

# GREEN RIVER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Dear GRMS Families,

Happy February! The preschool and kindergarten children will be celebrating 100 days of school on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are more than halfway through the school year!

February is pre-registration month for the fall. Current families have priority if they pre-register this month. Fall returning registration fee will also be waived (you'll pay \$50.00 per child now instead of \$100 in the fall). Beginning March 1st, any openings will be available to new families. We already have a growing list of those who want to enroll. An Open House is scheduled for Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> between 11-2. This will be a great time for you to visit your child's classroom. Any new families will be able to register at the Open House.

As we plan for future enrollment (summer and fall 2025), we will have the following age groupings. This is based on AMS accreditation standards.

**U-1, U-2, and U-3** – 3–6-year-olds in all classrooms (kindergarten can have a separate extended day after lunch)

**D-1** – 3 months – 18 months (sometimes up to 24 months)

**D-2** – 19 months – 35 months (sometimes beyond 35 months)

**Lower Elementary** – 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grade

**Upper Elementary/Middle School** – 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>

Adjustments are made due to child's abilities **and** classroom availability. Age range can vary in the D-1 and D-2 classrooms.

We recently launched our own accredited Teacher Education training program, teaching adults to work with birth to three and three- to six-year-olds. The program operates under the name of Mount Rainier Montessori Teacher Preparation. We are excited to have 12 adults in our program which runs from January through December. We look forward to an accreditation visit sometime this year.

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### Important Dates

#### To Remember



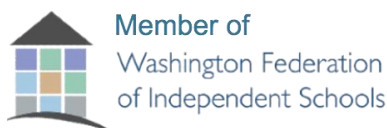
#### Montessori Education Week

February 23- March 1st

**GRMS Closed for Presidents Day**  
February 17<sup>th</sup>

**Open House**  
Saturday, March 1st  
11-2:00

**Spring Festival**  
Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>  
6-7:30pm  
Green River College  
Cascade Room



Approved by



## Holiday Policy

Although our school does not celebrate holidays, we allow children the freedom to express their ideas and creativity, even if they are holiday-based. A variety of art supplies are always available for children to create special projects year-round. This month we will have red and pink construction paper, foil, doilies, glitter, heart stencils, etc. in the classroom for any child who (on his or her own) wishes to create a Valentine. On Valentine's Day, children may bring cards for their classmates (if desired); however, these cards will be divided up by the teacher for children to take home and open with their family. If you do not celebrate this day, please let the teacher know so that cards do not get sent home with your child.

Since there will not be an actual classroom "party", we ask that families not send candy or special treats.

## Yearbooks

Yearbooks for 2024-2025 will be distributed in June at graduation. Cost is \$20.00 per book. For an extra \$5.00 you may add a dedication message (1-2 lines) to be printed in the yearbook. Orders and dedications are due by March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## School Closure Reminder

Green River Montessori will be closed on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> for President's Day – no care will be provided on this holiday.

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Please see fall enrollment form on the last page. Summer registration will be sent out separately at a later date.

## 2024 Year End

Tax Information is still available. **Please send an email request directly to our GRMS email** if you need a year end statement of your 2024 childcare payments. We will reply promptly to all requests.  
[grms@comcast.net](mailto:grms@comcast.net) 253-833-7010

**Our Tax Identification is:** 91-1171288

## Inclement Weather Closures

In the event of snow or ice, Green River Montessori School will always try to remain open but will consider the safety of our staff and families first. In the event of inclement weather conditions, please check your email and/or text for notification. It will be sent the night before or by 6:30 am in the morning. If there is no email or text message, you can assume we are open as usual.

## Remaining 2024 School Calendar

### Closure Dates:

February 17 – President's Day

May 26 – Memorial Day

June 19 – Juneteenth

June 20 – Summer In-service Day

July 3 & 4 – Independence Day

### BRICK SCHOOLHOUSE ONLY

April 7-11 Spring Break



## OPEN HOUSE

Please plan to attend our Open House on Saturday, March 1st between 11-2. Children are invited!

## School Store

SchoolStore.com is an online shopping mall with over 350 nationally known merchants agreeing to give a percentage of sales to K-12 schools.

Companies like Walmart, Kohls, Shop Disney, Game Stop, and Family Book Store participate. Customers help our school by making everyday purchases from the nation's top online merchants, with NO COST and NO RISK for our school.

SchoolStore is also America's #1 classroom funding program and can help teachers get the classroom supplies they need without spending their own money. Supporters donate Caring For Classrooms gift cards directly to teachers to redeem for various classroom essentials, including school supplies, teacher resources, books, arts & crafts, games, and more. SchoolStore makes supporting teachers and their classrooms easy, safe, fun, and free!

## New Communication System

GRMS is implementing a new communication system, using the Procure Family Engagement app. An email invitation was sent out to all families to register for the app. If you did not see the email, please let Andrea know and a new invitation will be sent. The Procure Family Engagement App provides instant communications and mobile payments. The mobile app allows parents to be immersed in their children's day-to-day activities, including tracking developmental milestones, sharing photos and videos as well as enabling two-way communication. The Procure Child Care Mobile App is available across North America on both Apple iOS and Android devices.

## Spring Festival

Our annual Spring Festival will be held on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm at Green River College. Children from each classroom will perform on-stage. The infants and toddlers from D-1 and D-2 will have a short video clip in lieu of their on-stage performance. Immediately after the performance we will do our "cake run." More information will be in next month's newsletter.

Funds raised will help us pay for the venue, beverages, and tech support for the performance (approximately \$3,000). It will also help pay for the baskets, wrap, and other supplies needed for the event (approximately \$800).

We will be asking each family to do one or more of the following:

1. Donate an item for the silent auction basket.
2. Donate a cake for the "cake run."
3. Donate or **secure a service** for the silent auction (haircut, massage, gift card, your vacation condo for the weekend, car detail, overnight stay at a hotel that you work for, IT tech services, carwash, etc.). If you frequent a business, ask them for a donation of cash or service. We will provide advertising on our website and in our newsletter for May and June.

This event is a fun gathering for the entire family.

## Montessori Week

February 25- March 1 is recognized as Montessori Week in honor of Dr. Maria Montessori. Her teaching method is the basis of our school philosophy. Dr. Montessori's unique teaching method and materials promote self-teaching in a prepared environment that enlightens the child's spirit. Please join us in a tribute to Dr. Maria Montessori the entire week at the end of February.

## Morning Arrival Time

If your child is arriving to school after 9:00am, they are missing out of some very important lessons! The first hour sets the stage for their morning work time. Beginning at 8:30am, lessons are given in math, language, science, and cultural studies with children able to begin their own independent work in these areas. Not only does your child miss out of the morning lessons, but arriving late disrupts the concentration of the others who are already engaged. It takes time from the teacher, who must leave a lesson and greet the arriving child. The teacher then must get the child engaged and explain the plan for the morning. There are hundred of studies that support the importance of arriving on time (just Google it!).

### Drop-offs

For those families who are still dropping their child off at the classroom, please make the drop-off brief and at the hallway door (not inside the classroom). It is disruptive to the others who are already engaged in their morning work cycle.

## Planning Committee Members Needed

Please email us if you would like to be on the Planning Committee for our Spring Auction, scheduled in May. The committee helps in various aspects from helping to secure donations, putting together baskets, setting up for the event, and general brainstorming.

**Much appreciation to those families for picking up their children at or before closing. It is hard for someone to stay beyond their 8-hour shift.** In addition, every staff member departs at 4:30. Leaving just one staff member to stay back with a late child is risky.

## Volunteer Hours

To enhance each child's experience at our school, we must all work together. Each GRMS family is expected to earn 500 points per child (or pay \$200.00 per child) during the schoolyear to satisfy this effort. Here are some ideas:

- ✓ Assist on field trips or swim lessons (Brick House only) – 25 points each time.
- ✓ \*Respond to school needs (Varies)
- ✓ Participate in fundraising (20% of what you sell can be applied as cash instead of points. **You must keep track.**)
- ✓ Donate to classroom Amazon wish lists (75% of cost)
- ✓ Cake donation for Spring Festival – 25 Points
- ✓ Donation toward gift basket for the Spring Festival – 50 Points
- ✓ Serve on a Committee – 100 Points

500 Points – Meets \$200.00 Requirement

450 Points – Deduct \$180.00

400 Points – Deduct \$160.00

350 Points – Deduct \$140.00

300 Points – Deduct \$120.00

250 Points – Deduct \$100.00

200 Points – Deduct \$80.00

150 Points – Deduct \$60.00

**Remember, it is up to you to keep track of your points and/or donations and to submit your written documentation by May 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be deducted on the May 25<sup>th</sup> billing cycle.**

# Yearbook Order Form (Return by March 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 per yearbook, charged to my account

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of books

\_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 additional, charged to my account with the following message:

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## Pre-Registration for Fall 2025

Detach and Return

### RATES (Check age group)

\_\_\_\_\_ Younger than 24 months - \$2,050 per month

\_\_\_\_\_ 25-36 months - \$1,750 per month

Age range is approximate for D-1 and D-2 classrooms.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3-6-year-olds - \$1,550.00 per month

\_\_\_\_\_ Elementary/Middle School - \$1,380 per month

\_\_\_\_\_ DCYF, Brightspark, or other Subsidy

If you would like to secure your spot for the fall, please complete and return this form. Your account will be charged a \$50 returning registration fee per child in March. No additional registration charge for the fall for those who pre-register.

**Child's Name**

**Your Name**