

# Grace Montessori Academy

February 8, 2024

Grace Montessori Academy's mission is to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ through Christ-centered Montessori education.

## Wish List

- AED Machine \$1,800
- Stackable washer and dryer (\$1800-2,600)
- Security camera with doorbell for Activity Center door (Ring, Blink or Unify)
- Small wooden chairs for Early Childhood (\$40-50 each)
- Playground slide (\$1,000)



## 💕 Message from HOS 💕

### Launching our Helping Hands Program

GMA strives to provide a quality Christian Montessori educational option for families in our community. Our educational pedagogy provides an exceptional individual educational approach on both an academic and spiritual level. In keeping with our mission to successfully educate children in our community, GMA has created a "Helping Hands" program for those students who need additional support in their educational journey. GMA is excited to announce the opening of our Helping Hands Program for the 2024-2025 school year! This program will provide tutoring services to our students needing extra academic support.

We have hired a wonderful teacher, Tracey Wildung, who comes to us with twenty plus year of experience in education. She has served in multiply teaching positions, from kindergarten to multi level classrooms as well as a special education teacher and title 1 teacher. She has a strong passion for student development coupled with a warm personality.

There are tremendous benefits of providing this service in-house. First, our tutor will work closely with the teachers in making sure there is effective integration of tutoring with classroom instruction. Second, there will be more effective tracking of a student's progress. Third, the tutoring provided will be done with consistency and fidelity to ensure that the interventions are effective and necessary.

Your child will benefit greatly from our new program and we look forward to serving your child! Thank you for the privilege of teaching your child!

## PGM Reminders

PGM is looking for a President and Vice President to complete this school year. Please consider volunteering for these roles as the purpose of this group is to build community among our school population and to serve as a committee of parents who plan activities for the school, including fundraising and providing ongoing teacher appreciation support throughout the year. Please contact the Head of School at [headofschool@gmamt.org](mailto:headofschool@gmamt.org)

- Parent's Night Out @ Billings Best After School and Summer Camps Saturday, Feb. 10 (event is for GMA students only, ages 5-12, not at GMA)
- PGM monthly meeting Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 pm at GMA
- Barn Dance @ GMA Friday, March 15 from 5:30-7:30pm (Need volunteers)
- PGM monthly meeting Tuesday, April 9th at 7:30 pm
- Spring Carnival @ GMA Friday, May 10 from 4:00-7:00pm If anyone has a business or knows of one who wants to make a donation to please let us know. (Need volunteers at information is attached below)
- Teacher Appreciation week May 6-10th

### **Carnival Basket Sponsorship Request.pdf**

[Download](#)

393.6 KB

### **Carnival Basket Sponsorship Request Form.pdf**

[Download](#)

1.2 MB

***Thank you MACON SUPPLY for being our Platinum Sponsor for the Spring Carnival***



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*Thank you to Mrachek and Popp for being our Gold Level Carnival Sponsor*



📧 *Early Childhood* 📧

Happy New Year from Early Childhood! Welcome back from what we hope was a very blessed, restful, and merry winter break. During December, our daily focus in Early Childhood turned to

preparations for the coming of that special baby, Jesus. The children were so excited to revisit the story of Jesus' birth and were happy to learn that "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. The children were busy all month long, making ornaments and decorations for your home that we are sure you will cherish for years. We had an awesome time worshiping Jesus together and practicing and performing Christmas songs for you. It was a successful Christmas concert, and we all had a great time.



In addition to all our Christmas preparations, the children continued finishing up learning about the three continents, Asia, Europe, and the Polar region from our Continent study. In our Geography studies, we discuss and explore the Land, Air, and Water, Montessori hands-on activities that teach children about the interconnectedness of the three essential components of our environments. By learning about these elements in a hands-on way children develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the natural world around them. Through exploration and observation, they begin to understand the interdependence of land, air, and water, and how vital it is to protect and preserve their resources for future generations.

For January, the children observe their classrooms, materials, and lessons that we are in winter theme, and with that, for cultural studies, we continued our study with the polar region, Antarctica. We explore and learn about land and water forms. We observed and studied the topic of air -wind, weather, climate, and clouds. This coming month, February, for our cultural studies we are going to study earth's rotation and day/night, Earth's revolution, and seasons.

"The child has a different relation to his environment from ours...The child absorbs it. The things he sees are not just remembered; they form part of his soul. He incarnates in himself all in the world about him that his eye sees, and his ears hear." Maria Montessori (The Absorbent Mind)

**Here are some friendly reminders:**

- A child who is not feeling well or has obvious symptoms of illness should not be brought to school. Requesting that the child be kept from outdoor play at school is not an acceptable solution.

A child, who is not well enough to go out during our regular outside times, is not well enough to attend school. Please notify the school if your child is ill by calling or emailing the office.

- Parents will need to keep children home when they are sick or symptomatic. This includes: temperature of 100.4F or greater, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline), diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain, new onset or severe headache, or excessive fatigue. Children and staff who come to school sick will be sent home as soon as possible.

Peace and blessings to you and your family in 2024!



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## 🧁 Lower Elementary 🧁

Greetings from Lower Elementary!

Sweet Pea and Lilac classes have settled in after enjoying a wonderful Christmas break!

Cultural studies in LE are in full swing and students have been enjoying History, Physical Geography, and Botany every week. LE students just finished a money unit in History in which they studied different coins, and practiced skills such as making change in story problems. Coming up, Lower Elementary is looking forward to starting the Timeline of the Eras of Life and exploring different historical time periods.

In Physical Geography, students have explored various experiments that illustrate the natural world around them. A few favorite experiments have included making rain in a jar which demonstrates the water cycle as well as making a model iceberg to accompany our study of the hydrosphere. Looking ahead, Lower Elementary will be starting Cultural Geography which includes continent studies, specifically Australia and Africa this spring.

Botany is always a favorite of Lower Elementary students! In Botany, students have been exploring an overview of the parts of plants and their functions such as the stems, roots, leaves, and leaf venation. Looking ahead, Lower Elementary will be exploring animal adaptations in Zoology that coincide with our continent studies of Australia and Africa.





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## 💖 Upper Elementary 💖

Hello, GMA parents!

Happy February! With the holiday season behind us, we are now back into the swing of things after a blessed Christmas break.

This month is quieter, with just a few things headed our way. As you know, Valentine's Day is coming up. We will be having a class party in the afternoon. We ask that students bring a shoebox-sized box to decorate as their Valentine's mailbox by Monday, February 12th. We will also be sending out communication regarding treats for the party.

We are switching gears in language this month. The wonderful thing about Montessori is our capacity to modify the lesson plans based on the students' needs. We have been spending the past few weeks focusing on sentence structure and are wrapping up with direct objects. After evaluating the students' progress in this area, we have decided to switch gears for development of grammar fundamentals.

We have been working very hard in math on our multiplication facts since the new year started. I would love it if you could support our efforts at home with some multiplication flashcards. If you need a set, I have some available. Just email me, and I will send them home with your kiddo. Most of our math groups have been working diligently on long division either abstractly or with materials. Our higher group has been digging deep into fractions.

In Geometry, 4th graders have most recently been working on Perimeter and we will be moving into area here soon. 5th and 6th graders have learned how to find the area of figures such as rectangles, parallelograms, triangles, and trapezoids. We will soon be exploring how to find the area of all regular polygons.

This year in science, we are delving into matter and energy. It has been so much fun recently as we have been building molecules and compounds with clay/Play Doh. We will soon be learning about acid and bases along with density, fire and combustion, and energy sources.

We are also navigating our Peacemaker curriculum. Students have learned about the “Slippery Slope of Conflict.” We are encouraging students to exercise the “talk-it-out” method of conflict instead of going the “attack” or “escape” route. It has been valuable for students to have a reference point when conflict arises, so that they can aim to resolve conflict in the way that has been illustrated for them and in a way that glorifies God.

We also want to welcome Steph Smith as our chapel teacher. Each week, students learn about different Biblical Truths. Last week, they were introduced to Isaiah 59:2, which states that sin separates us from God. It has been amazing to see how Ms. Smith engages the students and immerses them in the Word.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and are looking forward to a great rest of the school year here in Absaroka!



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### *Tip from the Education Director*

#### Why Are There No Grades? Mastery!

It is the norm that Montessori pre-schools and elementaries do not assign grades. We are working towards the concept of mastery – you work at something until you have mastered it! In traditional education, time is the constant and learning is the variable. In Montessori education, time is the variable and learning is the constant.

When you were a student, did you ever feel defeated by not getting a “good enough” grade? I

remember very well being disappointed. Does simply passing a class really fuel our drive for excellence? Good enough is just good enough? Whereas in Montessori education, good enough is only good enough WHEN it is good enough, which is mastery. To exert ourselves to the highest level possible leads to us feeling accomplished, confident, and satisfied. This allows our students to focus on achievement and excellence.

In addition, traditional education doesn't take into account students' interests as they teach the same thing at the same time, nor are all of the students ready for the same work in the same class.

There is growing research that confirms the significant role that choice plays in a student's motivation and learning, and even crucial to their development. Through the ability to choose their own work and work at their own pace in a Montessori environment, children are truly motivated. It kindles their nature desire to learn...until mastery!

"A child who has become master of his acts through long and repeated exercises, and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline." - Maria Montessori

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[2 Thessalonians 3:5](#)

***May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.***

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## ***Middle School***

2024 is a busy year for middle school so far. The students participated in another art walk, fundraising for their field trips by selling their handmade resin jewelry. They have also revamped the greenhouse by cleaning out all the beds and starting fresh with herbs and produce that will be ready to sell this spring. They have started chemistry in their physical science class and are having fun learning how atoms form molecules. Their latest home economics project was French food where they made cordon bleu, french onion soup, and croissants.





**Smore**

Beautiful class updates in a snap

