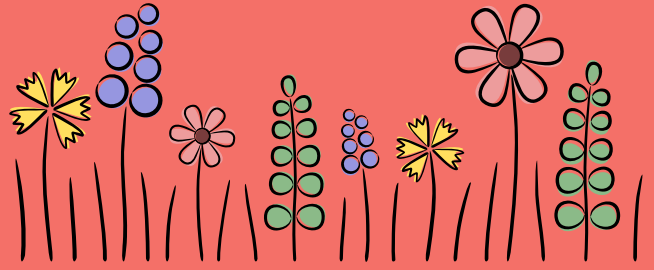


# APRIL

*newsletter*

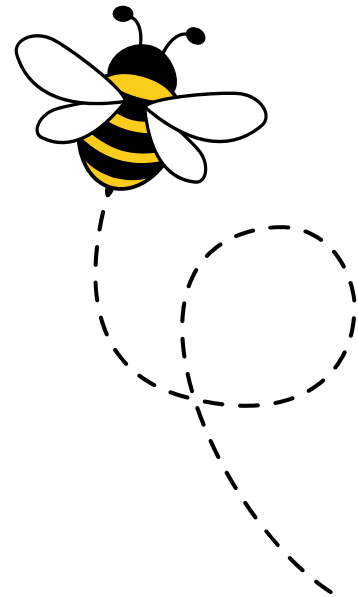


## IMPORTANT INFO: Early Dismissal

**April 15, 2026, 12 pm**

**No School**

**April 2-6 Spring Holiday**



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 4/1- School Talent Show
- 4/01- Report Card posted online
- 4/06- GMCS Skate Night
- 04/13-04/17 Book Fair & Recyclable Art Contest
- 04/20-05/02 PSSA





# PSSA GRADES 3-6

PSSA Testing Window: April 20-May 01, 2026

PSSA Testing Make-ups May 5-9, 2026

Parents of all Students in Grades 3, 4, 5, and 6,

GMCS will participate in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) from April 21, 2026, through May 1, 2026. Please see the schedule below for dates and grade-level participation.

- ELA - April 21, 22, 23 (Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday)
- Math - April 28, 29 (Tuesday & Wednesday)
- Science - April 30, 1 (Thursday & Friday)

All 3rd through 6th grade students are expected to participate in these assessments which are monitored by trained staff to ensure validity. Students should arrive by 8:30 AM each day. Students will need to bring a book to read if they complete the assessment before 11:00. Breakfast will be provided each day of testing. Please review the attached documents from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding Parent Information, the Code of Conduct for Test Takers, Frequently Asked Questions, and Calculator Usage.

All students in grades 3-6 will have the opportunity to earn an award for positive participation and for putting forth their best effort on the PSSAs. At GMCS, we encourage our students to do their best and take pride in their work each day, and we hold those same expectations for the PSSAs.

<https://gettysburgmontessoricharterschool.hubbli.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/566/2024/03/FAQs-for-Parents-PSSA-Spring-2024.pdf>

Thank you,  
GMCS

LET'S SHOW OUR SCHOOL  
SPIRIT AS WE CONQUER  
THE PSSA

**APRIL 21 - MAY 1**

April 21

**ORANGE**" you excited to rock the PSSA? Wear **ORANGE**

April 22

You are as **"BRIGHT"** as the sun! Wear **YELLOW!**

April 23

**CALM** your mind by wearing **BLUE!**

April 28

Go for the **GREEN!** Be **PROFICIENT!** Wear **GREEN**

April 29

**PURPLE** is power! You have the **POWER** to do a great job on the PSSA! Wear **PURPLE!**

April 30

**GMCS** is **"RED-y"** for the test! Wear **RED!**

May 1

End the week with swirling colors. Tie-dye shirts, socks, or **anything groovy!**

# 2026 SCIENCE FAIR



**What a fantastic celebration of curiosity and discovery our recent Science Fair turned out to be!**

**Our students truly outdid themselves this year. From creative experiments to thoughtful research projects, the room was buzzing with excitement, questions, and those wonderful “aha!” moments. It was clear that a great deal of hard work, perseverance, and imagination went into each display.**

**We saw everything from hands-on demonstrations to detailed investigations proof that science is very much alive and thriving in our classrooms. Even better, our students spoke with confidence and pride as they shared their findings, which is half the magic right there.**

**A heartfelt thank you to our families for coming out to support the event. Your encouragement means the world to our young scientists and helps nurture that spark of curiosity that keeps them asking “why?” and “what if?”**

**We are so proud of every student who participated. If this year is any indication, the future is in very capable and very inquisitive hands.**



**Congratulations to Our 2026  
Science Fair Winners!**



# 2026 GMCS CAREER DAY

What an outstanding Career Day! A huge thank you to our incredible community members who made this day possible:

- Emily Fleming, Adams County Probation
- Jessica Dean, Celebrate Gettysburg
- PA State Trooper Brynn Markley
- April Killian, US Coast Guard
- Sarah Mackey, Gettysburg FD
- Estella Smith, Forest Services
- Vincent Santucci, Palentologist
- Trisha Miller, Cross Keys
- Carol Lage, Children's Home of York
- Jason Shoe, Shoe Ortho
- Jeanna Ploski, Tonality Music Therapy
- Den Stock, The Stock Farm
- Sonya Best, Gettysburg Best
- Arik Voigt, ECI
- Martin Rickell, CLSI - Civil engineering firm
- Melissa Sprague, Nurse
- Terry Jarvis, Jarvis Landscaping
- Laura Beck, Members 1st



Your time, dedication, and passion inspire our students. Thank you for making this day unforgettable! Moments like these remind us that big dreams really do start somewhere.

# Nurse Office



The Nurse's Office is currently in need of boys' pants (all sizes, especially smaller sizes). We will also gladly accept girls' small pants and shorts, as well as small-medium shirts.

If you have any gently used items your child has outgrown, please consider sending them in. Thank you for helping us keep extra clothes on hand for students who need them during the school day!



# HAPPY *Retirement*



## **Faye Janine Pleso, MEd, PhD**

*GMCS proudly wishes you a happy retirement! May this new chapter of life bring you joy, relaxation, meaningful adventures, and countless cherished moments. Wishing you a future filled with peace, happiness, and all the things you love most.*

*We cannot thank you enough for how far you have helped our school grow and for the lasting impact you have made on every child over the past 11 years at GMCS. Your dedication will not be forgotten, and your legacy will continue to shape our community for years to come.*

*Stay tuned, GMCS families, for more ways to celebrate Dr. Pleso!*



Dear Families:

Get ready! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming our way (YAY!). Allowing kids to choose their own books empowers kids and inspires them to become bolder, prouder, and stronger readers. Plus, as always every book they buy earns rewards for our school!

Here's what you need to know about the Fair, which will take place from April 13 to April 17 at GMCS.

This year, say goodbye to cash and hello to eWallet—your child's digital payment account. Before the Fair, set up eWallet for worry-free, cash-free purchases. Anyone can contribute! Share each child's eWallet so friends and family can add funds and give your kids more books to enjoy.

If you can't make it to the Fair, then shop at our school's Online Book Fair. All orders ship directly to your home, and shipping is free for book orders over \$25. Your online orders will also benefit our school.

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with eWallet and online shopping:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/gettysburgmontcharterschool>

**Parents can shop on April 16, 2026, from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm**

The countdown to more book joy is on! Catch you at the Fair!

Happy reading,

GMCS



# GMCS ANNUAL RECYCLABLE ART CONTEST

It's time for our 9th annual recyclable art contest! Every spring, all students are given the opportunity to build something made from recyclable materials such as cans, milk jugs, toilet paper rolls, cardboard boxes and more! Students may also include found objects like twigs, rocks, and leaves. Projects may also be painted. Over the years, I've seen the most incredible and ingenious designs created by our amazing students, such as robots, animals, bird feeders, interactive games and more!

Students will learn details about the project at the beginning of March. Project making will take place outside of school and should be brought in upon completion. Students may pick up entry forms from the art room. Entry forms should either be attached to the bottom or back of the projects. Projects must be completed and brought to school by **FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026**, as the display will be set up that afternoon. Projects will be on display in the library from **APRIL 13-17<sup>th</sup>**. Throughout that week, students will be judging the projects during art class. Winners will be announced on **FRIDAY, APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>** and they will receive a prize. Projects should be taken home the same day. Any projects that cannot be picked up will be kept in the art room for the following week.





# 2026 Individual Order Form



**Benefit Gettysburg Montessori Charter School by purchasing your tickets here!**

To order discounted Hersheypark® tickets for the 2026 season, complete this form with payment and return to the mailing address below.

Please make checks payable to: **GMCS**  
 Please send payment to: **Nikki Wilt, Operations Manager**  
 Deadline: **April 10, 2026**



PARENT'S NAME		CHILD'S NAME		
MAILING ADDRESS (no P.O. Boxes)		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
EMAIL ADDRESS	PRIMARY PHONE		SECONDARY PHONE	

Admission ticket valid during 2026 operating season	Full Price	Your Rate	Total Quantity	Total Cost
All Age Admission tickets for ages 3 and up. All tickets are valid for any one day during the 2026 operational season. Tickets are non-refundable. All tickets expire on the expiration date indicated on the ticket.	\$87.80	\$44		

GMCS will distribute tickets on/or before the week of April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Hersheypark, and GMCS, will not offer refunds, upgrades or extensions for any Early Season tickets that are unused as of August 1, 2026. Also, we would appreciate the same information included for the All-Year tickets, they will have no value after January 3, 2027.**

*Capture the Memories*

**Gettysburg Montessori  
Charter School**

**2025-2026 YEARBOOK**



Soft Cover

**\$25**



Name

**ADD**

Personalization

**+\$5**

**SCAN TO ORDER ONLINE**



**SHORT LINK:**

[order.pictures-r-us.com/?r=f0461a](https://order.pictures-r-us.com/?r=f0461a)

**PASSWORD:**

**gmcsyb26**

# Attention 6th Grade Parents

Dear GMCS 6th Grade Families:

It is a PA State requirement that all 6th grade students have a physical exam.

If you have not already provided a completed 6th grade physical exam form to the school nurse, please schedule an appointment with your primary care provider.

This exam may be completed by the student's primary care provider (MD, DO, CRNP, PA), and it must be within the past year. Sports physicals can also be accepted. If the exam has been done, please email the form, have your physician's office fax it school, or send the hard copy into school. The form is available on the GMCS website or the nurse's office.

Also, please note that it is a PA State requirement for all students entering 7th grade to receive the Tdap vaccine (for tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) and the MCV vaccine (for meningococcal). These vaccines are often given at the time of the 6th grade physical.

All school districts in the area follow the first day exclusion policy. If a student arrives for the first day of 7th grade without having received all the required vaccines (or exemption status), the student will be sent home from school until the vaccinations are up to date.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school nurse by email or by calling GMCS.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter!

PS: 5th grade families- if your child has an annual well-child check-up this summer, please ask to have the 6th grade physical exam form completed at that time, for the 2026-2027 school year.

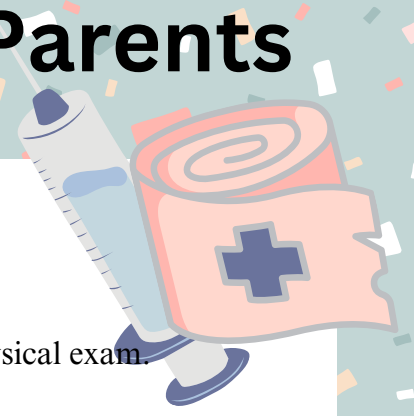
Sincerely,

Nurse Mardy

GMCS phone 717-334-1129

GMCS fax 717-334-2634

[msarnoff@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:msarnoff@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org)





**GMCS Proudly presents  
Family Skate Night at Magic Elm  
located in Hanover  
Let's roll into Spring break  
with some family fun!**

**Admission is free.  
Skate rental is  
\$3.00**

**Date: Monday, April 06, 2026  
Time: 6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Location - 625 W Elm Ave,  
Hanover, PA 17331**

**Please Note**

**\*This is NOT a drop off event.**

**Parent supervisors are required \***



# Mobile Dentist New Date April 7, 2026

The Family First Dental Team makes its second (and final) visit to GMCS for the 2025 - 26 school year on Monday, April 7, 2026. Students who participated in the fall dental program will receive a second no-cost dental exam, cleaning, and X-rays (if needed) during the school day on April 7, 2026.

Any student registered for the fall visit is automatically included in the spring dental visit. If you do not want your child to have a dental exam, please notify the school nurse immediately.

If your child did not participate in the fall dental program, and you would like to register your child for the dental exam and cleaning, please complete the registration form and return it to the school nurse by Friday, April 1, 2026.

Registration forms may be found online or at the front office. Let the nurse know if you want her to send home a paper registration form in your child's backpack.

Please call or email Nurse Chapman with any questions about this program.

(717) 334-1120

[M@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:M@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org)

# PLAYGROUND

## PARENTAL OR GUARDIAN SUPERVISION REQUIRED FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - PLAY AT YOUR OWN RISK

### **General Playground Safety Guidelines:**

**Supervision:** All students must be supervised by an adult at all times.

**Equipment Checks:** Please report any damaged or malfunctioning equipment to the office immediately.

**Safe Play:** Encourage students to play safely, avoid roughhousing, and be mindful of others.

**Weather Awareness:** Ensure students are dressed appropriately for the weather and limit outdoor time if conditions require it.

**Dogs:** Dogs are not permitted in the playground area.

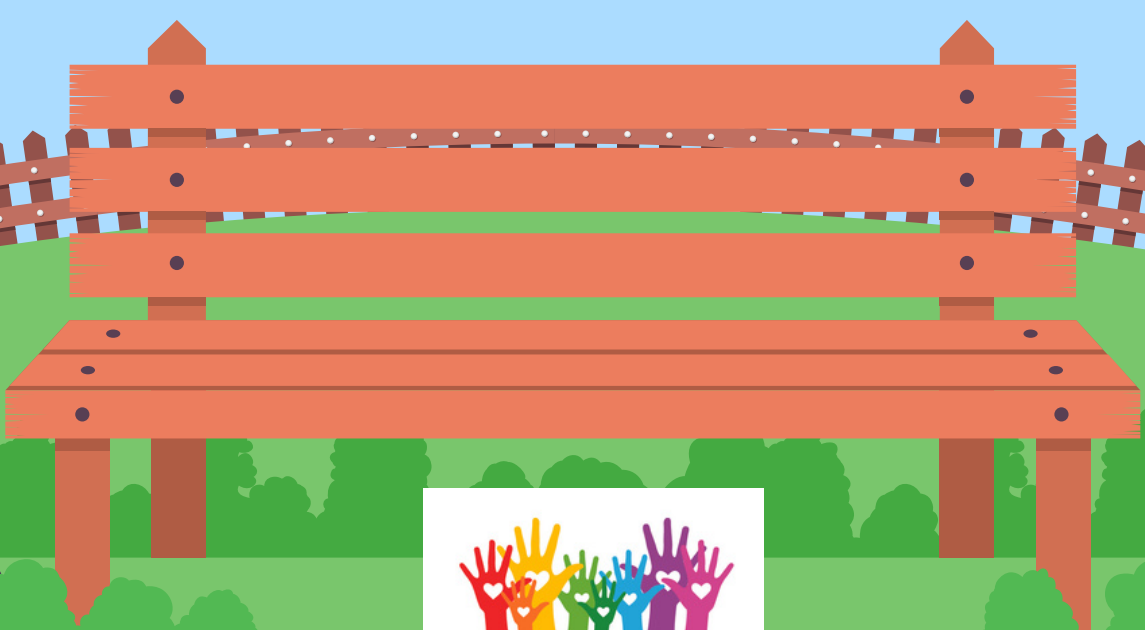
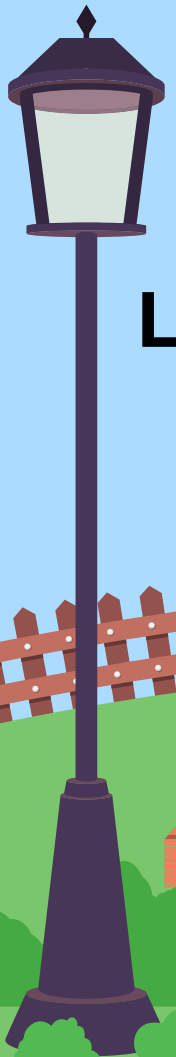




# Look Ahead May

**Early Dismissal  
May 29, 2026**

**No School on May 25, 2026  
Last Day of School May 29, 2026**



# **Save The Dates**

**Staff Appreciation Week: May 04-08, 2025**

**GMCS Reunion: June 01, 2026**

**Field Day: May 15, 2026**

**Music Drama Club Event: May 07, 2026**

**Kindergarten Graduation: May 28, 2026**

**6th Grade Graduation: May 28, 2026**

**Last Day of School - Half Day - May 29, 2026**

**GMCS 26/27 School Calendar -**

**The school calendar can be found on our website.**





# ANNOUNCING

## *Staff Appreciation Week*

### **May 4-8, 2026**

We invite all the GMCS Students and Parents to participate in the week-long event to honor our special teachers and staff at Gettysburg Montessori Charter School during Teacher Appreciation Week May 4-8. We would love your involvement to make our teachers and staff feel extra special. Please consider donating towards appreciation events.

We are looking for **Raffle Basket items** as well as food sponsors. If you would like to contribute money, please donate via PayPal or cash. Please contact the front office / Nikki Wilt with any questions or to sponsor a day.

Top Secret packets will be sent home with your child, in the last week of April. Please return the packets to the front office

**Attention: Nicole Wilt** by April 30, 2026



**Scan. Pay. Go.**

# Gettysburg Montessori Charter School Calendar 2026-2027

August							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						

August 10 -18 Room Prep / Professional Development

Back to School Night Aug 17

First Day of School Aug 19

September							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				

Sept 7 No School / LaborDay Holiday

Sept 21 No School /Teacher Report

October							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	

Oct 09 No School

Oct 12 No School/Teacher Report

Oct 23 End of marking period

November							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							

Nov 18,19 America 250

Nov 25-30 No School/Thanksgiving Holiday

December							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			

Dec 14 No School /Teacher Report

Dec 23 – Jan 02 No School/WinterBreak

January							2027
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
3	4				1	2	
		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 Winter Break

Jan 12 End of marking

Jan 18 No School/MLK

February							2027
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 15 No School – President's Day

March							2027
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 3 No School / TeachersReport

March 19 End of the marking period

March 25-29 No School Spring

April							2027
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 16 No School

April 19 No School / Teachers Report

PSSA ELA 26-30

May							2027
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						

PSSA3-14

May 27 Last Day / Dismissal 12:00

June							2027
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		

Professional Development 06/01-06/04

	First day of school
	No School
	No School / Teachers Report
	PSSA Testing Window
	250 American Celebrations
	MarkingPeriod Ends
	LastDay of School