

## Geist Montessori Academy

North Campus: 13942 E 96th Street, McCordsville, IN 46055

South Campus: 6633 W. 900 North McCordsville, IN 46055

[www.gmacademy.org](http://www.gmacademy.org) T: 317-335-1158 F: 317-335-1265

### Dr. Sue's News

Dear Parents and Families,

Upon reflecting on the upcoming International Day of Peace, which is September 21st, I have been thinking of the very words Maria Montessori said, "The child is both hope and a promise for mankind." Now more than ever, our children need to learn how to live in a peaceful society. At Geist Montessori Academy, peace education is incorporated into our environment.

Our goal is to develop our children's academic abilities along with their ethical and social consciousness. As we develop our children's awareness of kindness, we are helping them become the leaders of a more peaceful world. Please continue working with us by supporting us and teaching your children peaceful methods to work out their conflicts.

To help your students work on their peacefulness, here are some helpful ways to continue their peace education at home. The use of natural light seems simple, but packs a huge punch in energy levels. Taking care of plant life is a big step toward compassion and kindness for others. Recycling and Reducing waste creates a healthy environment. Yoga cards help develop inner peace which can teach children to self-regulate their emotions. A quiet corner can help even the most extroverted child find a space where they can slow down. These are just a few tips; please take time to help your children be peaceful in ways that meet their needs.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue



GEIST MONTESSORI ACADEMY

### Upcoming Events

- **September 13<sup>th</sup>**
  - Kindergarten Super Hero Run
- **September 14<sup>th</sup>**
  - Super Hero Run
- **September 18<sup>th</sup>**
  - PTO Meeting
- **September 18<sup>th</sup>**
  - School Board Meeting
- **September 21<sup>st</sup>**
  - International Day of Peace

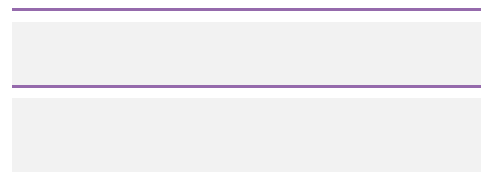
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### The GMA Hot Lunch

**Next Pizza Lunch Day**  
**September 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>**



**Questions?** Contact Katyann at  
[kdialvo@gma.k12.in.us](mailto:kdialvo@gma.k12.in.us)



## The Inside Scoop

- **New Teachers**
  - We would like to welcome our new music teacher, Mr. Larry, and our new art teacher Miss Lydia. Mr. Larry has already started music classes this past week, and Miss Lydia will be starting art very soon. They are excited to be a part of the GMA family, and we are thrilled to have them on our team. Thank you all for your patience during our search, we wanted to get the right teachers, and we feel they are going to be great additions to our community.
- **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! 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!
- **The Hancock County Promise Grant (Kindergarten Families)**
  - Geist Montessori Academy is excited to partner once again with local school districts in Hancock County and the Hancock County Promise to assist our families in establishing a CollegeChoice 529 Direct Account for the Kindergarten students. Our goal is to have each of our Kindergarten families create an account for their student. Upon creation of the CollegeChoice 529 Direct Account, The Hancock County Promise will deposit \$25 into your child's account. To create an account and to learn more about The Hancock County Promise Grant, please visit: <https://www.hancockcountypromise.org/>
- **PTO Meeting (September 18<sup>th</sup> )**
  - Our parent/teacher group will hold its monthly meeting at the South Campus in the Pre-K room at 4:15 p.m. Come join the meeting and find out how you can get involved to help GMA have a great year. For details regarding PTO Events please visit: <http://gmacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/PTO-Calendar-of-Events-2018.pdf>
- **School Board Meeting (September 18<sup>th</sup> )**
  - The GMA school board will hold their monthly meeting at the North Campus, starting at 6:30 p.m.. These meetings are open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend. Come sit in on the meeting and find out the latest and greatest happenings with the school. A list of all school board meeting dates can be found at: <http://gmacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/School-Board-Calendar-2018-2019.pdf>
- **International Day of Peace (September 21<sup>st</sup> )**
  - Montessori education puts great emphasis on peace education, and we really embrace the international day of peace. Please ask your children what they learned about being peaceful, as each class will be putting great emphasis on peace education on this day.
- **NWEA Testing**
  - Our first round of the annual NWEA benchmark assessment is almost complete. All of our students in grades K-8 will eventually 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.

## Reminders

- **Pistachio and Cashew Aware South Campus**
  - Please take notice that the South Campus is a pistachio and cashew aware campus. Due to some life threatening allergies in the building, we must keep these two types of nuts out of the South Campus at all

times. Please make sure that all snacks, treats, and lunches do not contain any traces of pistachios and cashews.

- **One Call Messaging**
  - Geist Montessori Academy utilizes the communication system, OneCall. This tool allows us to communicate via email, phone and text message simultaneously. If you would like to receive text messages, please text the word "ALERT" to 22300. Standard messaging and data rates apply. Please contact the Front Office with questions or concerns at [317-335-1158](tel:317-335-1158).
- **Family/Student Handbook**
  - For your reference the Family/Student Handbook is available on the website at <http://gmacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-19-Family-Student-Handbook.pdf>
- **Progress Reports**
  - As our students continue to progress through the school year, we will be sending out progress reports each quarter to inform you of their progress. The first quarter ends on October 10<sup>th</sup>, but you can expect your student(s) first progress report on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- **Carline Info**
  - Please make sure you park in the school parking lot when arriving prior to dismissal to pick up your student(s). Do not park at Neal Tire, Fall Creek Veterinary or Geist Community Church. Your car will be towed.
  - As a reminder, you will need to enter the building to sign out your student(s). If they are being signed out before the school day is complete, it will be counted as an early dismissal, and should only be done in the case of an emergency or special appointment. Please only do so as needed.
- **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. Do not park at Neal Tire, Fall Creek Veterinary or Geist Community Church. Your car will be towed.
  - If student(s) are 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 your 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 at <http://gmacademy.org/pay-materials-fees/> 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 Ms. Karinda at [kholland@gma.k12.in.us](mailto:kholland@gma.k12.in.us).