

May 17th – August 2nd Newsletter

Geist Montessori Academy

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GEIST MONTESSORI ACADEMY

Admin Updates

Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you to everyone that helped with the spring carnival! It was amazing, and it took a lot of planning and implementation. We all had a wonderful time, and Mr. Logan, Miss Natalie, and the PTO volunteers put on an outstanding event.

I also want to thank each and every one of you for the support you have given us at GMA. It's hard to believe that this year is over, but all good things must come to an end! If you need anything during the summer, please do not hesitate to email your admin team. We are here to help, and truly enjoy hearing from our parents and families.

Your teachers will be reaching out to you in July to welcome you to a new school year. If you have any updates, address changes, new phone numbers, etc., please let us know. Enjoy your summer. We will see you soon!

Sincerely,

GMA Administration

Upcoming Events

- **May 21st**
 - School Board Meeting
- **May 24th**
 - Last Day of School
- **May 24th**
 - Transition Ceremonies
- **May 24th**
 - 8th Grade Graduation
- **May 25th – August 6th**
 - Summer Break
- **July 22nd – August 2nd**
 - Summer School
- **August 5th**
 - Ice Cream Social
- **August 7th**
 - First Day of School

Next Pizza Lunch

May 22nd

Questions?

Contact Miss Katyann at kdisalvo@gma.k12.in.us



The Inside Scoop

- **Last Day of School (May 24th)**
 - Congratulations everyone, we made it through an amazing school year.
- **Transition Ceremonies (May 24th)**
 - On the last day of school our Pre-K students, Kindergarten, 3rd Grade, and 6th Grade students will be taking part in their Transition Ceremony. This is similar to a graduation, where all the teachers lead a small ceremony, briefly speak about the students, and students receive their transition certificate. It is a wonderful program that takes place at the end of a year of hard work. Parents and families are encouraged to attend, please contact your student's teacher for more information.
- **Middle School Graduation (May 24th)**
 - The Middle School will be sending off their 8th Grade students with a special ceremony the night of May 24th, at Geist Community Church. Each graduating 8th Grade student will be honored with special memories and acknowledgments. If you have a connection to any of our amazing 8th Graders, please make plans to attend.
- **Summer Break (May 25th – August 6th)**
 - Enjoy your long summer, and we will see you all back in August!
- **Summer School (July 22nd – August 2nd)**
 - GMA will once again be offering summer school to all of our students going into grades 1st-8th. This is a FREE program for all GMA students, and it's a great way to help them kick start the new school year. Summer school is a half day program (8:00AM - 12:00PM). If you would like your child(ren) to attend, please turn forms by May 20th.
- **Ice Cream Social (August 5th)**
 - As we kick off the new school year, please plan to join us for our annual ice cream social on the evening of Monday, August 5th. This is your chance to visit the school, and talk with your student(s) teacher. So come and enjoy a tasty ice cream treat on this night of fun.
- **First Day of School (August 7th)**
 - The new school year begins on Wednesday, August 8th.
- **Robotics Team for Next Year**
 - We have built a robotics program at GMA for the past 3 years. The first year we took our team to the state finals. The third year we took two teams to the state finals, and advanced one team to the Vex World Competition. I am sure we will be stimulating more interest in the program, and more students will want to be involved!
 - This means we also will need more coaches, mentors, and volunteers! Coaching is the position that takes the responsibility for the team as a whole, figuring out the logistics, keeping teams on track, sending out emails, registering teams, and so forth. Mentors are generally more geared towards the actual building of the robots and problem solving with the kids (not for them) throughout the season. Coaches can also act as mentors! If you are interested in coaching, mentoring, or volunteering next year please let an office staff member know asap.

Reminders

- **Visitor Sign In**

- Please remember to always sign in at the front desk when visiting either campus. Once you are signed in, the staff working the front desk will give you a visitor badge and make sure you get to the proper location in the school. If you have any questions when visiting, please let our office staff know.
- **The Annual Fund**
 - The annual fund is always open, and you can donate anytime in person, over the phone, or on our website. We have some ambitious ideas to upgrade existing technology, to become a strong STEM presence in the community, and to strengthening our peace education through service learning projects that will allow us to give back in so many ways. Your generous donations will be used to support all these efforts as we aim to make the next chapter at Geist Montessori Academy even better than the last. We hope that you will join us with your financial support. Please visit our website <http://gmacademy.org/donate/>
 - Geist Montessori Academy is a 501(c)3 non-profit and your donation may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal tax purposes. Does your employer have a charitable gift matching program? Please consider asking your employer to match your donation to Geist Montessori Academy by contacting your Human Resources department.
- **News Section of Our Website**
 - Don't forget to check out the News section of our website to stay updated on school happenings and events. Please visit <http://gmacademy.org/news/> for details.
- **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>
- **Carline Info**
 - We have noticed some unsafe practices in carline recently. Please make sure your children are safely buckled in their seat while entering and exiting carline. Also, please refrain from being on your phone while driving in carline. These little choices can be the difference between safe travels and serious injury or damage.
 - 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. **Please Note:** Due to safety concerns and limited parking spaces at North Campus, all early pick-ups will need to occur by 3:15PM. If you arrive after 3:15PM, you will need to utilize the carline.
- **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.