



2021-2022

Annual Report



CHARTER SCHOOL

Montessori Regional Charter School

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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A Message from Mark



Dear MRCS Community,

As a member of the MRCS Community, it is important to reflect on the accomplishments and highlights of the school year. We are excited to present to you this annual report that outlines many of those events and activities. From safety and security updates to technology enhancements, this report gives you an opportunity to revisit the highlights of the 2021-2022 school year while also providing a glimpse at some upcoming opportunities.

This past year presented several challenges, however, MRCS families, students, and staff showed resilience and continued to work toward one common goal, student achievement! Throughout the year, students worked hard in the classroom, and when necessary, utilized their Chromebooks for distance learning. The support from families and the community was strong, helping MRCS to continue its mission and preparing students academically, emotionally, and socially.

Many of our goals were reached this past year, including completing the final steps of adding our 7th and 8th-grade program! While we still have a lot of work to do, we are certain that the 2022-2023 school year will be just as exciting.

We look forward to working with you this upcoming school year.

Best Wishes,
Mark

BOARD OF Trustees



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Visit our Community Site mrcserie.diligent.community/Portal/default.aspx

Mission & Vision

Our mission is to provide a superior Montessori program of study that will develop lifelong learners. Our children will be prepared academically, emotionally, and socially by creating a love of learning through meaningful and fulfilling educational experiences.

MRCS will be recognized as a top academic performer and elementary school of choice for the Erie region, and will be recognized within the Montessori community for its dedication to the Montessori philosophy and teacher excellence. We will be a positive and engaged part of the Erie community helping to strengthen our region through education and outreach.



Our Guiding Principles

To encourage independence and self-reliance

To honor, respect, and value individual differences

A commitment to multi-age, multi-ability, add multicultural classroom environments

To provide safe, prepared environments, filled with developmentally appropriate, tactile materials

To maintain a highly qualified staff and administration

Recognize parents' role in our educational process

To be a resource for our community as a center for Montessori training, observation and awareness

Strategies & Values

In 2018, MRCS took a community-based approach to strategic planning. The goal was to engage teachers, families and community members to better understand common goals, the strength and sustainability of the mission, areas of opportunity and the level of community awareness. We looked for areas of alignment and misalignment between groups to ensure the plan works to bring groups together towards one vision for the school. These values and strategies have helped guide MRCS through the last four years, and as we enter the fifth and final year of our plan, look for opportunities to participate in our strategic planning process in 2023!

Strategies

1

Define what excellence means to MRCS and develop a plan that supports and fosters achievement

2

Develop and implement a comprehensive community involvement strategy designed to expand the community's knowledge and awareness of MRCS.

3

Create a unified campus that expands opportunities for our students

4

Develop and implement a strategy to tell our story to the region in order to attract future students, expand our presence in the community and promote a positive image

5

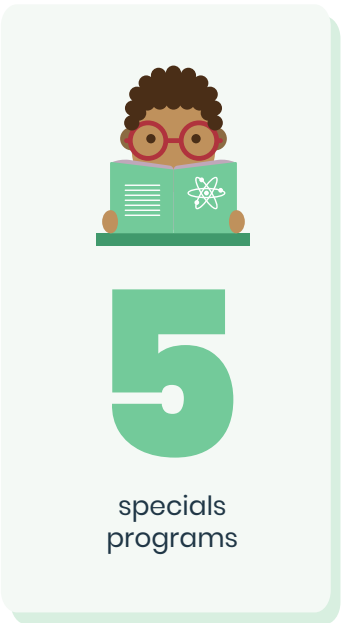
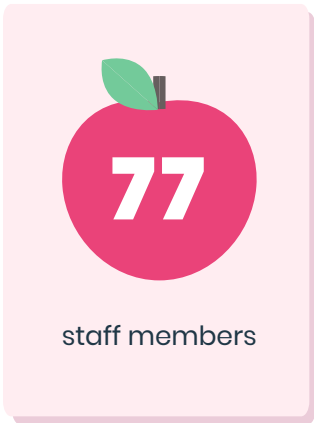
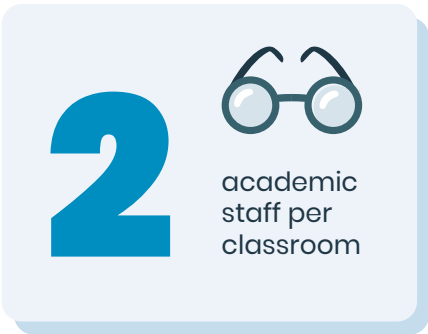
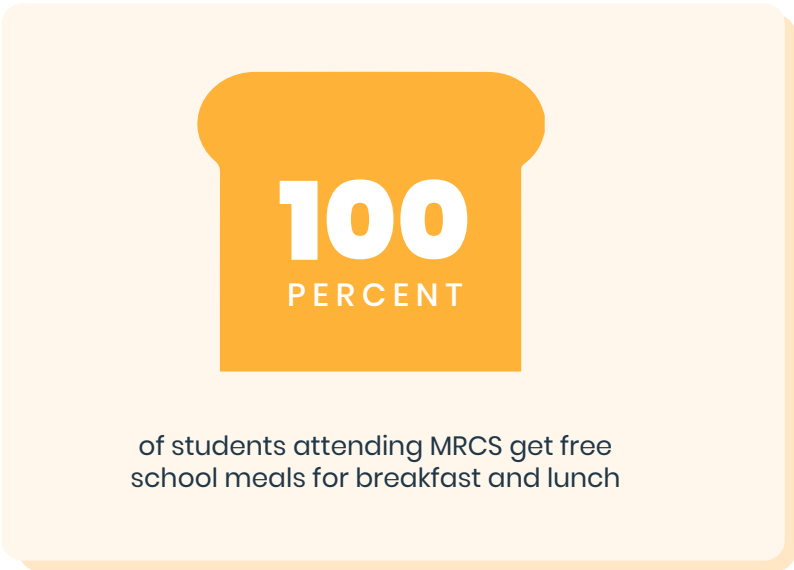
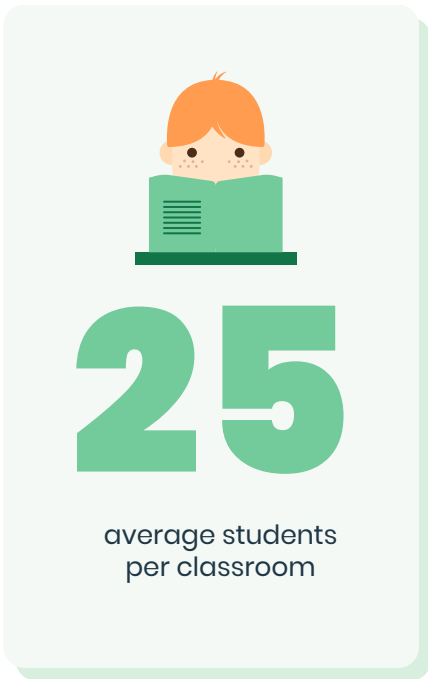
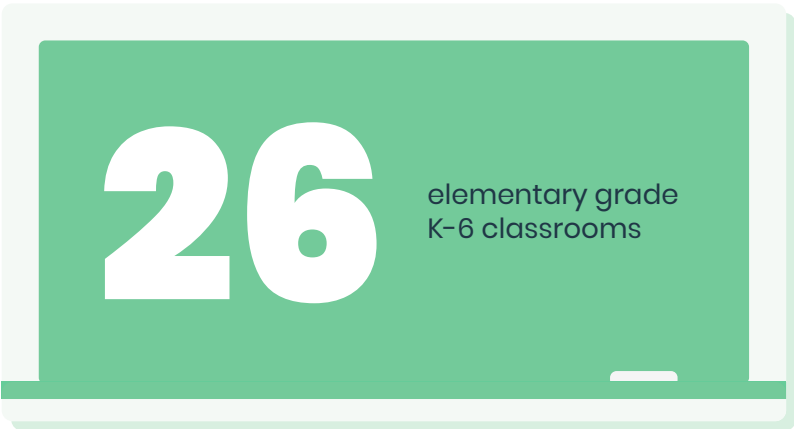
Develop and expand the MRCS Foundation to support MRCS through financial enterprise

Values

<div>1</div> <div>achievement</div> <div>We celebrate and recognize individual and team successes to foster a culture that embraces high performance and being the best we can be</div>	<div>2</div> <div>diversity</div> <div>We encourage, embrace and celebrate individuality, diversity and creativity in the classroom and school community</div>	<div>3</div> <div>enthusiasm</div> <div>We inspire and foster a love of learning through our passion, spirit and energy inside and outside of the classroom</div>
<div>4</div> <div>honesty</div> <div>We give and receive honest feedback and opinions in a graceful and open manner</div>	<div>5</div> <div>montessori philisophy</div> <div>We believe and practice an independent focus for each student and prepare our teachers through advanced education to foster a love of learning</div>	<div>6</div> <div>respect</div> <div>We value, honor and recognize that each individual perspective and contribution from students, staff members, families and stakeholders is well intentioned and worthy of thoughtful consideration</div>
<div>7</div> <div>safety & security</div> <div>Providing a safe, secure and healthy environment for students is a top priority</div>	<div>8</div> <div>student-centered</div> <div>Decisions are first made with regard to how they will impact our students and the goal to foster independent thinkers who love to learn</div>	<div>9</div> <div>team/community focused</div> <div>Internally and externally, we work to bring people together and foster collaboration towards one vision</div>



By the Numbers



Financials

During the 2021-2022 school year, MRCS maintained in-person and virtual classrooms for students. We saw an increase in Federal Funds due to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II). These one-time funds went largely towards facility improvements that helped facilitate a safe return to school for students. ESSER funds were also utilized for technology upgrades that enable all students to participate remotely if needed.



Montessori Regional Charter School Income		2021-2022
Local Sources	84%	\$ 6,826,784
State Sources	<1%	\$ 33,734
Federal Sources – Regular	5%	\$ 424,734
Federal Sources – ESSER II and ARP	11%	\$ 896,315
Total	100%	\$ 8,181,567

Montessori Regional Charter School Expenses		2021-2022
Academic Services	54%	\$ 4,415,884
Support Services – Administration	6%	\$ 447,731
Support Services – Pupil Health	1%	\$ 88,585
Support Services – Business/Fiscal	4%	\$ 300,162
Operations & Maintenance	10%	\$ 845,136
Transportation	<1%	\$ 48,640
Support Services – Central	5%	\$ 391,226
Facilities Services	11%	\$ 896,873
Debt Service	5%	\$ 387,180
Budgetary Reserve	4%	\$ 360,150
Total	100%	\$ 8,181,567

Curriculum

Maria Montessori was an Italian physician, scientist, and educator. She observed children at play and learned that

“Children’s best learning takes place through their senses and through their physical activity within the environment.”



What the hand
does the mind
remembers.”

MARIA MONTESSORI

MRCS Multi-Age Classrooms

K

K - 1

1 - 2

3 - 4

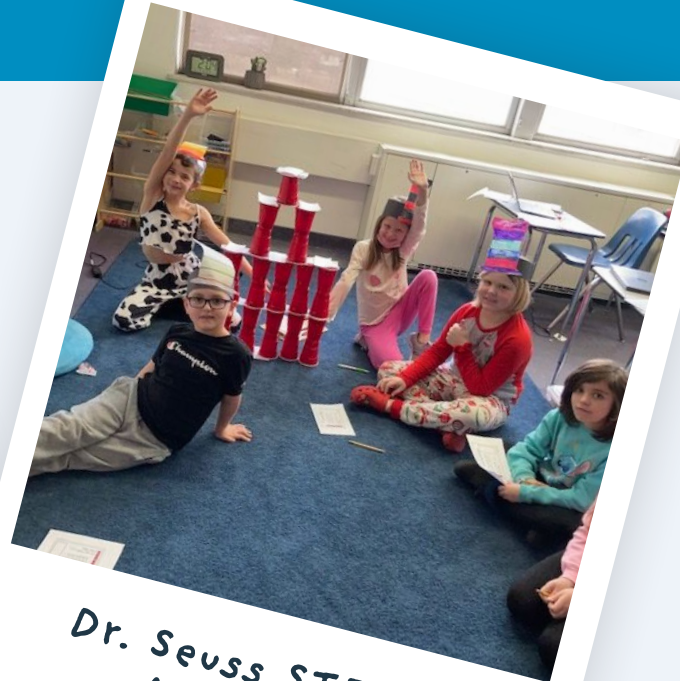
5 - 6



- The Montessori method of education is child centered with an emphasis on exploration, creativity, and intellectual curiosity
- Our Multi-age classrooms allow for peer learning as well as flexibility within the curriculum
- The prepared environment and freedom within limits allow children to interact and gain independence, as well as to take responsibility for their learning

- Classroom and Curriculum are designed around the main areas of curricular focus; Math, English Language Arts, and Cultures
- MRCS offered a virtual option to families for the 2021-2022 year
- All subject areas are aligned to the PA Common Core Standards

Special Curriculum Activities



Dr. Seuss STEAM Activities



100th Day of School



Mobile AG Lab

Flexible Learning Days

- Flexible learning days allow the school to plan ahead for possible inclement weather and not lose a school day
- As a 1 to 1 school students could work virtually or take work home to complete the day's work



Summer Academy 2022

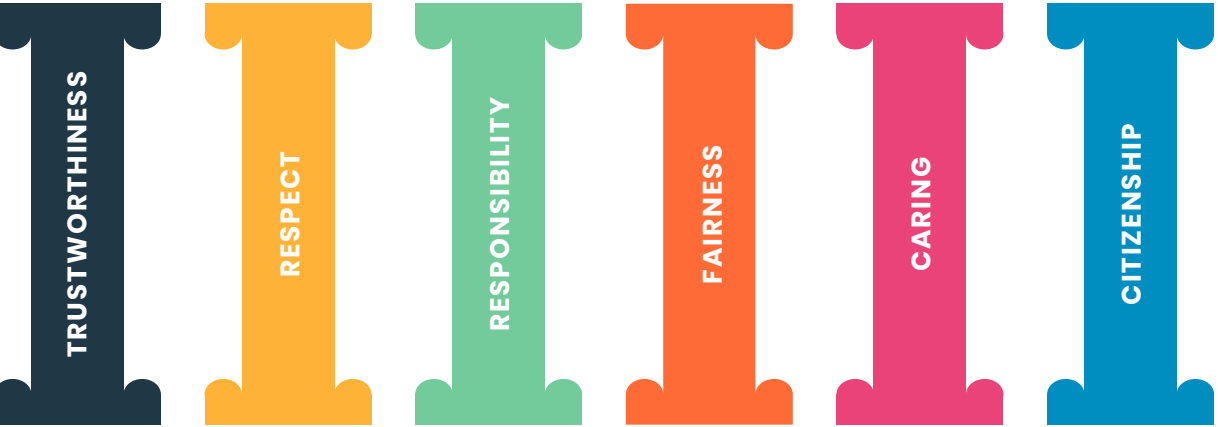
OFFSETTING LEARNING LOSS

- Small Group Classes and lessons were offered for K-6
- Direct instruction in Math and English Language Arts
- Specific Grade standards practice



Character Education

Every year our students learn about and practice the six pillars of character education. The six pillars that we focus on are:



These lessons are delivered to each classroom and the students have an opportunity to incorporate these pillars into their everyday interactions with their teachers and classmates.

Character Education Schedule	
September	Respect
November	Responsibility
January	Trustworthiness
February	Caring
March	Citizenship
May	Fairness



Enthusiasm



Independent Work



Teamwork

NEW FOR 2022-2023

Mental Health

To support mental health and improve social emotional learning, Montessori Regional Charter School has hired a full time Mental Health Therapist. MRCS continues to develop programming and policies for the betterment of students' overall well-being.

- Social Emotional wellness has direct linkage to academic success as students need to feel safe, supported, and emotionally regulated to fulfill their highest academic abilities.
- MRCS will begin universal **Social Emotional Learning** lessons in each classroom with lessons informed by the *CASEL Framework 5 Core Competence Areas: Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision Making*.

Beginning this current school year, the mental health therapist will support students with managing anxiety by better understanding anxiety, developing coping strategies and facing anxiety to build confidence in their capabilities.

Increasing resources while decreasing barriers to academic success is on the MRCS agenda for improving mental health and well-being. The **SAP (Student Assistance Program)** is a project in motion at MRCS. This program aims to identify issues that create barriers to student success and help overcome these barriers using a team approach. With parent permission the SAP team can gather information of needs and develop a plan that may include in school strategies or connection to community-based services and activities.



MRCS Field Day

NEW FOR 2022-2023:

Care Team

STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2022-2023

What is the MRCS Care Team?

The MRCS Care Team is a program for students who demonstrate a need for support in academics, attendance, and/or mental health counseling. The members of the MRCS Care Team are trained school staff who work alongside parents/guardians to discuss resources and establish a plan to maximize the student’s success.

Members of the Team

The MRCS Care Team members are school personnel who are specially trained to work with students and their parents. The core team consists of the following:

Ms. Kelly Principal	Ms. Vanessa Mental Health Therapist	Ms. Christine School Psychologist
Ms. Bethany Dean of Students	Ms. Meredith School Nurse	Ms. Heather Specials Teacher
Pyramid Health Inc. Liaison Drug & Alcohol Counselor		

How is a student referred to the MRCS Care Team?

MRCS Teachers and Administrators get to know our students on a personal level and are often at the forefront of discovering their personal challenges- referrals may come from school staff. However, students may also be referred by parents/guardians, or by self or peer referral. If your child has a problem, it is important to remember they are not alone, help is available. Allow the MRCS Care Team to be a part of your child’s support system. **If your child needs help, please complete this referral form at <https://tinyurl.com/MRCS-Care-Team> , find the link on Parent Square, or contact Vanessa Bonatto, LCSW at 814.833.7771 Ext. 152.**

Making Connections

As part of the process, standardized assessments will be completed by the building administrator, teachers, nurse and other relevant persons. Parents are asked to complete a form and be a part of the process. Requested data will include information about a student’s behavior, academic performance, health, and attendance. The MRCS Care Team can assist students by connecting them and their families with resources that meet their specific needs. These resources are available through the School Psychologist, Mental Health Therapist, and the Pyramid Drug & Alcohol Counselor. The MRCS Care Team can also recommend outside agencies for more intense needs. Administors, teachers and the school nurse are also available for support.

The MRCS Care Team is a voluntary program. Parent consent/permission is required. Please review consent forms sent home following a referral and return them within a timely manner. The process may not begin until parental consent is provided. Separate consent for Mental Health Services is required. Not every student referred to MRCS Care Team may need Mental Health Services therefore Mental Health consent forms will only be sent home if these services are indicated during the information gathering process.

NEW FOR 2022-2023:

Lunch & Learn

MONTHLY GOOGLE MEET MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATIONS DURING YOUR LUNCH HOUR

Google Meet link on Parent Square.

VIDEO CALL LINK:
<https://meet.google.com/vkb-mrdi-mgp>
OR DIAL:
(US) +1 475-222-5279 PIN: 360 878 450#

SAVE THE DATE
3rd Tuesday of Every Month
12:00 - 1:00

September 20th	What is Special Education? With Christine and Bethany
October 18th	Mental Health Overview and Community Resources
November 15th	Understanding and Supporting Anxiety
January 17th	Trauma and the Brain
February 21st	Self Regulation and Managing Tantrums
March 21st	Divorce/Separation and Co Parenting
April 18th	Understanding ADHD
May 16th	White Pine Center for Healing presents Confident Body, Confident Child (Healthy Body Image and Eating Patterns)



Technology

MRCS utilized Chromebooks and Newline boards to enhance student engagement while following CDC recommendations for social distancing. This technology will continue to enrich student learning now and in the future.



A one-to-one program allows each enrolled student to utilize an assigned Chromebook to supplement traditional Montessori instruction with technology resources. The goal is to enhance classroom instruction and student achievement in the areas of problem solving, science, math, reading and writing.



Newline Interactive Touch Display

We have installed a Newline Interactive Touch Display in every classroom this summer. After a successful pilot program in the Spring 2022 we have implemented a standard classroom setup to include a height adjustable Interactive display and a large whiteboard.

Building & Grounds

Improvements that were made to the MRCS building and grounds in 2021 and 2022 as well as a look into what is to come.

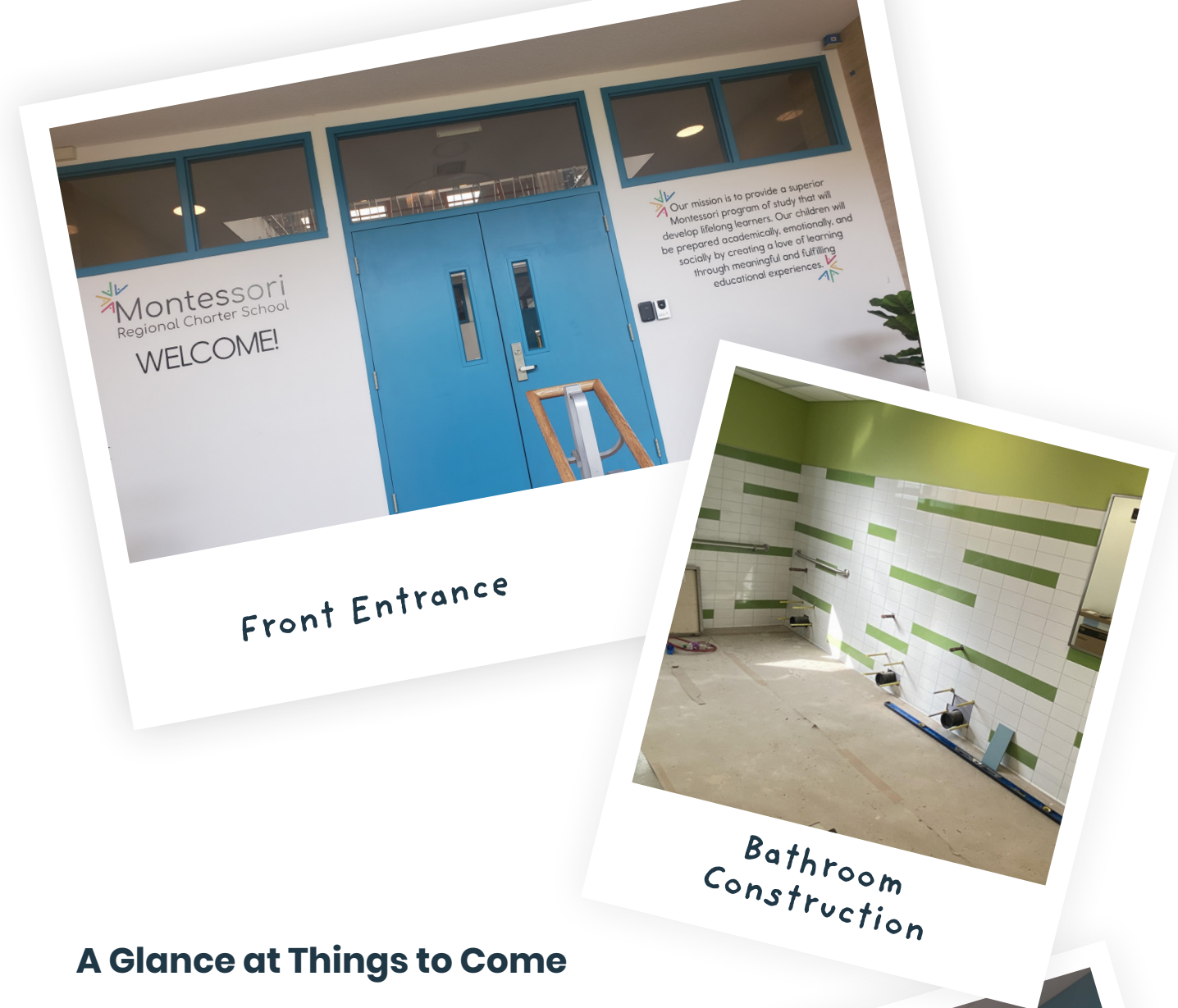
Finished Improvements in 2021-2022

- Re-finished gym floor with logo
- East bathroom renovation for all three floors including new staff bathroom on the 2nd floor
- Gym doors upgrade
- Front Entrance Security Wall
- Carpool entrance security doors
- Internet connection for outside classrooms
- LED lighting upgrade



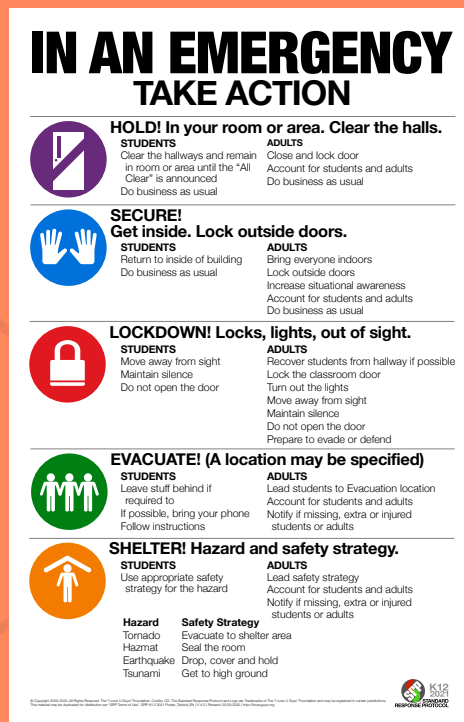
A Glance at Things to Come

- Additional classroom salto door security
- Additional exterior security cameras
- Outside classroom construction
- Green house construction
- Additional exterior security lighting



Safety & Security

At the start of the school year, every student and staff member learns about MRCS's Standard Response Protocol. The Standard Response Protocol is a set of research based actions/ drills designed to prepare students, staff and parents for emergency situations. It was created by the I Love U Guys Foundation.



Safe2Say Something

Students and staff are trained every year about the Safe2Say Something system. This program teaches students and staff on how to recognize the warning signs and signals from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others. They are encouraged to say something and report concerns to a hotline via phone call, website or by using the Safe2Say app. This program is run by the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General.



Visit the website at: <https://www.safe2saypa.org/>

Hapara-Student Online Safety

Hapara is a program that our school utilizes to keep our students safe and focused while learning online. This program works with Google Workspace for Education, like Google Classroom, to support our students and teachers online by encouraging students to be responsible and become good digital citizens. Teachers are able to see student screens and tabs in real time to be sure that students are focused on the assignment or task. Hapara also features a filter that blocks student access to inappropriate sites, images and videos. Administrators are alerted of any activity on the Chromebook like website searches, images, or videos that may suggest self-harm. These features are another measure that we use to keep our students safe online.



Visit the website at: <https://hapara.com/>

Events & Activities

Check out all the fun we had in the 2021-2022 school year!



100th Day of School



Mobile AG Lab



Field Day



Carnival



Food Drive Events & Activities



Coastal Cleanup



2022-2023

PTO Activities

*DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

September

Presque Isle Coastal Cleanup

9.19 – 10.7.22

Spirit Wear Fundraiser

10.7.22

Fall Dance

10.31 – 11.7.22

Arts Bakery Fundraiser

January

Family Game Night

1.30 – 2.17.23

Giving Bean Coffee Fundraiser

3.2.23

Barnes & Noble Book Fair

4.10 – 4.24.23

Country Meats Fundraiser

5.1 – 5.23

Teacher Appreciation Week

6.3.23

Spring Carnival



Scan for Daily
Calendar &
PTO Events

Are you interested in
volunteering?



Contact the PTO at
ptomrcs@gmail.com



Stay Connected
[@mrcseriepto](https://www.instagram.com/mrcseriepto)



Montessori Foundation

OUR MISSION

The Montessori Charter School Foundation (MCSF) is a nonprofit fundraising organization focused on supporting Montessori Regional Charter School's mission by creating and developing new financial resources for the school.

The Montessori Charter School Foundation (MCSF) was created in 2013 solely to provide additional financial resources to MRCS through fundraising and enterprise operations. MCSF will develop these financial programs while partnering with our community to strengthen our relationships and collaboration with Erie County residents and organizations.

The fundraising programs may take various forms including:

- Participating in community fundraising events, such as ERIE GIVES
- Providing "naming" opportunities for students and families that allows a lasting imprint on the campus
- Offering educational and physical activities that align with the MRCS values, for families and residents
- Utilizing our beautiful 17-acre campus for community events
- Creating fun community events for families



2021-2022

Montessori Foundation Expenses



The Montessori Charter School Foundation provided donations to MRCS to help support the upgrades needed for the natatorium. Locker rooms, lighting, a filtration system, a new roof and upgraded doors were needed in the swimming pool area. We are still in the process of making additional updates to ensure the pool is operational and soon becomes a resource for our community.



Donations Out (MRCS)
\$ 50,000



Legal
\$ 2,282



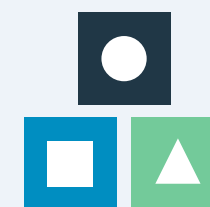
Audit
\$ 2,800



Payroll
\$ 1,352

Montessori Foundation Financials

AS OF 6.30.22



Assets
\$ 171,009.31



Equity
\$ 170,211.30



Liability
\$ 798.01

New for 2022–2023

- ✓ MRCS' First 7th grade class
- ✓ Athletics & After School Activities
- ✓ 8th grade coming fall 2023





Montessori

Regional Charter School



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