

Geist Montessori Academy

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Dr. Sue's News

Dear Parents and Families,

On August 31st we will celebrate the 143rd birthday of Maria Montessori. Her vision for children and education has had such a profound impact on the world. In her honor I wanted to share a little about the legendary educator.

Maria Montessori pioneered her self-titled teaching technique in the early 20th century, revolutionizing the classroom. Until then, typical curriculum consisted of lectures, rote memorization, and strict testing. There was little to no chance for children to explore concepts on their own or learn at their own pace. Montessori's innovative contribution to educational philosophy consisted of allowing students to be self-directed in their approach to learning. The teacher's role became less directly didactic, more nurturing, and educators were there to enable the discovery of knowledge, not to simply repeat facts.

Maria Montessori's techniques were considered audacious and controversial when she pioneered them. The Montessori Method lives on today in more than seven thousand schools worldwide. Her philosophy is responsible for teaching generation after generation of children to be independent, intellectually curious, and innovative.

Each day we strive to use her innovative method to educate your children to their full potential. We at GMA are so thankful for her, and her teaching philosophy. I would like to thank you for allowing us to use her method to teach your children!

Sincerely,
Dr. Sue



GEIST MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Upcoming Events

- **August 29th**
 - Fall Picture Day
 - **August 31st**
 - Maria Montessori's Birthday
 - **September 3rd**
 - Labor Day
 - **September 13th**
 - Kindergarten Super Hero Run
 - **September 14th**
 - Super Hero Run
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The GMA Hot Lunch

Next Pizza Lunch Day
August 29th & September 5th 2018



Questions? Contact Katyann at
kdisalvo@gma.k12.in.us



The Inside Scoop

- **Fall Picture Day (August 29th)**
 - Smile! It is time for your kiddos to put on their best smiles for fall pictures. Order forms were recently sent home, if you need another copy, they can be picked up at the office. Picture orders can be placed online or by using an order form and including cash or check on picture day.
- **Labor Day (No School) (September 3rd)**
 - After a great start to a new school year, we already have a nice long weekend! Enjoy your family time and we will see you all on the 4th.
- **Superhero Run (September 13th/14th)**
 - The Superhero Run is the one big fundraiser the PTO puts together each year. The past several years, it has generated enough money for the PTO to operate all school year long! Packets were sent home last week. Please take some time to read through all the instructions. All packets are due Friday August 24th, and if you need a new one, please contact the office asap. We can all be GMA super heroes if we do our part!
 - The Kindergarten will be starting our Superhero Run activities off for us on Thursday, September 13th and the rest of the school will participate on Friday the 14th. The students should come to school dressed as their favorite superhero, ready to run and have fun!
- **NWEA Testing**
 - Our annual NWEA benchmark assessments have begun. All of our students in grades K-8 will take part in The Northwest Evaluation Association assessment in the fall, winter and spring. We use this testing data to help us track our student progress, and to better serve them in the classroom. Each grade level will be testing at different times over the next several weeks, please contact your teacher(s) to find out their specific testing schedule.
- **New Carline Tips**
 - During carline our staff members are looking for your student(s) special carline number to be visible in your vehicle. Please be sure to use the assigned paper only, if you need another copy please contact the office. If our carline staff does not see your number, or if the number is on a different piece of paper, you may be asked to pull around and park to verify your ID. Lastly, we are asking that, if possible, you could please put your number away once you have your child dropped off and/or picked up. This will help us know that your car is empty and/or loaded. Thank you for your help with these tips, as it will help expedite the carline process.
 - We want to thank you all for helping us make carline as safe and quick as possible. Over the past several days we have all done so well, but we wanted to send some quick reminders. Please make sure you are turning right out of the parking lot at both campuses. This helps keep traffic flowing quickly and safely. Be sure not to let your children out of the cars until GMA staff gives you the all clear, and please make sure your children are buckled in their seats until it is time to get out. Also, Parents are coming too early to get into carline. We sometimes use the area outside to do outdoor activities in the afternoon; however, we cannot do this if there are cars in car line at 3:00. If you do come early, please do not sit and idle your car. Lastly, please stay alert at all times, as this will help you to better follow staff instructions and to watch for children as they enter or exit their vehicles.

Reminders

- **Carpool Map**
 - If you would like help with picking up and dropping off your student, please sign up for our carpool map. This system will allow you to connect with other GMA families in your area to coordinate a carpool. If you have questions, or you would like to sign up, please contact the office.
- **Early Pick Up**
 - If you need to pick up your student(s) before dismissal, please make sure you park in the school parking lots and enter the building to sign them out. If they are being signed out before the school day is

complete, it will be counted as an early dismissal, and it should only be done in the case of an emergency or special appointment. Please only do so as needed.

- **Student Medication**

- If you student(s) require any kind of medication, over the counter or prescription, it needs to be turned in to the office along with a student medication form. This form can be accessed online at <http://gmacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/medication.pdf> or in the office at both the North and South campuses.

- **Material Fees**

- We would like to thank all of our families that have paid their material fees. They are a vital part of each school year, as we use them to purchase everything the students need in the classroom. Without these fees, we would not be able to properly start our school year. If you have not yet taken care of your materials fees, please contact the school as soon as possible. We rely on these fees to provide students all the supplies they need for the school year. We still have several families who have not paid. We are able to take payment over the phone, on our website, or in person via cash, check, or charge. Please remember, that you are getting a Montessori education that usually costs around \$13,000 per year for free. We rely on our material fees to help replace and obtain materials for the classrooms. If you have any questions, please contact Miss Karinda at kholland@gma.k12.in.us.