



# Montessori Moments

SUMMER 2021

## *The Principal's Piece*

Dear GMCS Families and Friends,

We did it! We have pushed through one of the most difficult years we will ever have, and we ended strong! I am so proud of how our staff, parents, and students persevered through the hybrid schedule of live virtual classes. We made it through the technological difficulties, became accustomed to meeting virtually, wearing masks and shields, dodging COVID-19 and adapting every step of the way, amidst an active construction site.

Our new building is nearly finished! The sprinkler system is being installed. We are awaiting the delivery of doors and windows. The power will soon be shut off to the modular campus that housed our classrooms for the last five years, so electrical work can begin. Lights are being installed and the classrooms have been painted. We are also finalizing the next steps toward renovating the existing building over the summer. We will be creating a music room on the stage, a teachers' lounge in the lobby area, dividing some office space, painting, and installing new flooring. It is going to look amazing!

We will have a ribbon cutting event on August 18th at our Back-to-School event. Save the date! See you then! Be safe and take care.

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD



### Office Reminders:

#### HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE:

Helping hands meeting will be June 8th @ 6pm via zoom if you like to attend. Please see the link below.

<https://zoom.us/j/97693169707?pwd=ZUVYdEVxWGhJQIR4VTI5MkZXSnZDUT09>

Meeting ID: 976 9316 9707  
Passcode: n5xGj8

Beginning of the year activities :  
Wednesday, August 18, 2021 Building Ceremony/ Back to School night 4pm to 7pm.

Please check Facts family portal for 21/22 school updates.

### Dates to Remember:

- **August 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
First Day of School!



# Classroom Updates

## Kindergarten

**Mrs. Donahue & Mrs. Lawrence** - Wow! This school year has flown by so fast. We are proud of how far our kindergarten students have come. Each student has grown academically and socially. We would also like to thank all the parents for your support at school and at home. We could not do it without you!

Here are a few exciting things Primary has been doing the last months of school. We were very excited to observe our caterpillars as they transformed into Painted Lady Butterflies. We watched them flutter away after releasing them back into nature. This year our students were able to participate in the 5th/6th grade Economic Fair. Students were able to "shop" and buy homemade products. In math we have been exploring how to compose new shapes with various materials.

We would like to wish everyone a fun and safe summer. It's also important to keep working with your children to maintain their skills and continue to grow over the break. Make practicing sight words fun by writing them with chalk, spelling them in shaving cream, or building letters with play dough. Keep working on addition, subtraction, counting and recognizing numbers to 100, and skip counting by 5's and 10's. Work on reading fluency by having your child read to you every night and asking questions about what you read together. Registering with your library's summer reading program will allow your child to earn prizes for recording their reading time. Keeping a journal of summer adventures is a great way to work on writing skills. Have a great summer!

## 1st & 2nd

**Mrs. Gebhart** - We are officially at the end of the year of 2020/2021 school year! I cannot believe how quickly these last couple months have flown by. We have just wrapped up or last unit in our Wonders lessons. 1st grade learned all about: classifications, things in the sky, great inventions, sounds all around, and how things are built. The 2nd graders have been hard at work as well, learning all about: being a good citizen, the benefits of cooperation, our heroes, preserving our earth, and rights and rules. Our last week 6 project was the Pennsylvania project! A lot was learned, especially what a Ruffed Grouse bird looked like.

Both 1st and 2nd grade have improved their skills with addition and subtraction. We were so excited to move on to new math activities in the class after we achieved proficiency. We have been learning how to read analog clocks by looking at the hour and minute hands. We have also tweaked our proficiency in collecting and graphing data! The 2nd graders have begun to use bar graphs and picture graphs to show data. Both 1st and 2nd grade has also just finished up our unit on money. Our favorite part on this topic was a song we learned from Mrs. Gebhart which taught us the values of the United States coins! We finished out the year talking about polygons and the differences between 2-D and 3-D shapes.

The last week of school was the best with our class earning our last Stellar Stone Award, making glitter bottles. We also had a classroom project of tie-dying white t-shirts and we wore them on the last day of school!

With our year ending, we have come to love one another as a second family. Classroom #7 has rocked it this year with the ups and downs, turns and swivels, and done a stellar job. Mrs. Gelazela and I wish you the best of Summers! Congratulations on a wonderful job well done!!

**Mrs. Lansford** - We cannot believe the end of the school year is right around the corner! This has been an exciting, and sometimes crazy year. We have learned so much about each other, and ourselves as the year has progressed. We have experienced a lot of laughs, some frustrations, and a huge amount of happiness.

This quarter we were able to complete a partner research project on our great state of Pennsylvania! The students were excited to learn more about the state we live in. This project was important as it taught us how to work together as a team to create a finished product. The students had a great time determining who would be the best person to complete each part of the project.

In 2nd grade ELA we learned about myths and how they explain what happens

in the world around us. We studied different energy sources and how they are used in our everyday lives. One of our ELA units focused on the very important topic of cooperation and getting along with those around us. In 2nd grade math we learned how to read analog clocks! The students have enjoyed practicing telling time on the classroom clock. 2nd grade has taken the first steps toward learning multiplication by working with arrays and repeated addition. We also learned to categorize information using different types of graphs and how to count money, determine how much money we need to purchase items and how much money we would get back when paying for items.

1st grade was working hard this quarter as well. In math grade 1 also learned about money and are now learning about geometry! Part of this exciting topic is learning about shapes and what attributes a shape has. We have learned about place value and using that knowledge to add and subtract to 100. In ELA 1st grade studied the different ways people around us can help us and how we can work together to make our lives better. We have also studied how animals survive in nature, how we can classify and categorize objects, and some of the great inventions throughout history.

With the 2020-2021 school year coming to an end we unfortunately have to say "goodbye" to each other until the fall. I will miss my current 2nd grade students tremendously but am excited to see how they grow as they move into 3rd grade. I look forward to seeing my 1st grade students again next year. I hope you all have a fantastic summer!

## Mr. Stare

It is crazy to think that we are days away from the end of the school year. We have just wrapped up or last unit in our Wonders lessons. 1st grade has learned about classifications, things in the sky, great inventions, sounds all around, and how things are built. The second graders have been hard at work as well, they have learned about being a good citizen, the benefits of cooperation, our heroes, preserving our earth, and rights and rules. Our last class writing assignment was a really fun one, we researched Pennsylvania! The students worked with partners to conduct research and then the groups created a graphic organizer and created a poster with some of our state symbols.

Both 1st and 2nd grade have won the battle with addition and subtraction. We were so excited to move on to new math activities in the class after we achieved proficiency. We have been learning how to read analog clocks by looking at the hour and minute hands. We have also begun using data tables to organize information as well as using that information to create graphs. The 2nd graders have begun to use bar graphs and picture graphs to show data. Both 1st and 2nd grade has also just finished up our unit on money. It was interesting to see all of the different coin combinations we can have, to make the same amount of money. We also learned that we need to have a certain amount of money to buy things that we need. The last new 1st grade math lesson that we have started learning about is geometry. We learned that geometry is all about shapes and what makes a shape a shape. 2nd grades last math lesson is on arrays and the use of repeated addition, the first step towards multiplication!

With our school year ending we have to unfortunately say goodbye to one another for a couple of months. Mrs. Seitz and I are wishing you a happy, healthy summer vacation.

I want to take this time, families, to thank you for letting your child come hang out with me every day this past school year. Each and every student in room 10 has learned something new about themselves this year and have become a lover of learning, even if they don't want to admit it. I also wanted to take this time to let Room 10 know that I will not be returning to GMCS next school year. I have accepted a new teaching position in a new district. I am going to miss you so much, but I know that you are going to do amazing things. You are all Room 10 Rockstars and I am so happy that I got to meet each and every one of you.

## 3rd & 4th

**Mrs. Bechtel, Ms. Dohler & Mrs. Taylor** - What a "GREAT" year for 3/4 !!!!

Covid, 2 new teachers, 3 new assistants, face masks, social distancing.... and we did not miss a beat!!!

# Classroom Updates

This quarter, students had another Artist in Residence session. They studied the cultures of different countries and heard fairy tales from each one. They are finishing up beautiful art designs showing these countries' iconic symbols on fabric formed by embroidery.

Give these students any task and they can do it!

PERSEVERANCE!

They just completed PSSA's and will be ending the year with some fun activities. Students will tie-dye t-shirts, recycle old crayons to make their own crayon, and celebrate the end of the school year with a Beach Field Day. They will make snow cones, play beach volleyball, and just hang out with friends.

The teachers and assistants from 3/4 would like to wish everyone a safe and happy summer! We will see you in August at our "Back to School Night" in our brand new school!

**ELA** - Wow! What a school year it has been, I cannot believe we are already here! I have had a blast in my first year at GMCS and have been amazingly surprised with how well all the students have adapted to this type of school year. KUDOS TO ALL, YOU'VE DONE AN AMAZING JOB!

To finish up the year, we continued our daily grammar, spelling, reading and writing practice in both 3rd and 4th grade classes. This helped us practice for the PSSA testing held in April. After PSSAs, all classes continued to practice their reading and writing skills picking up in our respective units.

In 3rd grade, we continued studying in our unit looking at how people can take action! In this unit, we were able to study characteristics of a fairy tale which helped us in our Artist in Residence program studying fairy tales around the world. We were also able to come back and study the topic of recycling in our last few weeks of study. From this, we were able to learn how to pick out the most important information and create a summary!

In 4th grade, we continued in our unit looking at resources that help us understand the world around us. In this unit, we were able to refresh our knowledge on realistic fiction and discuss ways we can take care of one another in our homes and communities. The class also continued to practice identifying cause and effect relationships within a tall tale. Students also used these skills to complete a book report on books of their choice.

I encourage all students to continue their reading over the summer as we have already talked about reading goals we would like to achieve over the summer break. Keep reading and writing and remember that it is your story to create!

**Math** - I can't believe the year is over! I enjoyed my year here at GMCS. While the final quarter was a little choppy with PSSA testing, both grades finished strong.

Third grade ended the year learning how to find the perimeter of polygons. The final project was to use their knowledge of perimeter to create a robot and its environment.

Fourth grade finished up converting decimals to fractions, as well as solving challenging word problems involving conversions with a variety of measurement units in the Metric, Customary, and Imperial Systems.

I encouraged all students to participate in the zearn summer school program to keep their minds sharp and ready for the next school year!

**Science/Social Studies** - In Science/Social Studies, we worked very hard during the fourth quarter. We began it with our Science Fair; Create Your Own Invention. I was very intrigued by the effort and creativity that the students put forth. We had everything from Bubble Makers to Muck Buckets. Congratulations to all our winners!

Next, we took some time to study Pennsylvania. I think I can safely say that all the students now know that our State Capitol Building is in Harrisburg. I was hearing every place from New York City to Baltimore. So, I was glad that we could get that cleared up.

For Earth Day, students collected recyclable items from home to create their very own Mr.R Robot. Mr.R sits outside my classroom and students can place "I wonder questions" about Science or Social Studies. They may also have suggestions for class topics or want to share something they discovered. The only requirement for their very own Robot was that it must hold a pencil and post-it notes and had to be made completely from recyclable items. Again, I saw incredible creativity and imagination. Congratulations to our Earth Day- "Create Your Own Mr.R" winners who now own their very own Earth Day T-shirt!

Lastly, we finished our year with our last project; Our Animal Research / Diorama Project. Students were able to choose any animal and had to research and become an expert on that animal. They then had to recreate their animal in its habitat in a shoebox ( a diorama). The effort and originality of our 3rd and 4th graders is incredibly amazing. The students' dioramas, along with their research reports, are on display in the hallway of the Mod building for everyone to enjoy. I have received many compliments on them from other teachers and students.

Mrs.Bechtel, Mrs.Taylor, and Ms. Dohler would like to wish our soon to be 5th graders, good luck in the 5th grade!

Try your hardest and give it your best!  
Do not forget to drop by and visit us. We will miss you!

## 5th & 6th

**Mrs. Gulden & Mrs. Sauter** - Wow! It's hard to believe that this crazy, abnormal, totally amazing year is already over. We have learned so much this year, students and teachers alike! Quarter four kept us extremely busy with PSSAs and end of the year fun.

**ELA:** In ELA, we wrapped up both of our final novels. Sixth grade students loved Percy Jackson and working through his hero journey. We looked at several other Hero's Journeys throughout the unit. Fifth grade brought Narnia to its conclusion and then presented Fractured Fairy Tales to our Kindergarten friends.

**Math:** In math, we continued to learn a variety of skills and concepts. The 6th graders learned about algebraic concepts, nets and surface area, and how to read and create box and whisker plots. The 5th graders continued learning fraction concepts, including: multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. We also discussed the hierarchy of two dimensional shapes and the students learned the formula used to calculate volume of three dimensional shapes.

**Science:** We ended the year by doing some planet research and then sharing our learning with our classmates. Students created their own planet research booklet for note keeping.

**Artists in Residence:** Artists and Residence was an extremely hands on experience this quarter. Students learned about the Civil War and learned how to make either a Violetta Victoria or a Humpty Dumpty doll. This allowed students to learn a variety of sewing techniques, learn patience, and show their Montessori nature by supporting each other through this project.

**Projects:** This quarter was extremely busy because students presented their last Market Day project on the continent of Europe to start the term and finished the term by selling their Economic Day product to the other students in the building. This is by far a student favorite and a great day for all!

We are proud of all of the hard work that the students put into their education this year! We wish our sixth graders the absolute best on their next educational adventure. We hope they all continue to stay in touch with us!

Have a safe and happy summer!





## MUSIC NOTES

**Hello everyone!** Well we made it through one of the hardest school years we've had. Even through it all, the students still showed growth and learned a lot throughout the year. Our last quarter we wrapped up music class and gave some information about what the new music room will look like. I'm excited to finally be in a music classroom for next school year.



**Kindergarten** - The students got to express what kind of music they like. They listened to different songs and wrote down if they liked the song or not. The students got to listen to a piece of music called Carnival of the Animals. Before listening, they tried to guess what the song would be like. To finish up our last class, the students got to learn about the quarter note and eighth notes and how to read and write them down.

**1/2 Grade** - We went back to discuss more with the instrument families. The students got to play a game with the song Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra. The students got to listen to a piece of music called Carnival of the Animals. Before listening, they tried to guess what the song would be like. We finished up the school year by talking about the different musical genres. The students got to listen to a song from each genre and see if they could guess the correct genre.

**3/4 Grade** - We finished learning about musical genres with Pop Music. The students got to watch a video called STOMP. The students watched as professionals played on different household products to create music. Then the students completed a Chrome Music Lab Project to help wrap up the year. They got to create a song, identify tempo, pitches, and instruments.

**5/6 Grade** - The students had a Music History Assessment to check their knowledge of Music History. After that, the students participated in an activity called SQUILT. The students got to quietly listen to music. The students drew what they picture and the different musical elements they heard throughout the pieces. Finally the students talked about Musical Theater. We talked about Opera and Musicals.

I can't wait to see everyone next school year. Students are more than welcome to play on Chrome Music Lab during the summer to continue their musical experience. Have a musical summer! - Mr. Swiger

## ART

Hello everyone! We made it through the entire 2020-2021 school year in one piece and I am so thrilled! It certainly was a very different school year than we are used to, but we all made the best of it, and then some! Even though we weren't able to make the most elaborate of projects, I know our students were still able to make some extraordinary masterpieces! I cannot wait to see what next year will bring; a new year filled with more exploring, boundless creativity and a brand new art room for all of it to happen in!

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Our processes for identifying students who may be eligible for special education services include, but are not limited to, Multi System of Tiered Support (MTSS) including Response to Intervention (RTI), Speech and Language screenings, Occupational Therapy screenings, teacher referrals, and parent requests. Gettysburg Montessori Charter School currently provides Learning Support services, Speech and Language services, Occupational Therapy services, Physical Therapy services and Deaf and Hard of Hearing services. Brochures reviewing the student identification process, the parents request for an evaluation process and additional topics are available to all parents and located outside of the Special Education Coordinators office. For further information, feel free to contact our Special Education Coordinator, Rebeka Black, at [becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org](mailto:becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org).

### Mckinney Vento Act:

Homelessness is not only living on the streets. If you are living in a shelter, motel, camper or doubling up with someone, you are considered homeless. We are here to help! Please reach out to us!

## RTI

### VIRTUAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2021

Students can lose up to 40 % of what they learned during the school year over the course of the summer. We teachers call this the "summer slump". Do not worry though! GMCS has an opportunity to help prevent this. GMCS is offering a virtual summer school that students can access over the summer and work on at their own pace. There will be lessons offered for Reading, Math, or for both if you choose. It is an eight-week program that starts June 14, 2021 and continues through August 6, 2021. Any student who participates and meets the requirements can earn either a GMCS T-shirt and/or sweatshirt. For further information and/or to sign up please contact Nikki at GMCS at (717) 334-1120.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

As the end of the year is fast approaching, it is time for me to try to communicate how much I have appreciated my year here at GMCS. Throughout the year the kids and I have shared laughter, smiles, as well as some important lessons. It is truly a privilege to serve as your Health and Physical Education Teacher as I am able to play a role in helping our students explore movement, physical activity, sports, and various aspects of health. I am so proud of the progress of our students in Health as well as PE this year.

As appreciative as I am of the opportunity afforded to me by GMCS, I have to announce I am moving on at the end of the year. I recently enlisted in the PA Air National Guard with my wife, and this commitment will force me to take some time away from teaching. I will be forever grateful for the relationships I have found throughout my time here. I wish everyone nothing but the best and I hope everyone has a great Summer.

## HEALTH NEWS

Dear GMCS families and friends,

Together, we have weathered the challenges of this school year. Now, we hope to enjoy a few weeks of leisure. This summer, I wish for you all good health in body, mind, and spirit. Here are some of my favorites in pursuit of wellness:

### Area Activities

- Adams County activities and events - <https://adamswellness.org/upcoming-events/>
- Check out the offerings hosted by the Library - <http://SummerQuest@adamslibrary.org/>
- Destination Gettysburg events - <https://destinationgettysburg.com/things-to-do/gettysburg-pa-events>

### Summer first aid products

- Hyland's Poison Ivy & Poison Oak Relief – natural /homeopathic - effective itchy relief.
- TechNu – preventative for poison ivy /poison oak [lotion/soap – used by loggers & park rangers]
- Sawyer's The Extractor – only FDA approved suction device for Bee/ Insect Stings and Snake Bites

### Health Resources: Accurate, Reliable, and Understandable

- Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America - <https://www.kidswithfoodallergies.org> aafa.org
- ADHD On-line Magazine Articles & Webinars by Experts - <https://www.additudemag.com>
- Mayo Clinic Disease and Conditions website - <https://www.mayoclinic.org/>

We will return to exciting adventures in our new and renovated school building! I've been a member of the Building Committee and I'm so proud of what has unfolded during these years of planning and preparation.

Happy summer,  
Nurse Adrian

# Gettysburg Montessori Charter School Calendar 2021-2022

August						2021
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				

Aug 23 First Day of School  
 August 16-20 Room Prep / Professional Development

September						2021
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 3 No School / Labor Day Holiday  
 Teacher Report  
 Sept 6 No School / Labor Day

October						2021
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 8 Early Dismissal 12:00  
 Oct 11 No School/Teacher Report  
 Oct 27 End of marking period

November						2021
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 4 Early Dismissal 12:00  
 Nov 5 No School  
 Nov 24-29 No School/Thanksgiving Holiday

December						2021
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 10 Early Dismissal 12:00  
 Dec 22 Early Dismissal 12:00  
 Dec 23 - 31 No School/Winter Break

January						2022
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 17 No School/MLK Day  
 Jan 14 End of marking period

February						2022
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 18 No School / Teacher Report  
 Feb 21 No School/Presidents Day

March						2022
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		

Mar 4 Early Dismissal 12:00  
 Mar 18 No School  
 Mar 24 End of marking period

April						2022
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

Apr 15, 18 No School / Spring Holiday  
 Apr 25-29 PSSA Testing

May						2022
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 6 Early Dismissal 12:00  
 May 2-13 PSSA Testing  
 May 27 Last day/Dismissal 12:00

June						2022
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

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