

FALL 2023

Montessori Moments

Administration Report

The 2023/24 school year is off to a fantastic start! We began the year with almost 300 students, and we also welcomed four new teachers to our wonderful staff. Over the summer, we had a core team of teachers build a new ELA and math curriculum, which they have been implementing each day. Our curriculum is built around the PA state standards. In September, we had our annual back to school night, and in October we had an open house where parents and students had the opportunity to connect with their child's teacher and learn more about their classroom routines and procedures. We have already completed the first marking period and are already heading into the second in full swing. Report cards were posted at the end of last week. Parent teacher conferences were held last week and today kicks off our kindness week. In celebration of "World Kindness Day", we will be having our first family night of the year on November 13th as we discuss "creating a culture of kindness" At Montessori, kindness is our mantra, and the cornerstone of all we do. Our administrative team at GMCS is here to help, and if you have any questions throughout the school year, please don't hesitate to contact either Dr. Pleso or Dr. Hogan. Together we can provide the best educational experience for your child. Have a wonderful holiday season and always remember to be kind!



No School
Thanksgiving Break
11/22-11/27/2023
Winter Break
12/22-01/01/2024

Early Dismissal @ 12pm
11/09/2023
12/09/2023
12/21/2023

Always Remember To always be KIND!

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School (717) 334-1120

<https://www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org/>



KINDERGARTEN



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! For Halloween, we enjoyed dressing up for the costume parade, playing games and doing crafts in our classroom.

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!

-Mrs. Fleurant and Ms. Harmon

1ST & 2ND GRADE



The First and Second Grade team is so excited to have the students back in the classroom. We have accomplished a lot in just a short period of time. Both first and second grade students have been practicing their handwriting and it is so amazing to see how their writing is improving. Each week we work on “kid” writing to practice getting our thoughts on paper. Students then draw a picture to go along with what they have written. In first grade math, we have been learning to add and subtract. We also have been working on counting on and counting back to solve problems. In first grade math we also have been working on comparing categories in graphs to figure out how many are in the picture. In second grade math, we have been learning to add and subtract within 200. Recently, we have been learning about place value; specifically, ones, tens, and hundreds. Second grade students have also been working with number lines to help add and subtract, as well as using graphs to solve word problems.

In October we went on our first field trip of the year to Country Creek Produce Farms. We had an absolute blast and students got to pick their very own pumpkins. Students really enjoyed getting to pick their own pumpkins and learn about how pumpkins grow. Students also enjoyed all the fun Country Creek Produce Farms had to offer. If you have the chance, we do suggest this destination as a place to visit as a family. The entire grade band was talking about the trip weeks after, so we know all our students had fun. Recently, we have decided to read a grade band book because we thought it would be cool if all our students could talk about a book we were reading in class. As a group, we chose Charlotte’s Web. When we are finished reading the book, we will watch the movie and celebrate together as a grade band. Before watching the movie, however, permission slips will be sent home to make sure parents / guardians are okay with their student seeing the movie. As the year continues, we are excited to watch our students learn and continue to grow.

Mrs. Raylock, Miss Stephenson, and Mrs. Thomas

3RD AND 4TH GRADE



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 an assembly "Dream Big: Be a Scientist" 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 visit the greenhouse where they learned the process of the plant industry.

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 been working hard in our small groups on different phonics skills(long and short vowel pattern, vowel teams, CVC, r-controlled vowels) 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

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 lab safety where the students completed their first quarter project "Lab Safety: Create a Comic Strip". I was very proud of their effort on their first project of the year.

We have now started our Embryology unit. We have 21 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 National Parks and will explore Cultures from around the world.

5TH & 6TH GRADE



ELA: In ELA, we started fifth grade with our nonfiction novel study selection, *The Most Beautiful Roof in the World*. We discussed informational text features and learned a variety of ways to take notes and read deeply when reading a text. In sixth grade, we began reading *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief*. Students are loving the story, and we have spent a lot of time studying myths and the components of "The Hero's Journey." With me leaving for maternity leave, students and teachers will transition to our study of the BFG novel and more in-depth look at topics such as figurative language. We will pick up where we left off, upon my return.

Science: In class, we just finished our unit on ecosystems. Students wrapped it up by creating their own ecosystem dioramas. We're starting our first social studies unit, which is going to be about history. As a transition, we are working on primary and secondary sources relating to social studies and our current biography projects.

Math: We spent the beginning of the year reviewing important foundational skills and math vocabulary. As we started our Eureka math program, fifth graders focussed on place value, reading and writing numbers in multiple forms, powers of 10, estimating products and quotients, and learning multiple methods of solving multiplication problems. As we enter into quarter two, we will continue to practice multi-digit multiplication as well as long division.

Sixth graders spent the first quarter learning about ratios. Students learned how to identify a ratio, how to write equivalent ratios, how to represent and read ratios in multiple forms (tables, double number lines, and graphs), and how to compare ratios when they have different values. In quarter two, we will wrap up our ratio unit and move into rates and percentages.

Cafeteria



If your student has a food allergy or special dietary requirements, please let our staff know As soon as possible. Please email SFazenbaker@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

LUNCH
TIME

Transportation

IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE BUS SAFETY AWARENESS, ON OCTOBER 18TH, WE HAD A SCHOOLWIDE BUS ASSEMBLY. BUS DRIVERS WERE INVITED TO ATTEND, AND STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE BUS SAFETY RULES, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING THEM.

BELOW ARE THE UNIVERSAL RULES FOR ALL OF THE BUSES THAT SERVICE OUR 17 DISTRICTS:

- 1. KEEP HANDS AND FEET TO YOURSELF.**
- 2. BACK-TO-BACK/BOTTOM-TO-BOTTOM.**
- 3. SEAT SEATED.**
- 4. WHISPER VOICES.**
- 5. ALWAYS LISTEN TO THE BUS DRIVER.**

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO ENFORCE THESE RULES TO KEEP ALL OF OUR STUDENTS SAFE!



Technology



Gettysburg Montessori Charter School students started the out the 2023–2024 school year receiving Online Safety lessons. We encourage a mindful, informed, and cautious approach to our use of technology. GMCS’s Technology Classes began the semester with typing classes in TypeTastic and Typing Club. Classes from K–2 are sharpening computer and spelling skills while learning the layout of a computer keyboard. Students in grades 3–6 are learning the art of Touch Typing through practice in digital lessons taken at their own pace. Some students are typing up to 40 words per minute, and others can type full paragraphs without once looking at their keyboard. All Technology classes can earn the reward of Coding Time at the end of class. Coding programs used in grades K–2 are Kodable, a fun and safe way of learning how we give computers “commands”. Grade 3–6 students are using Google’s “Computer Science First” which allows them to be creative and build animations by exploring block coding. Gettysburg Montessori Charter has earned a mention as a CS 100 School for the ‘23–’24 school year. We’re proud to have made a CSforALL Commitment. We support achieving the ultimate goal of bringing computer science to all U.S. students. This encourages equal opportunities in the future for all students. We join the hundreds of other schools and organizations that have committed to doing their part to reach all U.S. students with Computer Science.

Mrs. Wolf

Library

Hello GMCS families!

It's been a great first quarter in the library. Everyone has been fantastic about remembering to bring their books on library day, so thank you for your help in making that happen!

We've gotten into a lot of fun topics since the beginning of the school year. We've read so many great books already, books about Autumn and the changing seasons, Hispanic Heritage Month, and different examples of fiction vs. nonfiction. We've read folktales and fairytales and Halloween stories, history and traditions. We've also had lessons covering the parts of a book, book care, story prediction.

Another highlight of the first quarter was our Fall Book Fair. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered and helped make it a success!

Check out the link below for some great tips to promote enthusiasm for reading at home.

<https://bookriot.com/literacy-at-home/>

Thank you, and happy reading!

Mrs. Windover





Wellness



Our school year is already flying by, and I cannot believe it is already November. In wellness class, students have been busy learning new skills and having fun. From learning locomotor/non-locomotor skills for the younger grades to completing teamwork and cooperative activities for the older grades, we are completing as many activities as possible. In health class, students have learned about germs and hand washing steps, personal hygiene, stranger danger/how to stay safe outside of school, and many more topics. I am looking forward to having even more fun in wellness class during our next quarter.

Reminders:

- *Please wear sneakers on your wellness class day for safety. Remember this is part of your grade and it is good to start learning responsibility.
- *Bring a water bottle to school on wellness class days if needed.
- *It is starting to get colder outside so remember to dress for the weather.

Mrs. Seitz



ART



It's hard to believe we've already made it through the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year! We started the year with our annual art fundraiser. Students made pictures, they were shipped off to New York and soon families will be able to order products with their child's artwork!

For their first school project, Kindergarten students learned about different line types and practiced them on paper. For their project they made shooting stars with the line types following the stars to show movement! Next, we looked at artwork by artist Wassily Kandinsky. Then, students created abstract scribble drawings with black Sharpies and they colored in the spaces between the lines. Now we are learning about basic shapes and are building fall trees with colorful shapes!

After the fundraiser project, students in first through sixth grade did a project on the meaning of art. I asked students to close their eyes and then picture what they think of when they hear the word art. We shared our ideas and I wrote them on the board. Students then created drawings to show what art means to them.

First and second grade students watched a read aloud for the book *From Seed to Pumpkin*. Then they were asked to trace large pumpkin shapes on black or blue paper. Then, they tore pieces of orange paper to fill in the space of the pumpkin. We are now starting our Native American unit by learning about the Pueblo tribes. Students will be making pinch pots and decorating them with pictographs, which are symbols that stand for things like animals, people and nature.

Third and fourth grade learned about the celebration of Dia de los Muertos, also called Day of the Dead. For their project, students made sugar skull self portraits. We are now starting our Native American unit on the Pomo tribes in Northern California. They were master weavers who wove baskets, clothing and even their canoes! Students will be making woven cups with yarn. They will be given a solo cup and cut strips into it. Then I will demonstrate how to do the weaving. Students will be able to use their choice of yarn for this project.

After the meaning of art project, fifth and sixth grade students learned about Pablo Picasso and his life. For their project they made Picasso inspired self portraits. Next, students will be making glowing gems floating in space. They will be using oil pastels to color their gems.



Mrs. Swiger



It has been a wonderful and musical start to the school year! Students have been working hard on learning the songs they will be singing at the Winter Concert. The concert on Tuesday, December 12 at Gettysburg Area High School in the evening. The concert is mandatory. More information about the concert will be sent out.

In music class, students have been learning about the basics of music. In Kindergarten, students have been learning about steady beat, high/low, fast/slow, and loud/soft sounds. In 1/2 grade, students have been learning about rhythm, solfege, and tempo. In 3-6 grade, students have been learning about duration, pitch, and tempo.

Our first music club was drumming. Students learned how to play the drums while sitting in a drumming circle. Students also learned how to play rhythms while using stickings.

I'm excited to see how the next quarter will go! Have a musical day!



Mr. Swiger





RTI

Dear Parents,

As you know, learning to read is one of the most important skills your child will develop. Reading opens doors to learning, entertainment, and new worlds of imagination. As partners in your child's education, our team would like to provide some tips on how you can support your child's reading development at home through reading aloud, talking, and decoding practice.

The Benefits of Reading Aloud

- Reading aloud builds listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension, and more. Just 10-15 minutes per day makes a big difference!
- Children learn more words when they listen to books read aloud compared to just casual conversation.
- Reading aloud fosters important bonding time between parent and child.
- Hearing fluent reading serves as a model for children's own reading.

The Importance of Conversation

- Having back-and-forth conversations with your child, no matter how young, builds language skills critical to reading.
- Asking questions when reading together boosts comprehension. "What do you think will happen next?"

Supporting Decoding

- Children must learn to match sounds to letters in order to read words. Fun activities like identifying rhymes or clapping syllables help develop this skill.
- Pointing out repeating letter patterns in books helps children learn to decode new words. "This word starts like cat, too - /c/ /a/ /t/."
- Correcting mistakes is OK! Prompting to sound words out again helps cement decoding skills.

With your support at home, I know your child will make great progress this year! Please reach out if you need any additional tips or resources for making reading a fun, regular habit.

Sincerely,

The Response to Intervention Team

FALL 2023

GMCS News



- Car riders can be dropped off at the front door between 8:00 am and 8:30 am. Breakfast is served until 8:25am.
- Car riders can be picked up at the front door between 2:50 pm and 3:20 pm.
- You will need your child's GMCS car rider sign at dismissal. If you do not have a sign, please stop by the front office. During Drop off and pick up, please slow down, and take extra precautions in the parking lot.

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.

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!



FALL 2023



Board Update Montessori Moments

Meeting Dates
Board / Executive Sessions
4th Thursday starting at 5:30PM

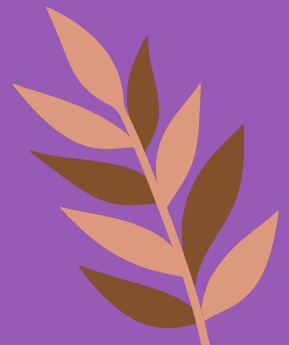
November 16, 2023
December 21, 2023 via Zoom
January 25, 2024
February 22, 2024
March 21, 2024
April 25, 2024
May 23, 2024
June 27, 2024 via Zoom
July 25, 2024 If needed
August 22, 2024



Always Remember To always be KIND!



Gettysburg Montessori Charter School (717) 334-1120
<https://www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org/>



Newsletter

Stay up to
date with our
monthly GMCS
newsletters!



<https://www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org/gmcs-news/>

Happy
Thanksgiving

