



September

Welcome

Back To School

A New Year of Learning, Growth & Fun Awaits!

Principal's Welcome Message

Dear GMCS Students and Families,
I am so excited to start another school year with all of you! It makes me so happy to see everyone back at GMCS and filling our classrooms and hallways again. I hope you know how much I care about each and every one of you and how thankful I am that you are here. You are what makes GMCS such a special place! 😊 There is so much to look forward to this year, and I can't wait for all of the learning, laughter, fun, and memories we will share together. 💜
Here's to a great year at GMCS!

Principal Dr Tammy Hogan



Important Info:

NO School
September
7 & 21



Upcoming Events:

- Pictures 9/17
- Ruth Harvest 9/14
- Bookfair 9/28-10/02



Contact us

📞 717-334-1120

📍 info@gettysburgmontessor
icharter.org

🌐 www.gettysburgmontessor
icharter.org

RUTH'S HARVEST PROGRAM

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to extend an opportunity for your child to participate in a community program sponsored by the churches of Gettysburg and several other local organizations, called Ruth's Harvest. The program will begin the week of **September 14, 2026 for the 2026–2027 school year.**

To participate, please complete the form by **September 11, 2026** so your child may begin receiving bags by **September 14, 2026.**

→ Participation Form: <https://forms.gle/H9SpitZnJ6kzEPx29>

The Ruth's Harvest program provides your child with a bag of nutritious food and snacks each week during the school year. This bag will be brought home by your child(ren) and its contents shared with your family. If you elect to participate in this program, you will get a bag for each child you have who attends GMCS. Please know that both the school and the organizations involved with this program will take every precaution to ensure that the identity of the students participating in the program will remain confidential. Your child will be allowed to pick-up a bag each week at a designated time.

Due to the number of bags packed each week, unfortunately, we are not able to honor individual food allergy or food intolerance requests. We ask parents/guardians to examine the contents of the bag and remove any food item(s) that may cause your child to have an allergic or other intolerant reaction. Please instruct your child not to go through the bag until you have been able to. Foods not needed may be given to another individual of your choice.

If you would like more than one child from your household to participate, please complete a separate form for each child. Please allow up to one week after submission for your child(ren) to be added to the distribution list.

The Ruth's Harvest committee welcomes your feedback and suggestions at ruthsharvest.gettysburg@gmail.com.

If you decide to discontinue participation at any time, please contact the front office.

With appreciation,
Nikki Wilt

Operations Manager / Executive Assistant to CEO / Principal

Ruth's Harvest Program

Student Name

Parent email

Student's Teacher

Please return to the Front Office





SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER!



Help your school earn a share of
\$500,000

REGISTER • SCAN • EARN

Valid 8/1/26 to 5/31/27

weis **4**
school™

BUILDING A WEIS FUTURE

Dear Parents,

Educational technology and funding changes daily. To keep up with these changes and expenses, our school is partnering with Weis Markets® in their annual Weis 4 School™ program. Register your Weis Rewards™ card online at weis4school.com. By participating in this program, we can earn money for our school by simply shopping. Once you register, you're in the program and you do not need to register again this school year. Please share this information with your friends and family. The more interest and enthusiasm we generate, the greater the benefits to our school.

Thank you for your support.



weis4school.com



SCHOOL PICTURES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

How to Order School Photos

- Visit: [Order Page](#)
- Click on your School.
- Password (case sensitive): gmcs2026

Note: Pictures will be taken outdoors.





1



STAY ORGANIZED

Keep your supplies, notes, and schedule in order so you can focus with less stress.

2



MANAGE YOUR TIME

Make a routine, prioritize your tasks, and give yourself time for breaks, too!

3



BE PREPARED

Check your materials, complete assignments, and come ready to learn every day.

4



STAY POSITIVE

A positive mindset helps you learn, grow, and overcome challenges.

5



SET GOALS

Dream big and set small goals to stay motivated and track your progress.

6



BE KIND & RESPECTFUL

Support your friends, listen to others, and make your classroom a positive place for all.



THIS ISN'T JUST A NEW SCHOOL YEAR—
IT'S A **NEW CHAPTER OF YOU.**

Be curious. Be brave. Be your best.

YOU'VE GOT THIS!



Online Store
brought to
you by:

HOMEFIELD  **ADVANTAGE**

Questions?
Call us at
717-633-1350

GETTYSBURG MONTESSORI CHARTER SCHOOL

- Order cut-off date:
September 7th
- Estimated delivery:
October 2nd



Short Sleeve T-Shirt
\$15.00



Short Sleeve Tie Dye T-Shirt
\$21.00



3/4 Sleeve T-Shirt
\$20.00



Long Sleeve T-Shirt
\$18.00



Long Sleeve Tie Dye T-Shirt
\$22.00



Crew Neck Sweatshirt w/ Pouch Pocket
\$25.00



Hooded Sweatshirt
\$27.00



1/4 Zip Sweatshirt
\$27.00



Performance Fleece Full Zip Jacket
\$45.00



Waterproof Insulated Jacket
\$56.00



Flannel Pants
\$34.00



Knit Pom Beanie
\$24.00

To order please click on weblink below or Copy & Paste into your browser:
<https://www.storessimple.com/homefield/43146>



LUNCHBOX

Dos and Don'ts

As we get settled into a new school year, I wanted to offer some suggestions for packed lunches, that will help make things easier at lunch time.

DO'S

- Healthy Choices
- Easy to open containers
- Microwavable foods that take less than 1 minute to heat.

Don'ts

- Soda and Candy
- Glass Containers
- Microwavable foods that take more than 1 minute to heat.

Stacy Fazenbaker
Food Service Coordinator
sfazenbaker@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org

Right to Request Teacher Qualifications

As a parent of a student attending a school that is receiving Federal Title I dollars, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the teacher(s) and instructional paraprofessional(s) who instruct your child. Federal law requires every Title I school district to comply and to provide you with the requested information in a timely manner.

We are happy to provide this information to you. At any time, you may ask:

- Whether the teacher met state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching,
- Whether the teacher received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived, and
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration.

You may also ask whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional. If your child receives this assistance, we can provide you with information about the paraprofessional's qualifications.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) which was signed into law in December 2015 and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1956 (ESEA) includes additionally right-to-know requests. At any time, parents and family members can request:

- Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out, and
- Information on required assessments that include:
- Subject matter tested, purpose of the test, source of the requirement (if applicable), amount of time it takes students to complete the test, and time and format of disseminating results.

Our staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to succeed in school and beyond. That commitment includes making sure that all our teachers and paraprofessionals meet applicable Pennsylvania state requirements.

We look forward to the upcoming school year, and together we will make a difference in your child's life.



Be prepared with CHIP. Free or low-cost healthcare for Pennsylvania kids and teens.

CHIP COVERS

- Routine check-ups
- Prescriptions
- Hospitalization
- Dental
- Eye Care
- Eyeglasses
- Behavioral care
- Specialty care
- More

There is no limit on income. If your income is below CHIP guidelines, your child may be enrolled in Medical Assistance.

CHIP covers uninsured kids up to age 19 in Pennsylvania. It doesn't matter why your kids don't have health coverage right now; CHIP may be able to help. Most kids receive CHIP for free. Others can get the same benefits at a low cost.

CHIP is brought to you by leading health insurance companies who offer quality, comprehensive coverage.

APPLY/RENEW

CHIPcoversPAkids.com • 800-986-KIDS



Pennsylvania's Children's
Health Insurance Program
We Cover All Kids.

GMCS Newsletter



☀️ Welcome New GMCS Staff!



A new school year brings new beginnings, new opportunities, and some wonderful new faces to our GMCS family!

We are so excited to welcome our new staff members to Gettysburg Montessori Charter School. Each of them brings their own talents, experiences, and passion for helping students learn, grow, and succeed.

Please join us in giving them a warm GMCS welcome as they settle into their new roles and become part of what makes our school community so special. We are thrilled to have you with us and can't wait to see all the wonderful things this year will bring!

Welcome to the GMCS family! 💛💜





GMCS



Building update



Bathroom Update



If you missed it at Back-to-School Night, GMCS has newly renovated student bathrooms!



These bathrooms function just like our other student bathrooms throughout the school, but feature individual, private stalls to provide students with additional privacy while still maintaining a shared handwashing area. We're excited to have this updated space available for our students and to continue making improvements to our school building!





GMCS



 SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR

IT'S
COMING!

Save the date

September 28 to October 2, 2026





Our school has moved to move to food-free classrooms for birthday celebrations due to health and allergy reasons. There are plenty of ideas to celebrate 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 their 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.**



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

When a student misses **2** days a month..

They will miss 20 DAYS a year.

They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.

When a student misses **4** days a month..

They will miss 40 DAYS a year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.

ATTENDANCE FAST FACTS!



A note or email 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.



Nurse Mardy's Health & Communication Reminders



As we begin the school year, Nurse Mardy would like to share a few important reminders to help keep our students healthy, safe, and ready to learn:

- Keep your FACTS information up to date. Please update your phone number, email address, and home address in FACTS as soon as there are any changes.
- Check your email and FACTS Family Portal daily. These are the school's primary ways of communicating with families regarding non-urgent needs and important information.
- If the school calls, please listen to the entire voicemail before returning the call. This will help you know who you need to speak with when calling the school back.
- Communicate any significant health diagnoses or changes with Nurse Mardy. You may contact the nurse by phone, email, or in person so we can coordinate any care your child may need while at school. A copy of written information or instructions from your child's doctor is especially helpful.
- Remember the 24-hour rule. To return to school, your child must be free of vomiting and fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Unless otherwise specified by their doctor, students who vomit at school will need to be sent home.
- Send extra clothing. Please send two extra sets of underwear and clothing to school in a labeled bag for your child to keep in their classroom. Extra clothes are helpful for spills, accidents, illness, and those little surprises that always seem to happen at school!

Thank you for helping us keep our GMCS students healthy, safe, and ready for a great school year! 💜💛



PLAYGROUND

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

Supervision

- The playground is available for use during non-school hours only.
- An adult must supervise students at all times while on the playground.

Equipment Checks

- Report any damaged or malfunctioning equipment to the office immediately.

Safe Play

- Encourage students to:
 - Play safely and respectfully
 - Avoid roughhousing
 - Be mindful of others

Weather Awareness

- Ensure students are dressed appropriately for the weather.
- Limit outdoor time if conditions (heat, cold, storms, etc.) require it.

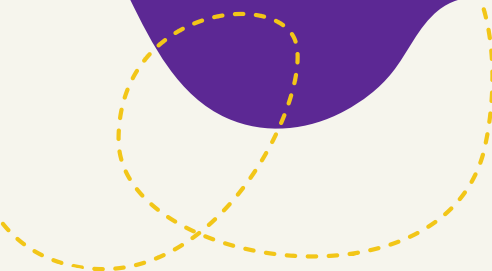
Dogs

- Dogs are not permitted in the playground area.





MORNING DROP-OFF REMINDERS



Drop-Off Zone Reminders

Be ready: Your child should be unbuckled, backpack in hand, and ready to exit when you pull into the drop-off zone.

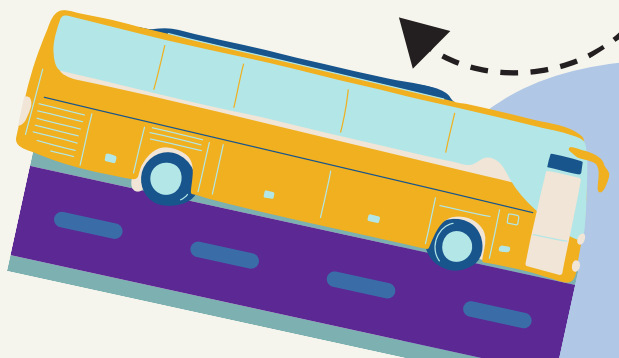
Goodbyes in advance: Please say your goodbyes, hugs, and kisses while waiting in line—not once your vehicle has stopped in the drop-off zone.

Stay in line: Do not pull ahead of cars or buses unless a staff member directs you.

Practice patience: A little extra time and grace go a long way for everyone.

Changes to dismissal: If your child will be a car rider instead of a bus rider, please call or email the office before 1:00 PM with the updated information.

✨ Thank you for helping keep drop-off and pick-up smooth and safe for all!





**Save the Dates
Looking ahead**

Fall Book Fair 09/29-10/03

Trunk or Treat 10/28

Fall Spirit Week 10/27 to 10/30

Fall Celebrations Parade 10/30

Report Cards posted 10/30

No School

October 09 & 12, 2026



Gettysburg Montessori Charter School
(717) 334-1120

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



Gettysburg 250th Celebration Important Information for November 18–20



Dear GMCS Families,

As our community prepares to commemorate the Gettysburg 250th Celebration, we want to share important information regarding school operations, transportation, attendance, and learning plans for November 18–20.

The Gettysburg Area School District (GASD) will operate virtually on November 18, 19, and 20. As a result, transportation to GMCS will not be available for students who reside within the Gettysburg Area School District on those days.

GMCS will remain open and operate on its regular schedule November 18–20.

Students who live within GASD and are unable to attend GMCS due to the lack of transportation will receive approved absences. For students who will remain home, GMCS will provide a special Gettysburg 250th learning packet to complete during those three days.

Families who are able to provide their own transportation may still bring their students to GMCS, and classes will continue as scheduled.

Students who live outside of the affected school district and plan to visit Gettysburg for the 250th festivities may submit an Educational Day form for the days they plan to be absent.

GMCS is also excited to recognize this historic milestone! During November 18–20, students attending school will participate in special Gettysburg 250th activities and learning opportunities designed to connect them with the history and significance of this important commemoration.

We understand that these temporary transportation changes may require additional planning for families. Additional information and updates regarding transportation, attendance, and student assignments will be sent as we get closer to November.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we prepare for this unique and historic celebration in our community.

**Warmly,
Gettysburg Montessori Charter School**