winter Celebrations**
12/21/2022
- **Amazon Smiles:**
With the holidays approaching don't forget to support Gettysburg Montessori Charter School when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



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, using our five senses, and how we use tools! Our sight words so far are: I, can, the, we, like, and see. (Please practice sight words at home too!)

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

In Eureka Math, we have learned to count, build, read, 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! We enjoyed dressing up in costumes, playing games and doing crafts.

The students had a great time on our field trip to Field of Adventures where they got to pick pumpkins, go on a tractor ride, learn about corn, and enjoy the many play areas at the farm.

This quarter we worked on the four 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. Lansford, Mrs. Needham, Miss Stowman - Our first quarter has been fantastic! We already earned our first class award for the year. The students chose to watch Sonic 2, which, I have to admit, I enjoyed more than I thought I would!

We are continuing to work on meeting classroom expectations on a regular basis. We are also learning to work independently, to respect the classroom, and to manage our time well.

In Language Arts we have been learning how to predict what might happen next in a story. We have been practicing writing and spelling. We have discussed how characters change from the beginning to the end of stories and learned how to connect events in a story to events in our own lives.

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. In 2nd grade math, we have been working on adding and subtracting double-digit numbers, and are now learning place values. Every day, as a class, we practice telling time using an analog clock, counting money, and determining what is 10 more, 10 less, 1 more, and 1 less of a given number.

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

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

environment during core instruction.

This past month, the students have enjoyed the "SkyDome" science exhibit and had a wonderful time on our field trip to Local Homestead Products in New Windsor, Maryland. Students were able to pick a pumpkin, enjoy a wagon ride around the farm, and work as a team to navigate their way through a corn maze. We also had a special visitor, Ms. Reyes. She came to speak to our 3/4 friends about her culture. She is from Chili and we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with music, dance, and food! Thank you, Ms. Reyes!

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.

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 learned about story elements with a twist to a classic tale: "Three Little Pigs and a Book" to complete our sequence chains. One fun project we have completed in class is making class cookbooks with each student creating a recipe of their favorite snack to show our understanding of sequence!

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!

I'm also very excited to announce that we have begun the year in full swing with our spelling units and have so far covered the short vowel and long vowel patterns! We will continue to implement spelling practice and application each week with different patterns and I encourage everyone to practice their spelling at home with fun activities like using shaving cream or sand to spell, pictionary, or alphabet magnets.

Math: In Mrs. Roush's math class, all students have been busy bees! Third graders began our math exploration with multiplication supported with the concept of grouping and arrays. We have been exploring the world around us and seeing just how math plays a large part in our everyday lives. They have experienced how math connects to real life objects, such as eggs in a carton as a solid example of an array. As third graders moved on to division, they realized the relationship between multiplication and division. Telling time has been an exciting adventure because now they understand how long each part of their day lasts, such as having lunch, spending time in math class, and even how long their bus ride home is! Elapsed time is a favorite topic in our class! Third graders are just about ready to dive into the world of measuring - weight, fluids, and length!

Our fourth graders are also doing a super job at being amazing mathematicians! They jumped into the concept of place value immediately. Through this concept, they have mastered multiplying by 10, 100, and even 1,000! They really enjoyed adding and subtracting the numbers in word form and they are masters at expanded form! Finally, our fourth graders are diligently working on converting measurement units and dissecting word problems to determine only the essential elements of a word problem.

I am super proud of all my students and I am looking forward to experiencing how much more they progress in their math skills to become better mathematicians!

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 ecosystems and habitats units where the students completed their first quarter project "Create an Animal" and presented them to the class. I was very proud of their effort on their first project of the year.

Classroom Updates

We have now started our Embryology unit. We have 18 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 states and will explore Cultures from around the world.

5th & 6th

Mrs. Guldén, Mrs. Naugle & Mrs. Sauter - It is so hard to believe that we are writing the wrap-up for our first quarter already! Please check out below to see what we have been getting into!

ELA: In ELA, we began our novel studies as well as reviewed some of our rules regarding sentence writing and sentence types. Students are either reading *Rump The (Fairly True) Tale of Rumpelstiltskin* or *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*. As we continue we will also be looking at point of view, story elements, and theme. *Percy Jackson* readers will be working on analyzing the text a lot as we go while comparing multiple texts and connecting them to one another.

Science: In science, we started the year studying matter. We did a lot of experiments to learn the ins-and-outs of this. Then we moved into research skills. This set us up for our Biography Projects and the many projects to come this year. Recently, we started exploring space. This will continue into the next quarter along with a switch to social studies and investigating maps.

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. Students also learned about powers of 10 (using exponents) and we touched on converting measurements from one unit to another. In Quarter 2, 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. Students also learned about percentages, finding the percentages of a number, and solving rate problems. In the second quarter we will be focussing on division of fractions and decimals and multi-digit decimal operations.

Artists in Residence: We had the pleasure of starting our year with Mr. Jef and Miss Nancy again. For ten days, our students had the opportunity to learn about other countries around the world. They learned some dances, information about the cultures and history, as well as worked on embroidering images related to each of the countries. This all culminated with our ball on October 21st. If you missed it this time, don't worry, there will be another one in May!

MUSIC NOTES

Hello everyone! This year has been going very well for music class. All classes have been preparing for the Winter Concert that's happening in December as well as talking about various musical topics.



Kindergarten - They have been working on Steady Beat, High/Low Sounds, Fast/Slow Sounds, and Loud/Soft Sounds.

1/2 Grade - They have been working on Rhythm, Solfege, and Dynamics.

3/4 Grade - They have been working on Rhythm, Pitch (Treble Clef), and Dynamics.

5/6 Grade - They have been working on Rhythm, Pitch (Treble and Bass Clef), and Dynamics.

I cannot wait to see everyone at the Winter Concerts in December. As a reminder the concerts will take place: Kindergarten - 12/5, 1/2 Grade - 12/6, 3-6 Grade -

12/7. All concerts are starting at 6:00 PM at GMCS Cafeteria.

Have a musical day everyone! - 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.



Over the past few months, our students have made some incredible projects! Kindergarten learned about different line types and then practiced tracing and drawing them. They made shooting stars with the line types following behind a yellow star. Students colored in the background and spaces between the line types. Then, we looked at the artwork of Russian artist, Wassily Kandinsky. His work was very abstract, combining line, shape and color. Students made "scribble art" based on Kandinsky's work and they colored in and around the lines. Next, we will be exploring the art of Paul Klee, a modern artist who painted bright and colorful shapes. Students will be using basic shape cut outs to make fall trees.

First and second grade students began the year by drawing self portraits with additional flare. Students were able to draw their hair however they wanted, and they could use any colors they wanted. They could also turn their hair into objects like pets and video game characters! For the next project, we discussed warm and cool colors and where we might see those colors used around us. Students traced leaves into white paper and then colored them in with warm colors. For the background, students chose from either green, blue or purple construction paper. To give the appearance of blowing leaves, students drew spiral shapes by using cool colored pastels. Next, students will be learning about the Sioux tribe and their beautiful pottery. They will be making colorful coil pots with modeling clay!

Third and fourth grade also did self portraits with "crazy hair", which are now on display in the hallway! For their next project, students will be looking at the artwork of Wayne Thiebaud, an artist who painted treats like cake and ice cream! For their project, students will be drawing fall desserts with pastels.

Fifth and sixth grade students also did self portraits. For half of their picture, they drew their own face. For the other half, they were to draw a character/person that they felt represented them. The results were incredible! For the next project, students learned about the life of Vincent van Gogh and we discussed his work. They are drawing *Starry Night* inspired pumpkin patches with pastels! I cannot wait to put them up on display!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

This year is already flying by and we have been very busy in Wellness class having fun with many different activities. In gym class, Kindergarten through second grade have been working on locomotor/non-locomotor skills, underhand and overhand throwing and catching skills, striking different objects, balancing, yoga, and playing fun tag games. Third through sixth grade, has been working on locomotor/non-locomotor skills, yoga, how to work as a team to learn and play games of badminton, different throwing/catching games, and partner/team activities. During the next couple of weeks, all students will be starting soccer. In health class, Kindergarten through fifth grade have learned about what germs are, how they spread, and how to prevent the spread of germs, community helpers who keep us safe and healthy, learning about safe/unsafe situations, and the safety of animals, natural disasters, and fire safety. I look forward to the next couple of months ahead as the holiday season is my favorite time of the year, especially when the students complete different holiday stations throughout the gym.

Please remember to wear sneakers to Wellness class and dress appropriately as the weather continues to get colder.

LIBRARY

Hello GMCS families! I'm so happy to be back in the library with the students this fall. They have been fantastic about remembering to bring their books back on library day so thank you for your help in making that happen.

We've covered a lot of ground since the beginning of the school year. I've read so many great books already, exploring many topics such as the Autumn equinox, Hispanic Heritage Month, fiction vs. nonfiction, folktales and fairytales and Halloween history and traditions. We've also had lessons covering the parts of a book, book care, story prediction, and Author spotlights on Eric Carle, William Steig, Andrew Clements, and Kate Dicamillo.

Something to keep an eye on - we've had a number of books already this fall get ruined from leaky water bottles in backpacks so please try to watch out for this.

Thank you, and happy reading!
-Emily Windover, Librarian

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Challenging behavior and intense emotional responses can cause distress for children and adolescence, as well as their families. "It is estimated that approximately 30 percent of school-aged students will experience a behavioral, mental, or developmental condition in any given year." (Pennsylvania Department of Education)

Resources:

Center for Parent Information and Resources

The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

The National Childhood Stress Network

PA Parent and Family Alliance

Student Assistance Program (SAP)

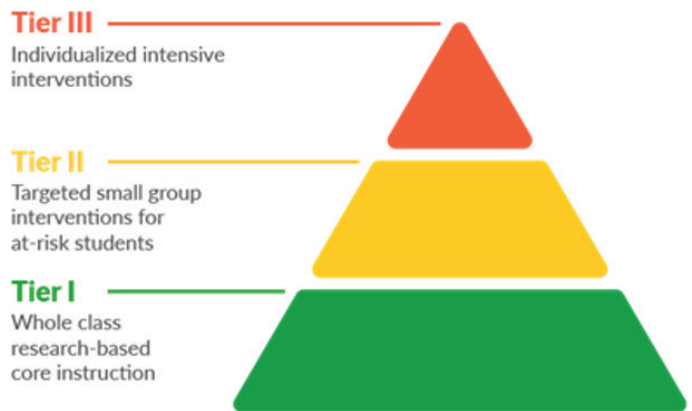
Understood.org

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, Vision Support 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, topics such as self-esteem and reputation. We also discussed developing smart goals, responsibility and effective coping skills.



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!

