

Winter 2024 Administration Report

Montessori Moments

"Always Remember To be KIND!"

Dear GMCS Families,

We are excited to share some new plans that will be developing this year. Feedback from families, students, and staff helped to shape these plans.

They include:

- Expanding our current playground
- Adding a new K-2 playground
- Paving the gravel parking lot and adding a basketball hoop
- Installing a gate at the bus entrance
- Storage building/shed
- Two outdoor learning spaces, pavilion style and possible one more
- Installing snake rail fencing along the perimeter
- Planting of native trees on the south side of the bus loop

Thank you for choosing GMCS!



No School
Spring Break
03/28/2024-04/01/2024

Early Dismissal @ 12pm
03/01/2024
05/03/2024
05/24/2024



DR. HOGAN'S HEADQUARTERS

Maria Montessori recognized that when allowed the freedom of choice within clear, firm, and reasonable boundaries, children act in positive ways that further their development. Freedom is frequently misunderstood, and many people take it to mean that children can do whatever they want. Montessori believed that freedom without boundaries was abandonment (Montessori Northwest, 2017).

At Gettysburg Montessori, we strive to teach kindness and respect, and develop the good in everyone. However, we recognize that some days can be a struggle, and students may require a little extra TLC. Our staff continuously models the Montessori methods of grace and courtesy in daily interactions. We have a schoolwide behavior plan that we utilize as a communicative tool between home and school. This behavior protocol is set in place to remind students of expectations, and to provide data in monitoring student behavior. This tool is found in FACTS, under the behavior tab, and if an event is added, it will be sent home from the FACTS portal via email.

Behaviors are broken down into three levels.

A LEVEL ONE report is called a “reflection”. If a behavior occurs, and a student needs to be reminded of the rules, then the teacher will write a reflection, and enter the information into FACTS. A level one report is simply a communicative tool between school and home to make parents aware of any situations at school. It is important to have an open line of communication between home and school, and our teachers, staff, and administrative team do their best to keep parents updated and informed.

Some examples of level one behaviors (minor issues) include: unkind words, name calling, failing to respond to staff requests, inappropriate language, minor disruption such as talking and disturbing friends, and minor damaging of school property. The disciplinary actions for level one behaviors include a reminder of the rules, natural consequences, and parent contact via FACTS.

A LEVEL TWO behavior is a more serious offense, and includes behaviors such as, but not limited to, repeated Level 1 infractions, responding to staff in a disrespectful or defiant manner, not following safety procedures, cheating, physical and verbal aggression, unsafe use of objects, and bus misconduct. Disciplinary actions for level two behaviors include incident report documentation in FACTS, temporary removal from the classroom, immediate administrative referral involving meeting with the assistant principal (and staff involved), and parent notification. Other sanctions could be issued depending on the student, and the infraction incurred.

A LEVEL THREE behavior is a major problem, and this level of negative behavior can result in violence and pose a threat to the safety and well-being of others. Serious behaviors, such as, but not limited to, include fighting, deliberately inflicting harm to another, physical/verbal assault, threats, bullying, leaving the building without permission (eloping), possession of a weapon, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, major bus misconduct, vaping, or smoking. Disciplinary actions for level 3 behaviors include any level 2 sanctions, and may involve out of school suspension, expulsion, alternative placement, reimbursement of property and damages, law-enforcement notification, and prosecution by outside agencies.

GMCS complies with IDEA protections when disciplining students.

With all of these supports in place, and open communication between school and home, it is our hope to develop each student to reach their fullest potential, while becoming kind and respectful members of our school community and society. We believe that developing the whole child, from academics to discipline, is a very important component of Montessori education.

KINDERGARTEN



Our Kindergarteners have experienced some exciting activities during quarter two. The Mobile Agricultural Lab visited our school and taught us about how vegetables grow, how to make a pizza, and the role farms play in providing food to the community. We also enjoyed doing winter themed activities throughout the month!

We are off to a great start to the new year! Our Kindergarteners are showing responsibility, and habits of lifelong learning, as they challenge themselves with new works in the classroom.

In Eureka Math, we wrapped up a unit of study focusing on measurement and weight. We also learned about the attributes of numbers, using the terms “more than” and “less than” as we compared sets. Next quarter, we will begin learning about the partners of five and ten which is the precursor to addition and subtraction. Then, we will be using number bonds to add and subtract.

In English Language Arts, we have learned many new sight words, and are applying our knowledge of words and phonics to reading and writing stories. At home, please practice sight words by reading three and four letter words!

We had a fun time celebrating our students’ 100th day of school! Lastly, please ensure that your child comes to school prepared for outside recess in winter weather. Warm coats, hats, and gloves are a must. If your child wears boots to school, we recommend sending sneakers in their backpack for inside use.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Mrs. Fleurant and Ms. Harmon



1ST & 2ND GRADE



We are excited to share that we have seen a lot of growth and improvement in our first and second graders!

We recently finished reading Charlotte's Web. The students really enjoyed watching the movie and comparing it to the book using a graphic organizer. We have also been making great progress in handwriting, math, and language arts. Our students continue to impress us every day, and are becoming quite the learners!

Our second-grade students are continuing to work on cursive handwriting, while first grade students continue to improve on manuscript handwriting. In kid writing, students are beginning to focus on beginning, middle (supporting details), and closing statements. It is amazing to see their progress unfold, considering at the beginning of the year many would only write a few words; Now they are writing four or more sentences!

In first grade math, students have been learning how to add with three-part equations. We have also been working on knowing the difference between computation symbols, and knowing when to add and subtract.

In second grade math, students are learning borrowing in subtraction, and regrouping in addition. We have also been learning about place value to 200.

In April, we will be going to Catoctin Zoo for another field trip. We will be sending out permission slips mid-February, so please be on the lookout for this form. We will need chaperones for our upcoming field trip. If you are interested in chaperoning, please make sure Mrs. Nikki has your clearances. We cannot allow parents to attend without clearances. We are very excited about the Catoctin Zoo field trip, and will be reading zoo/animal books before we go. This will help to prepare us for our field trip, and get excited to see many interesting animals!

As the year continues, we are excited to continue to watch our students learn and grow!

Thank you for your continued support!

~Miss Stephenson, Mrs. Raylock, and Mrs. Thomas



3RD AND 4TH GRADE

We are very proud of how our third graders have settled in and know our routine and expectations! We want to thank all of our students for being respectful, kind, and hardworking role models. We would also like to thank our parents for all of their support and involvement during the first half of our school year. We appreciate our students and parents!

ELA (Ms. Dohler)

Happy New Year everyone! Welcome to 2024! We have been working hard in ELA class practicing our grammar skills, developing critical thinking and reasoning skills, expanding our vocabulary, and improving our fluency and reading comprehension. In grammar, we have been working hard identifying types of nouns, verbs, and pronouns, just to name a few! We also incorporated these skills into their second quarter “National Parks project” by writing a postcard highlighting some of the amazing features found in their park. I continue to be impressed with the development of all the students' reading and writing skills, and I am immensely proud of them all!

We have jumped in full force with our Zaner-Bloser spelling program! Students have been eager to learn new patterns each week, and be able to improve their spelling skills! The students have been applying these patterns to sorting words, finding word meanings of larger words, working with analogies, making inferences, and using context clues, as well as connecting our spelling to our writing. We look forward to the New Year and all the wonderful reading opportunities it will bring us!

Math (Mrs. Roush)

We have been focusing on the concept of place value in our world and how to apply it. We have been diving deeper into learning about how valuable it is in math, and in our everyday lives! Making this connection, and understanding place value, helps students to progress further into mathematical content, and provides deeper understanding of complex problems. We continue to explore our world, and make real life connections to place value and rounding. Place value and rounding are two vital concepts that we will continue to practice with more repetition! Estimation was another significant element in our learning this quarter. We learned about budgeting, shopping, and traveling. Students had a blast as we worked on the math portion of our National Parks project. They realized how expensive a trip can be! They also discovered that they might need to win the lottery before taking the trip they planned! All students took the next step and applied what they learned about place value and estimation, to figuring out multi-step word problems. Third graders were equipped from the first quarter with their understanding of number bonds, and used that prior knowledge to solve multiplication and division problems. Fourth graders had prior knowledge with computational expressions, and how to incorporate that into their solutions.

I am delighted with my student's eagerness and willingness to learn new math material. I am also very proud of how well they collaborate and help one another! The Montessori philosophy is alive and well in our math class, as students express interest in supporting one another in their mathematical endeavors!

Science/Social Studies (Mrs. Bechtel)

In science & social studies and writing, our students have been diligently working. I absolutely love their curiosity and engagement when they are in class! We began this quarter with our embryology unit. The students loved learning about the 21 eggs that were brought to us from the PA 4-H and Penn State. We candled the eggs and were very excited to observe the chicks' growth. We eagerly awaited, (which was super challenging), for Day 21 - Hatch Day! Six beautiful ,fluffy chicks hatched, and our excitement could not be contained!

After finishing our embryology unit, we discussed Native American culture and the Mayflower journey. We then began the exploration of our “Christmas Around the World” unit. The students were given passports, and were ready to travel! We spent a day in the USA, and then we were off to explore other countries! Our first stop was Germany, then France, off to Holland, and finally Spain. After the holiday break, students presented their brochure on National Parks, and I loved the creativity and the effort that was put forth! I am very proud of each and every student for their efforts and hard work! Moving forward this quarter, we are preparing for our Science Fair, which will be held on March 14th. We will also begin our weather and motion/force units. The students are super excited to explore snowflakes and snow!

As always, grade 3/4 students are busy scientists who are learning, discovering, and exploring!

5TH & 6TH GRADE



ELA:

In ELA, both 5th and 6th graders read BFG and completed a novel study. Students also studied figurative language and summarizing. Sixth graders worked on their persuasive writing skills as well. To wrap up the unit, students were able to watch the movie and compare it to the novel.

Math: In the second quarter, fifth grade continued to work on solving multi-digit multiplication and long division problems. It would be helpful to have your child practice basic multiplication and division facts, as it will help make math problems simpler to solve when automaticity is developed. Fifth graders also started our fraction unit, specifically learning how to add and subtract fractions. In quarter three, we will continue our fraction unit, with our focus shifting to multiplying and dividing fractions.

The 6th graders finished up their unit on ratios and percentages. They moved into learning about number theory, statistical analysis (mean, median, mode, range), and how to create graphs to display data (box and whisker plots, line plots, and histograms). In the third quarter, we will continue to learn and review multiple operations with decimals and fractions.

Science/S.S.:

In social studies, students finished learning about the 13 colonies and what led to the Revolutionary War. The unit came to a close with each student becoming an expert in a topic about the early colonies, and then teaching the rest of the class.

In science, students had the opportunity to practice for the upcoming science fair. Students designed and implemented their own experiment about paper rockets and toy cars. In addition, we are starting our unit on protecting Earth's resources. Students will learn about renewable and nonrenewable resources, and have the opportunity to learn about how we can help protect the Earth's natural resources.

FOOD SERVICES



We are looking for your feedback!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScj5dIKauP3HeW0vngrsLyHgLktyNI2jKeq4WuB4M4c5nVCxA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Thank you!

**SUPER
HEROES**



LIBRARY

Hello families,

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year! We've read a lot of great books together, and covered a lot of topics during library class. I've shared books with all of the grade bands on the theme of Veteran's Day, World Kindness Day, and American Indian Heritage Month. We read about winter animals, and spent some class time talking about Charles Dickens and our school field trip to the theatrical production of "A Christmas Carol". We also explored some "Author Spotlights". Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd learned about books written by Eric Carle, Jan Brett, and Judi Barrett. The third and fourth graders focused on Neil Gaiman and Roald Dahl, and fifth and sixth graders tread and discussed J.R.R. Tolkein and Louis Sachar. We are wrapping up the quarter with some Dewey Decimal scavenger hunts for third through sixth graders. We are also learning about alphabetical organization in Kindergarten through second grade.

I will leave you with this quote from Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, "There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."

Happy reading,
Mrs. Windover



WELLNESS

We are kicking off the new year right in wellness class to make sure our bodies stay happy and healthy in 2024! In health class, we have been learning about the different food groups, healthy/unhealthy foods, calories and how they benefit our bodies, and reading nutrition labels.

In the upcoming weeks, we will be talking about different body parts/organs, and types of body systems. We also will dive into a unit on the heart. In gym class, we have been completing different scooter activities, team relay games, tag games, workout video activities, and we will be starting basketball soon. Some classes are working on earning class rewards of playing dodgeball, having free time, and doing activities with the parachute. I am looking forward to having a fit and fun time in wellness class this next quarter with my students!

-Mrs. Seitz

Reminders:

Please remember to be responsible and wear sneakers to wellness class. Wearing sneakers is good for your safety.

Everyone is getting sick around this time of the year. Please remember to wash your hands as often as you can, scrubbing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or the same as singing the “Happy Birthday” song twice. It's also important to cover your cough and sneeze to prevent the spread of germs.



ART

Our annual art fundraiser is now complete! With your help we raised \$649.75! All earnings have gone towards art supplies for our students. Thank you so much for all your support!

Our students have worked so hard on their art projects during the second quarter! Kindergarten made basic shape fall trees, pattern winter mittens, and color mixing! We are currently talking about warm and cool colors, and are making watercolor snowman art. First and second graders started quarter two by making torn paper pumpkins. Then, they learned about the Pueblo tribes in the Four Corners region, and they made Model Magic pinch pots! They decorated their pots with Native American pictographs. Students also learned about the parts of a picture, including foreground, middle ground, and background. They used green paint to fill in a 9x12 paper, and turned them into trees.

Third and fourth grade started quarter two by learning about the Pomo tribe in Northern California. They've been working so hard on weaving their cups! It is an intricate process, but so worth it once you see the final product! Fifth and sixth graders used pastels to make 3D glowing gems in space! They just started learning about one point perspective and will be making personalized art galleries!



MUSIC



It's hard to believe that we are halfway into the school year already. We had a very successful Winter Concert. The students did an amazing job, and I can't thank all of the staff at GMCS enough for their help, as well as Gettysburg Area High School for letting us use their facilities for the event.

In all classes, the students practiced their songs for the concert, talked about concert etiquette, and watched "The Nutcracker". Our second club was ukulele. The students learned about the parts of the ukulele, how to hold and play it, and learned a few chords to play with songs.

**I have some exciting things in store for the third quarter.
Have a musical day! - Mr. Swiger**



TECHNOLGOLY

Hang me
up at
home!



CHROMEBOOK CARE

1

Case it when
not in use.



2

No food or
drink near your
Chromebook.



3

Swipe and sweep
before you close.



4

Shut down &
charge up nightly.



SHOW YOUR DEVICE SOME LOVE!



RTI

Developing a Growth Mindset

A growth mindset is having the belief that we can improve our intelligence and strengthen our skills by putting in effort and facing challenges. According to this way of thinking, we are not bound by a limited set of talents or level of intelligence that we were born with. We can actually grow in these areas.

Parents and teachers have worked to instill this way of thinking in children to help them navigate through challenges and maintain a positive outlook. Children who have a growth mindset have been shown to be happier, healthier, and achieve more in life!

How can I help my child develop a growth mindset?

1. Praise your child for the efforts he or she puts into a task, not just the outcome itself. “Trust the process”.

For example, “That seemed tough but you really stuck with it!” This gives your child a sense of accomplishment about their perseverance.

2. Be open with your child about mistakes you have made, and how you have learned from them. Let your child see you do something new or challenging – like exercising, cooking a new recipe, or fixing things around the house.

3. Explain to your child that brains really do have the ability to grow. We have the power to make neurons fire and connections stronger by practicing a skill or learning something new!



Effective 2/19/2024 all students will be **dropped off** via the bus loop.

- Parent drop off will be from **8:00am to 8:30am**.
- When you arrive in the bus loop, **STAY** in your car, staff will help assist your student out of the vehicle.
- No passing in the loop.

The safety of all our students is a priority.

**Please help us keep your children safe by observing these guidelines.
We will be able to work quickly and efficiently through the parent drop off
line if everyone works together!**

Always Remember to always be KIND!



Save the dates



Gettysburg Montessori Charter School 2023-2024 Fall Skate

**Ag Literacy Week
March 11-15, 2024**

**Science Fair
Thursday, March 14, 2024 This is open to all grades.**

Kindergarten Enrollment

GMCS is now accepting applications for the 24/25 school year. Please have enrollment forms submitted to the front office by March 31, 2024.

Re-enrollment Forms

Re-enrollment forms need to be completed and returned to the front office by March 31, 2024. Forms need to be completed and turned in by the due date to secure your spot for the 2024/2025 school year.

Report Cards

Report cards will be posted on the family portal on March 27, 2024. Please contact the front office if you need assistance accessing your portal.

**Talent Show
March 27, 2024**

**GMCS Skate Party
April 1, 2024**

**Hershey Park
Orders are due by April 05, 2024**

**Recyclable Art Contest
April 15-19, 2024**

**Spring Book Fair
April 15-19, 2024**

PSSA Testing Window April 22- May 12, 2024

Newsletter

Stay up to
date with our
monthly GMCS
newsletters!



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

