

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 green pencil, a red pencil, a yellow pencil, a green marker, a pink marker, a blue pencil sharpener, a yellow notepad, and a red pencil. The supplies are arranged in a way that frames the central text.

GMCS NEWS

2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Back to School Night
August 13, 2025
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

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.

1st Day of School - August 20, 2025

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School
(717) 334-1120

<https://www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org>





WHY WE ARE EXCITED ABOUT ORDO!

Dear GMCS Families,

We are so excited to share this new program with you! Here are some of the reasons we are excited about this change.

- More affordable meals!
- Fresh cooked meals daily, nothing prepackaged or frozen.
- An online ordering platform customized for your family.
- Multiple allergy friendly options.
- Produce is purchased from local farms.

ORDO will be sending you your account information, no need to create your own. We are here to support you during this change. I am always available via email to help you with your account, or to answer questions.


Kindly,

Stacy Fazenbaker


sfazenbaker@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org




What's for Lunch?



Wondering what's on the menu this week?
You can now find our school lunch menu
anytime by visiting our website!



[Click here to view the lunch menu](#)
(or navigate to the “Student / Parent info
tab” section on our homepage!)



We keep it updated regularly, so you'll
always know what's being served in the
cafeteria—no surprises, just tasty options to
fuel a day full of learning.



Bon appétit!



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**



1ST AND 2ND GRADE STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

- # 2 Pencils (3 per student)
- 2 Chunk eraser
- 1 Pack of colored pencils or crayons
- 1 Pack of washable markers
- 2 Glue stick
- 1 Pair of scissors
- 1 Pencil box or pouch
- 1 Backpack that fits in a 11" x 12" x 16" cubby
- Headphones or earbuds
- Reusable water bottle
- 3 Dry erase markers (Expo is recommended)
- Wireless mouse (Optional)




3RD AND 4TH GRADE STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

- (2) boxes of tissues
- (2) containers of Clorox Wipes
- (2) bottles of hand sanitizer
- (1) box of pencils {# 2 only, no mechanical pencils}
- (1) package of glue sticks
- (1) box of colored pencils
- (1) package of erasers {cap and/or block}
- (1) spiral 1-subject wide-ruled notebook
(no names on notebooks please)



5TH AND 6TH GRADE STUDENT SUPPLY LIST

- Zipper pencil pouch (Please no pencil boxes as they are difficult for students to store.)
 - Expo markers
 - **CLEANING SUPPLY DONATIONS:**
 - Cleaning supply donations are accepted, and very much appreciated, at any time throughout the year. We are always in need of the following classroom supplies: Disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues.
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FACTS FAMILY PORTAL



Please log into your FACTS family portal. You can find your child's schedule and class teachers for the 25/26 school year.

To View Your Child's 2025–2026 Schedule and Teachers:

1. Once logged in, click "Student" on the left menu.
2. Then choose "Schedule".
3. You'll see the list of classes along with the teacher name.

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

To create your family portal, please visit this website.

**[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.](https://logins2.renweb.com/logins/ParentsWeb>Login.aspx</u></p></div><div data-bbox=)**

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.



Kevin Heagerty

School Security Officer, G-Force Security Solutions



G-Force Security Solutions, LLC is proud to introduce Mr. Kevin Heagerty as the newly assigned School Security Officer (SSO) for the Gettysburg Montessori Charter School. SSO Heagerty has been with G-Force Security Solutions since 2014 and for the past several years has been assigned as the SSO to the Baresville Elementary School in the South Western School District. During his tenure as an SSO, he has worked at a variety of grade levels and can draw on his years of experience in the school security field to help the Gettysburg Montessori Charter School achieve their goal of trying to ensure the safest, positive learning environment possible for the staff and students.

SSO Heagerty is certified under the Lethal Weapons Training Act (Act 235) and has received mandated training as a School Resource Officer (SRO) under Act 67 through the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). Additionally, he has attended NASRO's Adolescent and Mental Health Course and is certified to conduct facility risk assessments under the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) course.

The following districts provide bussing to GMCS:

- **Bermudian Springs 717-528-4113**
- **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!



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 if you are not receiving alerts.

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 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.

ATTENDANCE FAST FACTS!



A note is required for every student 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.
- 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.





FID Learning Packets & Attendance

Prior to a FID (Flexible Instruction Day) your teacher(s) will be sending five days worth of instruction home at the beginning of each month (Dec, Jan, Feb, March) in the event you are unable to attend school asynchronously via Google classroom on a FID. It is important that students do not complete FID packets prior to a FID and that the packet is available for students in the event technology is unavailable.

When technology is unavailable, students must complete ALL assignments for each day at home to receive credit for attending that day.

***Packets are due the first day following the FID day.**

Students will be marked absent until a written notification of their participation/attendance in FID and a COMPLETED packet is returned to school the first day following an FID to verify their participation in the FID.

If a student was absent on a FID they will be marked unexcused until GMCS receives proper excuses from parents.



Our school has moved 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.





HEALTH ROOM

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR PARENTS

- 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
GMCS nurse email: Nurse@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org



Look Ahead September

No School
September 1 & 19

Early Dismissal
September 10 @ 12pm



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Save the date

SEPTEMBER 2025

School Pictures

Mark your calendars!
Picture Day is
September 18, 2025



After School Activities

We'd love to see you! Mark your calendars and join us at the following events where you can meet our wonderful staff, explore our school community, and celebrate the magic of learning together

- ✓ Littlestown Good old days
08/16/2025
- ✓ Pippin fest - Fairfield
09/27
- ✓ Christmas Festival
Gettysburg 12/06

2025 GMCS Book Fair is Coming!



Get ready to stock up on stories, spark imaginations, and support our school library! The Scholastic Book Fair is a beloved tradition, and this year's fair is sure to be a page-turner. More details (including volunteer sign-ups and shopping hours) will be sent home soon.