Montessori Academy of Chambersburg
A LEGACY OF LEARNING

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Event Calendar 2026-2027

Go to: October November December January February March April May/June Event Descriptions and Volunteer Opportunities

Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
August				
Thursday August 13	New Family Orientation	Parents/Guardians Only	5:30 -7:00 PM	Heather Edmond
Friday August 14	Back to School Pool Party Hosted at Ragged Edge Pool near school	All Students and Families	5:00 - 8:00 PM	MAPO
August 17-19	"Phase In" for New Toddler Community and New Children's House Students	Toddler Community New Students and Parent Children's House New Students	Appointments	Classroom Teachers
Tuesday August 18	Back to School Night	Parents/Guardians Only	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Heather Edmond
Thursday August 20	First Full Day of School for All Students			
September				
Tuesday September 1	Toilet Learning Seminar Hosted by Toddler Community	Parents/Guardians of young children	5:00 - 5:45 PM	Madison Platter Kristin Valentine Jessica Gibbons

* Volunteer Opportunity

Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
Thursday September 3	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Thursday September 3	Family Ice Cream Social • Bring an ice cream topping to share.	All Students and Families	4:30 - 5:30 PM (No PM ExCEL)	Madison Platter Kristin Valentine
Monday September 7	No School for Students			
Tuesday September 15	Together Tuesday	Children's House Students and a Guest	12:15 - 1:00 PM	Cathy Davidson
Monday September 28	High School Transitions Night	All Families Invited	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Mary Gallardy
October				
Thursday October 1	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Friday October 2	Pumpkin Patch Family Field Trip for Early Childhood Programs (Rain Date October 16, 2026)	Children's House and Toddler Community children, with their parents & younger siblings	8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Kim Kulla
Sunday October 4	Family Bingo Night at Scotland Community Center	All Academy Families and Friends and Wider Community	11:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Mary Gallardy
Monday October 5	Fall Club Season Starts (6 Week Duration)	Registered students	After School	Mary Gallardy
Thursday October 8	Race for Education* (Rain Date October 9)	All Students Families and Friends	9:00 AM - Noon	Sarah Durden
Monday October 12	Indigenous Peoples Day No School for Students			
Friday October 23	International Day Show	All Students and Families Upper School Food Sign Up (Grade 1-8): LINK Children's House Food Sign Up: Contact your child's teacher	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Stephanie Whitlock Kim Kulla

* Volunteer Opportunity

Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
Friday October 23	End of First Marking Period			
Monday October 26	Special Friend Night	Toddler, Children's House, and Lower Elementary Students Families and Friends	5:00-5:40 PM or 5:40-6:20 PM Sign Up with Teacher (ExCEL ends early at 4:30)	Cathy Davidson Kira Durden
November				
Monday November 2	Family Night at Book Fair*	Families	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Stephanie Whitlock
November 2 -6	Book Fair*	Students, Families	School Day	Stephanie Whitlock
Thursday November 5	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Friday November 6 & Wednesday November 11	Conferences for Parents/Guardians (Mandatory) ● Parent/Guardian Tea Time Nov 6 & 11, Drop in 8:30 - 11 am No School for Students ● No School on Friday, Nov 6 and Wednesday, Nov 11	Parents/Guardians	Appointment	Classroom Teachers Heather Edmond
Mon & Tues November 9 & 10	School Picture Day (Make-up Pictures in January)	All Students	9:00 - 10:30 AM	Dorothy Malinsowski
Tuesday November 24	Thanksgiving Feast for Students*	Students	School day	Sarah Durden
Nov 25, Noon - Nov 30	Thanksgiving Break - No School for Students ● Noon dismissal on Wednesday, Nov 25 ● No School Thursday, Nov 27 - Monday Nov 30			

* Volunteer Opportunity

Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
December				
Thursday December 3	Volunteer Appreciation Tea Hosted by Lower Elementary (No formal MAPO meeting)	Montessori Volunteers, RSVP required	9:30 - 10:30 AM	Katelyn Schindler Olivia Birkhimer
Tuesday December 22	Winter Celebration Concert	All students Families and Friends	10:00 AM	Sarah Durden
Dec 22 Noon - Jan 2	Winter Break - No School for Students ● Noon Dismissal on Monday, Dec 22 ● No School Tuesday, Dec 23 - Friday, Jan 1			
January				
Thursday January 7	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Wednesday January 13	Makeup School Picture Day	Students, as needed	Starting at 9:00 AM	Dorothy Malinsowski
Friday January 15	End of Second Marking Period			
Monday January 18	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School for Students			
Monday January 25	Winter Club Season (6 week duration)	Registered Students	After School	Mary Gallardy
Wednesday, January 27	Toilet Learning Seminar Hosted by Toddler Community	Parents/Guardians of young children	6:00 PM	Kristin Valentine Madison Platter Jessica Gibbons
February				
Thursday February 4	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Friday February 12	VIP Brunch Hosted by MAPO	Toddler and Children's House Students and VIP Guests	9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Kim Kulla
Monday February 15	Presidents' Day - No School for Students			

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Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
Week of February 22	"Big Give" - School Registry Fundraiser Hosted online at www.myregistry.com "Search for someone": Montessori Academy of Chambersburg	Friends of Montessori Academy	Online	Heather Edmond
Thursday February 25	Curriculum Open House and Science Fair (Inclement Weather Date February 26)	Families and Friends	5:30 - 7:00 PM (No PM ExCEL)	Curriculum Night: Heather Edmond Science Fair: Kristin Byers
March				
Monday March 1	Family Night at Book Fair*	Families	5:30 - 7:30 PM	Stephanie Whitlock
March 1-5	Book Fair*	Students, Families	School Day	Stephanie Whitlock
Thursday March 4	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Saturday March 6	Family Pancake Breakfast* Hosted by Lower Elementary (Inclement Weather Date March 7)	All Families and Friends (RSVP preferred)	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Katelyn Schindler Olivia Birkhimer
March 10-19	Spring Break - No School for Students			
Friday March 26	End of Third Marking Period			
April				
Thursday April 1	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Tuesday April 6	Together Tuesday	Children's House Students and a Guest	12:15 - 1:00 PM	Cathy Davidson Kim Kulla

* Volunteer Opportunity

Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
Friday April 9	Spaghetti Dinner with Student Musician Showcase Hosted by Student Council	Student Council Students Student Musicians (auditions) All Academy Families and Friends (RSVP preferred)	4:30 - 6:30 PM	Kim Walter Alicia Runkle
Week of April 12-16	Conferences for Parents/Guardians	Parents/Guardians	By Appointment, Scheduled with Teacher	Classroom Teachers
Monday April 12	Spring Club Season (6 week duration)	Registered Students	After School	Mary Gallardy
April 16	Conferences - No School for Students			
Week of April 19-23	Terra Nova Tests, Grades 3-8	Students in Grades 3 - 8	School Day	Heather Edmond
May/June				
Thursday May 6	Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meeting	All Academy Families and Friends	9:30 - 10:30 AM	MAPO
Week of May 3-9	Teacher Appreciation Week* Hosted by MAPO			MAPO Heather Edmond
Thursday May 13	6th Grade Expert Project Presentations (Capstone Project)	Sixth Grade Students Families and Friends	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Alicia Runkle
Sunday May 16	Trout Release Family Event at Scotland Memorial Park	All families are invited	2:00 - 3:30 pm	Heather Edmond
Thursday May 20	Spring Show	Elementary & Middle School Students All Academy Families and Friends	6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Alicia Runkle Victoria Shuman

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Date	Event	Participants	Time	Contact Person
Wednesday May 26	Family Day* ● Student Field Day* ● Academy Family Picnic* ● Montessori Student Talent Show (Rain date May 27)	All Students and Families, Volunteers	Field Day 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM Family Picnic 12:00 PM -1:30 PM Talent Show 1:30 PM -2:30 PM	MAPO Madison Platter Kim Kulla Talent Show: Alicia Runkle
Friday May 28	Kindergarten Graduation	Kindergarten Students Families and Friends	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Cathy Davidson
Friday May 28	8th Grade Graduation and Moving On Ceremony	K, 3rd, 6th, and 8th Grade Students Families and Friends	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Kim Walter
Friday May 28	Last Day of School / End of Fourth Marking Period ● Noon dismissal			
June 14 - August 6	Summer Program 8 am - 4 pm, M-F (Closed July 4) Pre-Registered Montessori Academy Students Only			

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Event Descriptions

Family Event	Volunteer Opportunity	Student-Run Event	Parent/Adult Community	Informational Event	Fundraising

Event	
New Family Orientation	An evening event for parents/guardians of incoming students, led by our Head of School. Come meet other families who have chosen to join the Montessori community, have another tour of the school (including knowing where your child's classroom is located) and talk about about expectations for a Montessori education, what your child needs for their first days of school, processes such as drop off and pick up lines, volunteering, school events, reporting absences, and more.
Back to School Pool Party	An evening event for the whole family. Join our parent's organization for a picnic and pool party to reconnect with friends and meet and greet with our incoming families.
Back to School Night	An evening event for parents/guardians of all students. Join your child's teacher in the classroom to talk about classroom specific routines, expectations for the upcoming school year, and to connect with other families with children enrolled in your child's class.
Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) Meetings	The Montessori Academy Parent Organization (MAPO) brings together parents, teachers, and school supporters to enhance the educational experience for all students. The meetings occur the first Thursday of every month. At MAPO meetings events are planned, discuss volunteer opportunities, share ideas and organize

* Volunteer Opportunity

	ways to support our school community. Whether you're looking to get involved or just want to learn more, we would love to have you join. For questions please email MAPO@montacad.org
Family Picnic and Play with Ice Cream Social 	An outdoor evening event that is purely social! Bring along a picnic for your family and a favorite ice cream topping to share at an epic sundae bar! Meet and reconnect with other families.
Toilet Learning Seminar  	The Toddler Community teachers host two Toilet Learning Seminars a year. If you are a parent of an enrolled Montessori child preparing or in the process of toilet learning, or if you have a younger child who is not yet enrolled, this opportunity is for you! Learn about how Montessori educators approach toilet learning and team up with families to promote an effective and lower stress toilet learning experience.
Student Club Seasons	Club sessions are six weeks in duration and are offered three times a year. A $50 registration is required for each session and pre-registration is necessary for student participation. Please keep an eye out for an announcement from Mrs. Gallardy regarding club sign ups, which will be shared approximately two weeks before each session begins.
High School Transitions Night 	A job-fair style event for families beginning to plan their child's next educational step beyond Montessori Academy. Representatives for high school options for students in our area, including private, public, and online, are looking forward to talking to your family about your child's future in high school.
Together Tuesday 	This event is for our Children's House (preK and K) students who stay for full days. Students invite a special someone (often a parent or other adult family member) to join them for lunch. Our Montessori adults enjoy the opportunity to spend a special time with their child and to meet other families. Bring your own lunch for this event.
International Day Show 	After learning about one or more cultures from around the world in the days approaching International Day, students invite family members in for an International Day Show where students showcase their cultural studies through song, dance, and art. After the morning show for the whole school community, teachers work with volunteers to lead international-themed activities for students, such as food tastings, games, and crafts from around the world. Plan to attend the morning show and watch out for optional volunteer opportunities for afterwards, if you are interested.
Race for Education	Race for Education is a student-centered fundraiser in which students gather financial support from sponsors in order to strive towards a fundraising goal needed in order to implement plans that students are involved in developing. On the day of the event, students run laps in a self-competitive "race", in which volunteers help the

	students track how many laps they have completed and students race towards their personal goals. Examples of focuses for past Race for Education fundraising include: playground equipment, environmental education initiatives, the “learning pagoda” outdoor classroom space, and the soccer field.
Special Friend Night 	An evening event for students aged 1 year through grade 3 and a special visitor. Students bring a “Special Friend” to visit their classroom for insight into the daily activities and work of the Montessori student. Grandparents, aunts/uncles, parents, god parents, or any special adult in your child’s life, enjoy the opportunity to see what your child has been working on at Montessori Academy and to connect with other families.
School Picture Day	Montessori Academy hosts a formal photographer twice a year for portraits, including a fall picture day and a spring “make up” day for students who were not photographed in the fall or whose parents requested retakes. These photos are used in our yearbook and are also available for purchase by parents.
Conferences for Parents/Guardians and Parent/Guardian Tea Time 	Fall conferences are required for all students. Spring conferences are arranged by request of the teacher or parent/guardian . Teachers will reach out directly to the parents/guardians of their students with available time slots for conference appointments. If you cannot be available during the proposed times, please reach out to your child’s teacher to make alternative arrangements. Parents who schedule their conferences during the designated conference days are invited to join our Head of School for a Tea Time before or after their conference, to share their ideas and feedback about the Academy, or just to chat.
Family Night at Book Fair 	Montessori Academy hosts a Family Night for each of our fall and spring Book Fairs. The Academy invites our families to bring their students for an evening “first pick” Book Fair shopping, as well as enjoy read-alouds and cookies and milk, provided by the Montessori Academy Parents’ Organization. Volunteers are needed to host read-alouds for the children.
Book Fair 	Our students love books! The Book Fair is open for a full week twice a year. Families can shop at Family Night, send their child with money or load an e-wallet to complete their own shopping during the school day. Online ordering through a school-specific Scholastic Book Fairs link is also available for an even wider variety of titles. Volunteers are needed to help with sales throughout the week.
Thanksgiving Feast 	This event for students takes place during the school day. The meal is cooked for the students by the students, with each class contributing dishes. Volunteers are needed to provide and cook the turkeys, and to serve and help with clean up of the event.
Volunteer Appreciation Tea	Volunteers are invited to join us for a Volunteer Appreciate Tea, hosted by our Lower Elementary students. The students bake, make, and serve tea time snacks and drinks as they practice their grace and courtesy and serve

	their guests! All volunteers are welcome, please RSVP to the main office. Please plan to arrive at the beginning of the event to be seated and served.
Winter Celebration Concert 	This music concert features performances by children of all ages, from Toddler Community through Middle School. The concert happens in the morning during the last day before winter break. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend and invite other important adults from their children's lives.
Family Pancake Breakfast 	The Pancake Breakfast is a Saturday morning event hosted by the Lower Elementary community (grades 1-3). Families and friends of Montessori Academy are invited to join us for a morning meal that our students help to prepare and serve. This fundraiser supports Montessori Academy's field trip fund. Volunteers are needed to help students prepare, cook, and serve the meal, and to help clean up after the event. Lower Elementary families are encouraged to donate ingredients for this event in order to maximize the fundraising potential for the Field Trip Fund.
VIP Brunch 	The VIP Brunch is for children in Toddler Community and Children's House and a special guest. The students prepare for the event by helping to cook food to share with their VIP guests. Each child invites a "VIP", which may be a parent/guardian, grandparent, aunt/uncle, or any important adult in the child's life. The "VIP" should expect to spend about an hour at the school, sharing a snack with their child and connecting with other families. The VIP Brunch is hosted by the Montessori Academy Parents' Organization, in collaboration with teachers. Volunteers are needed to help prepare for the event, serve, and clean up. Volunteers can also be "VIPs" and are welcome to join their child as a VIP during the event after helping to set up.
Curriculum Open House and Science Fair 	The Curriculum Open House allows Montessori families the opportunity to follow one focus of our school's curriculum as it progresses through each level, Toddler Community through Middle School. Visitors enjoy hands-on opportunities to explore Montessori learning materials and learn about how students learn and practice their skills at the Academy. The Science Fair is presented simultaneously with the winter curriculum night. All students and classes are invited to prepare and share a Science Fair project. If your child is young, a family project is encouraged. Participation is mandatory for students in fourth grade and up.
"The Big Give" - School Registry Fundraiser Hosted online at www.myregistry.com "Search for someone": Montessori Academy of Chambersburg 	The Big Give is one of our supporters' favorite fundraisers of the year. For The Big Give, the Academy prepares a registry of items that donors can select to purchase, as well as specific cash funds that donors can choose to contribute towards. Our supporters love the opportunity to pick and choose items and funds that they think their Montessori children will enjoy and benefit from, or which align with their hopes and priorities for the Academy.

Spaghetti Dinner and Student Musician Showcase Hosted by Student Council 	This evening Spaghetti Dinner event is hosted by the Student Council. Students prepare and serve a spaghetti dinner for their guests, which include families and friends from throughout the Montessori Academy community. Parents of student musicians who are performance-ready are invited to sign their child up for auditions to showcase their talents during the dinner. This is a great opportunity for students who are taking private instrumental lessons. RSVP's are highly recommended for this event and families should expect to pay per person to attend the dinner. Spaghetti Dinner a fundraiser benefiting the Student Council, or a specified charity of the students' choice. Volunteers are needed to help students prepare for and run the event.
Terra Nova Tests, Grades 3-8	The Terra Nova assessments are a standardized test administered each April to students in grade 3-8. The assessments cover a range of topics in math and language skills and are spread out in sessions of 30 minutes to an hour and a half, over a period of about three days. The Terra Novas provide valuable information for families about their child's academic progress in relation to national norms for each grade level. Montessori Academy also utilizes assessment results for cohorts of students as one of many indicators of quality of academic instruction and programming. Formal assessment reports are also helpful to our students during the admissions process of selective area high schools as they prepare to graduate from Montessori Academy.
6th Grade Capstone Project Presentations 	Sixth grade students engage in long term research as their capstone experience in the Upper Elementary level. In April/May each year, the students publish their research in a written report and share their findings with the school community through a presentation. Our sixth graders present to their peers during the school day and additional family and friends of Montessori Academy are invited to an evening presentation and celebration.
Teacher Appreciation Week* Hosted by MAPO 	The Montessori Academy Parents' Organization hosts the annual teacher appreciation week with support from our parent community. Parents are asked to support a range of appreciation plans throughout the week including: sending some flowers on a specified day to be contributed towards arrangements for the teachers, contributing one or more gift cards towards a gift card bundle for each teacher, etc.
Spring Show 	Spring Show is a combination of musical and artistic presentation by students in grades 1-8. Families and friends are invited to join us for this evening event showcasing the learning and creativity of our students in their artistic and musical programming at Montessori Academy.
Family Day* • Student Field Day* • Academy Family Picnic* • Montessori Student Talent Show	Family Day is our favorite way to wrap up another great school year! The day starts with a Field Day for all students, with different, age-appropriate activities provided for each group of students. Volunteers are both welcome and needed in order to help make the multitude of activities and stations at Field Day a success! Following a morning of Field Day activities, families are invited to join the Academy community for a family picnic. The Montessori Academy Parents' Organization provides the main dishes, while families from each

	class contribute various sides and desserts potluck style. Volunteers for the Academy picnic help to prepare, maintain, and clean up the potluck picnic buffet line. After the family picnic, we invite families to join us for a Montessori Academy Talent Show in the afternoon! It is a busy and exhilarating day of family fun to celebrate the school year!
Kindergarten Graduation 	At Kindergarten Graduation, we honor each individual Kindergarten student in a celebration of their accomplishments as they prepare to move up into the next level of their learning journey! Kindergarten graduation is a 45-minute program. After Kindergarten graduation, Kindergarten students and families are invited to attend the 8th Grade Graduation and Moving On Ceremony, in which our Kindergarten students will symbolically “move on” to join their friends, new and old, in the Lower Elementary community!
8th Grade Graduation and Moving On Ceremony 	All Montessori Academy students attend this event during the day on the last day of school and Montessori Academy of Chambersburg also encourages all Montessori families and friends to join us to honor our 8th Grade graduates! We will honor each individual eighth grade graduate and enjoy speeches from our Head of School, Board of Directors, Student Council President, and a special guest Alumni of Montessori Academy. This program also includes a “Moving On Ceremony” that honors all students who are preparing to transition to new classes for the upcoming school year: Kindergartens who will be moving on the Lower Elementary, Third Grade students preparing to move on the Upper Elementary, and Sixth Grade students who will be entering the Middle School class. The Graduation and Moving On Ceremony is a 1 hour program that ends shortly before the scheduled noon dismissal on the last day of school. After the ceremony, the families of 8th grade graduates are invited to a private reception.
Family Trout Release Event 	Each year, Montessori Academy students are excited to participate in the Trout in the Classroom Program. The students receive trout eggs from the hatchery each January. They care for the trout throughout the second semester, observing the eggs, watching the trout hatch and develop from alevin to fry, and caring for the fish and their tank habitat. At the end of the school year, families are invited to join us for a Family Trout Release event. At the Trout Release Event, participants will not only release our fingerling trout into approved local trout waters, but they also enjoy a macroinvertebrate stream study and other watershed, fish and fishing related activities.