

# Welcome TO GMCS...



## Where Little Learners Grow Big Dreams!



Dear Families,

Welcome to Gettysburg Montessori Charter School—we're thrilled to have you and your kindergartener join our vibrant learning community! Kindergarten is a magical time filled with wonder, wiggly questions, and wide-eyed curiosity. At GMCS, we believe in nurturing the whole child—mind, heart, and spirit—through hands-on learning, exploration, and a caring classroom environment where every child is known and celebrated.



Contact Us  
717-334-1120

Visit Our Website  
[gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](http://gettysburgmontessoricharter.org)







# MONTESSORI MEET UP

Incoming Kindergarten Families, you are invited to our first ever Montessori Meet Up! This is a time for your soon-to-be Kindergarten students to play with their classmates and get to know their teachers a little bit! This will take place on our playground on the east of school building! We will meet up on **June 5th from 10:00 AM until noon!** We will provide goldfish and mini water bottles. Get ready to have some fun and get to know your school community! Siblings are welcome!







# FOOD SERVICES

**All Free and Reduced lunch applications will be processed through the COMPASS website. We will start accepting applications on July 1, 2025. Families will receive an email notification with an approval or denial letter.**  
**<https://www.compass.dhs.pa.gov/home/#/>**

**School meals are not prepared in our building. Our meals are provided by a company called ORDO. Families will be required to order their child's meals one week in advance if they are planning on purchasing breakfast or lunch at the school. We do not keep extra meals on hand if a student does not pack lunch for the day. More information on this will be sent home to you before school begins.**

**All grade bands are given approximately 25 minutes to purchase and eat lunch. The cafeteria currently has one microwave available to all students. If you are packing your child's lunch, we recommend sending cold/ room temperature items. The microwave line can get long, and it takes away from the student's eating time. We encourage parents to work with their children on opening packages so that they can be as independent as possible in the lunchroom.**

**Our school lunch program is committed to serving your child healthy meals aligning with the National School Lunch Program standards. We encourage parents to send healthy choices with their child for lunch when packing, and when sending a snack for the day. During lunch, items like candy and soda are discouraged.**

**The school wellness policy can be found on the school's website under Student/Parent info, and the School Meals Tab. This policy highlights the school's goals to promote health and wellness for all of our students. You will find nutrition, physical activity, and other activities that promote student wellness. Please take some time to review this policy with your family.**



GETTYSBURG MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

WE ARE SO EXCITED TO HAVE  
YOU!

Join us on August 13th from  
4pm -6pm for a school  
open house!

Kindergarten families and  
new families are welcome  
to come an hour early  
from 3-4pm for a  
presentation about all  
things GMCS!



The background of the entire page is a top-down view of various school supplies scattered on a light-colored wooden surface. Visible items include a blue ruler, a pair of pink scissors, a yellow pencil, a green pencil, a red pencil, a green marker, a yellow marker, a white marker, a yellow watercolor palette, a yellow spiral notebook, a red pencil, a yellow pencil, a green pencil, a blue pencil, a green marker, a yellow marker, a white marker, a blue pencil sharpener, and a yellow ruler.

# **GMCS NEWS**

## **2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR**

### **Back to School Night**

#### **Parking:**

Parking may be limited. We ask all GMCS families to enter on Coleman Road through the bus loop. Park on the right side of the bus loop or designated field area.

#### **Entrances:**

Please use one of the three main entrances.

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







# KINDERGARTEN STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

- Lunchbox for their daily afternoon snack (please send in healthy snacks such as fruit, a granola bar, or vegetables)
- Clipboard
- Reusable Plastic (non-metal) spill-proof water bottle with their name on it
- Bag of clothes to keep in their cubby in case of an accident (long sleeve shirt, underwear, socks, long pants, plastic bag for dirty clothes)
- Pack of pre-sharpened #2 pencils for communal use
- Clorox wipes (they don't have to be name-brand)
- Boxes of tissues for communal use
- Snack, quart, or gallon-sized zip locks to use throughout the year

**\*\*First and last name on the clipboard, lunchbox, and bag of clothes**





**STAY CONNECTED  
WITH GMCS!**

*See* CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

NOW POSTED DIRECTLY TO OUR WEBSITE!  
STAY UP TO DATE ON SCHOOL EVENTS,  
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS, IMPORTANT  
REMINDERS, AND MORE.

CLICK HERE

[HTTPS://WWW.GETTYSBURGMONTESSORI  
CHARTER.ORG/GMCS-NEWS/](https://www.gettysburgmontessori.org/gmcs-news/)





# FACTS FAMILY PORTAL



Please log into your FACTS family portal. You can find your child's schedule and class teachers for the 24/25 school year.

**Below are helpful hints on how to create a Family portal.**

To create your family portal, please visit this website.  
**<https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb-Login.aspx>**

1. Underneath login, there is an option to Create New Family Portal Account.
2. You will need to enter the District Code: **GMCS-PA**
3. Once you have created your family portal, please login and verify that the information in your portal is accurate and up to date.

Visit our website to get caught up on Back to School information.

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

Class Supply Lists are listed on our website, under the Student/Parent Info tab. Find your grade/teacher.

**The following districts provide bussing to GMCS:**

- **Bermudian Springs 717-528-4113**
- **Cashtown – provided by GMCS 717-334-1120**
- **Conewago Valley 717-624-2157**
- **Fairfield – provided by GMCS 717-334-1120**
- **Gettysburg 717-334-6254**
- **Hanover 717-637-9000**
- **Littlestown 717-359-4146**
- **Mt. Holly Springs –provided by GMCS 717-334-1120**
- **Southwestern 717-632-2500**
- **Spring Grove 717-225-4731**
- **Upper Adams 717-677-7191**

**\*We follow the GASD for weather delays and closings.**





# Car Rider Information



**ARRIVAL TIME: 8:00am - 8:30am**

**DISMISSAL TIME: 2:50 pm - 3:20 pm**

**BREAKFAST is from 8:00 am - 8:20 am**

- Parent drop-off will be from 8:00 am to 8:30 am. 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.

Car riders can be picked up at the front door between  
**2:45 pm and 3:15 pm.**

- \*YOU WILL NEED YOUR CHILD'S GMCS CAR RIDER SIGN AT DISMISSAL.**
- \*TRANSPORTATION CHANGES NEED TO BE MADE BY 1:00 PM.**

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!



# Weather delay Information



## **Delays :**

- If GMCS is on a delay and your home district is not , parents will have to provide transportation. Your district bus may pick up at the normal time but do not put your child on the bus If we are on a delay. No one will be at the school.
- If your home district is on a delay and GMCS is not, your home district will provide transportation at the delayed time and the tardy will be excused. You are welcome to transport your child at regular time.

## **Early Dismissal:**

- If GMCS is dismissing early and your home district is not dismissing at the same time...parents will have to provide transportation.
- If your home district is dismissing early, your district will provide transportation.
- Please make sure you are in contact with your home district if your child is using their transportation.

## **Closing:**

- Emails and text alerts will be sent and information is posted on WGAL.
- If your home district is closed and GMCS is not, you can either stay home or parents can drive their child/children into school. Please use your best judgement. We want everyone to be safe!
- Contact [info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org) if you are not receiving alerts.

## **Reminders:**

- Please check our website for weather delays at [www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](http://www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org)
- Please do not call the school, during early dismissals with general questions.
- Please wait for a call or an email for updates or check our website.
- For specific transportation changes, EMAIL your child's teacher and the office@ [info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org).



# ATTENDANCE FAST FACTS!



**A note is required for every student absence.**

- Please email your absence and doctor's note to **[Info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto: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.
- Tardies add up! If your student regularly arrives late or leaves early (even if it's 5 minutes), this time will add up to a half or whole day of missed school.



## Educational Trips

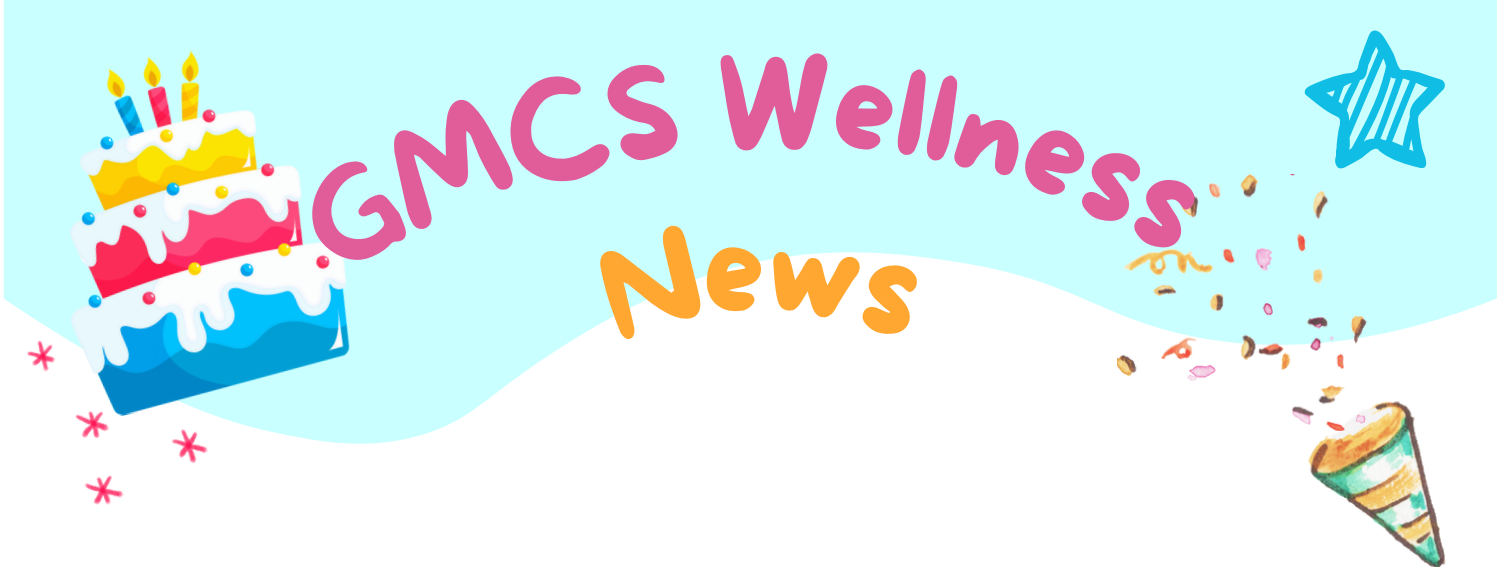
Educational trip requests must be submitted in writing to the CEO/Principal prior to planning the trip, or as soon as possible after the trip is scheduled, and at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled departure.

Educational trips may not be approved during PSSAs for those students in grades 3-6, or during the first two weeks of school, or if your child is habitually truant, unless approved by the CEO/Principal.

Forms can be located on our website.







**Our school is starting to move to food free classrooms for birthday celebrations due to health and allergy reasons. There are plenty of ideas for a Happy Birthday at school without food.**

**Some ideas include:**

- 1. Supply a craft - Bring in a craft (enough for the class) to complete.**
- 2. Pass out goodies - Bring non-food items for the class like stickers, pencils, pencil toppers, bouncy balls, bookmarks, crayons, etc.**
- 3. Show and tell - The birthday student gets to bring something in from home and share with the class.**
- 4. Have a bubbly recess - Bring small bottles of bubbles and have the class blow bubbles at recess.**
- 5. Share a book - Bring in the child's favorite book for themselves or the teacher to read to the class.**
- 6. Sign a shirt - Bring in a solid color t-shirt or a special birthday shirt that classmates can sign and wear for their birthday.**





# Calling all Volunteers!

## Calling all Volunteers!

We have several events planned this year and need your help to make them successful. Please make sure you have all of your updated volunteer clearances in the front office.

Clearances are valid for five years.

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

## Stay up to date

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

<https://www.facebook.com/GettysburgMontessori/>





# WHEN SHOULD YOU STAY HOME?

## SICK DAY OR SCHOOL DAY?

Wondering when you should keep your child home from school and when it's OK to send them? Help prevent the spread of germs by washing hands and surfaces, and keeping sick kids home from school.

### FEVER

Any fever over 100.4 should be kept at home until 24 hours fever free without any medicine. You should not give your child fever-reducing medicine before school.

### VOMITING & DIARRHEA

Vomiting and diarrhea should be kept home until at least 24 hours with no more symptoms.

### PINKEYE

Pinkeye looks like a red eye, lots of goopy drainage, and intense itching. It is very easily transmittable. Pinkeye must be treated for at least 24 hours with prescription medication from a doctor before returning to school.

### COUGH & COLD

Obvious, disruptive coughs and colds should be kept home until under control. Not only is the student unable to concentrate but they are preading germs to everyone else.

### HEAD LICE

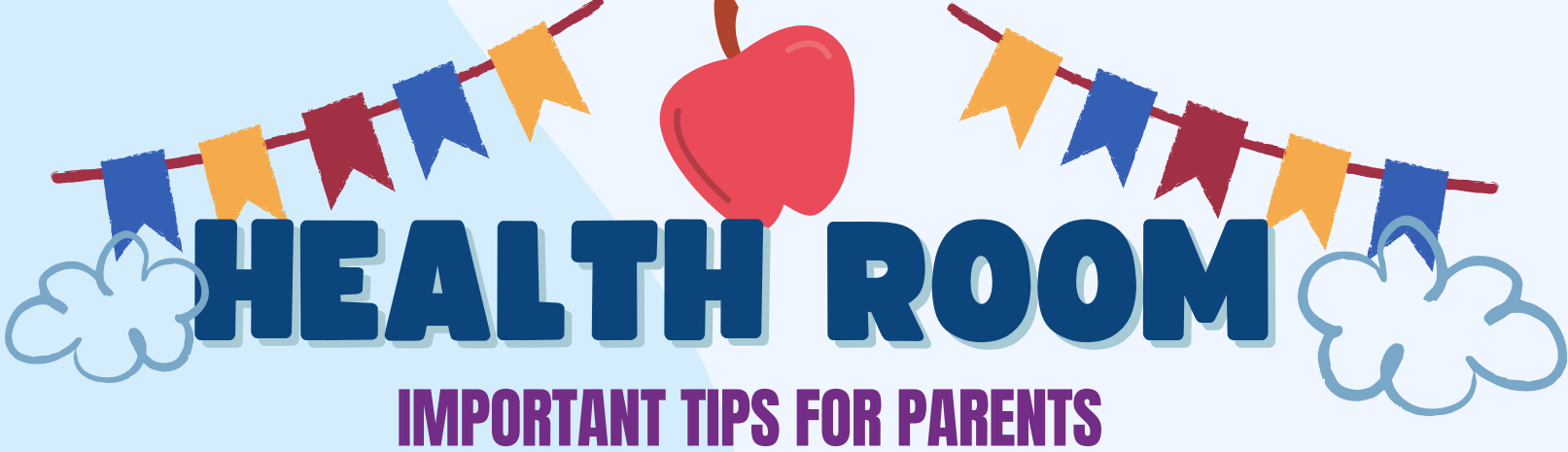
Any student with live active lice must stay home until treated and lice are no longer present. Proof of treatment should be brought to the nurse. Students may come to school with nits but nits should be removed nightly until all clear.

### GENERAL ILLNESS

You know your child best. If they are under the weather and you think they would benefit from staying home and not spreading germs or getting some rest then that is what you should do.

## IT'S A SCHOOL DAY IF:

It's ok to go to school if you have things like allergies, rashes, bug bites, injuries, chronic illnesses (asthma, sickle cell, epilepsy), or if the doctor has cleared your child and says it's ok. If you're not sure then call your school nurse.



- Update your phone number, email and address in FACTS as soon as there are any changes.
- Check your email daily: this is the main way the school communicates with parents for non-urgent needs.
- If the school calls, listen to the entire voicemail before returning the call- this way you know who you need to speak to when you call back.
- Communicate any significant health diagnosis with the nurse by phone call, email or visit to coordinate any care your child may need. A copy of the written information from your doctor is especially helpful.
- Make plans now for who will pick up your child from school if they become sick during the school day.
- Plan for where your child will stay on sick days, snow days, and holidays.
- Email the school when your child is staying home sick.
- To come to school, your child needs to be free of vomiting or fever for 24 hours (without fever reducing medicine).
- If your child is absent 3 days in a row, a doctor's note is needed to excuse the absence.
- Send 2 extra sets of underwear and clothes to school in a labeled bag for your child to keep in their classroom in case of spills, accidents, sickness, etc.
- Work on toileting expectations over the summer. Let your child practice wiping and changing clothes, while you talk them through it. Be patient, try not to take over for them. This will take extra time.

**Your child should be able to:**

- Recognize when they need to go to the bathroom and be able to ask to go.
- Wear underwear under their clothing.
- Pull down their own underwear and clothing.
- Be able to sit or stand to use the toilet.
- Wipe themselves without assistance, with toilet paper.
- Pull up their pants and underwear.
- Wash their hands.

Front office email: [info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:info@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org)  
GMCS nurse email: [achapman@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:achapman@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org)



# STAY CONNECTED WITH GMCS!



**Please make sure you're following our official school Facebook page at:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/GettysburgMontessori/>**

**This is the only page officially affiliated with Gettysburg Montessori Charter School.**

**Any other Facebook pages are not monitored or endorsed by the school.**

**Stay up to date with important announcements, event highlights, and school news — all in one place!**





# *Save The Dates*

**GMCS Skate Night**

**June 10, 6:00 pm**

**GMCS Summer School**

**July 21-24 & July 28 - 31**

**9:00 am - 11:30 am**

**Please sign up by May 19, 2025**



**Back to School Night**

**August 13, 2025**

**4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**

**1st day of School**

**August 20, 2025**



PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE  
WITH ANY QUESTIONS.



# Gettysburg Montessori Charter School Calendar 2025-2026

August					2025	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 11-20 Room Prep /  
Professional Development  
Aug 20 First Day of School

September					2025	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sept 1 No School / Labor Day Holiday  
Sept 10 Early Dismissal 12:00  
Sept 19 No School / Teacher Report

October					2025	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Oct 08 Early Dismissal 12:00  
Oct 13 No School/Teacher Report  
Oct 24 End of marking period

November					2025	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Nov 07 No School / Teacher  
Report – Parent-Teacher  
Conference  
Nov 26-28 No School  
Thanksgiving Holiday

December					2025	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Dec 01 No school  
Dec 10 Early Dismissal 12:00  
Dec 22 – Jan 02  
No School/Winter Break

January					2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Jan 01-02 Winter Break  
Jan 16 End of marking period  
Jan 16 Early Dismissal 12:00  
Jan 19 No School/MLK Day

February					2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Feb 12 Early Dismissal 12:00  
Feb 13 No School  
Feb 16 No School / Teacher Report

March					2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

March 11 Early Dismissal 12:00  
March 24 End of the marking period

April					2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

April 2-6 No School Spring Holiday  
Apr 20-30 PSSA Testing  
Apr 15 Early Dismissal 12:00

May					2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 1-8 PSSA Testing  
May 25 No School  
May 29 Last Day / Dismissal 12:00

June					2026	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Professional Development 06/01-06/05

	First day of school
	No School
	No School / Teachers Report
	PSSA Testing Window
	Marking Period Ends
	Early Dismissal for Students
	Last Day of School