

Dolphin Tales

September 4, 2026

Volume 15 Issue 1

August Birthdays

David P.	8/3	Ms. Teri	8/21
Jude B.	8/8	Mack M.	8/22
Jackson B.	8/13	Will G.	8/22
Kevin W.	8/16	Daiki M.	8/23
Teddy H.	8/16	Adeline N.	8/24
Sabrina C.	8/20	Krish R.	8/24
Alaia R.	8/20	Zazil H.	8/24
Elliot C.	8/20	Will T.	8/31

September Birthdays

Seanna K.	9/1	Miles M.	9/18
George F.	9/2	Hikari M.	9/19
Kaleb P.	9/7	Everleigh C.	9/23
Parker J.	9/13	Lyla Kay P.	9/24
Ms. Kristin	9/13	Madeline H.	9/24
Ms. Maggie	9/13	Penelope C.	9/25
Atsuto T.	9/16	Ms. Gabi	9/29
Ravyn S.	9/17	Ms. Lili	9/30

Important Dates

- September 7th | Labor Day (No School)
- ~~September 8th~~ | Rescheduled for September 15th Primary Parent Education Night
- September 10th | Lower Elementary Field Trip to Tellus Museum
- September 21st | International Day of Peace
- October 2nd | Parent/Teacher Conferences (No School)
- October 9th | Toddler/Primary Field Trip to Rocky Hollow Farm Pumpkin Patch
- October 15th | Lower Elementary Field Trip to Pettit Creek
- October 23rd | MSOR Fall Festival 5:30-7:00pm
- October 26th-27th | Historical Timeline
- October 30th | Halloween Celebration/Parade 10:30am
- November 3rd-4th | Fall School Portraits



FUN
AT THE



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THANK YOU!

THANK YOU TO THE MORRIS & THE TOWNSEND FAMILIES FOR PROVIDING CHICKENS FOR OUR COOP!



A Fresh Start: What to Expect at the Beginning of the Montessori School Year

The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time filled with new opportunities, familiar faces, and fresh routines. Whether your child is returning to a Montessori classroom or beginning their Montessori journey for the first time, the first few weeks of school can bring a mix of excitement, anticipation, and sometimes a few big emotions.

In a Montessori environment, the beginning of the school year is about much more than jumping straight into academics. It is a time for children to settle into their environment, build relationships, rediscover routines, and begin finding their place within the classroom community.

Here is what families can expect as a new Montessori school year begins.



A Time to Become Familiar With the Environment

Building a Classroom Community

Establishing Routines and Independence

Teachers Are Observing and Getting to Know Each Child

It's Okay if the Transition Takes Time

How Families Can Support a Smooth Start

A Year of Growth and Discovery Ahead

Click below to read more about each of the headlines shown above.

Let's work together to make this year a great one!

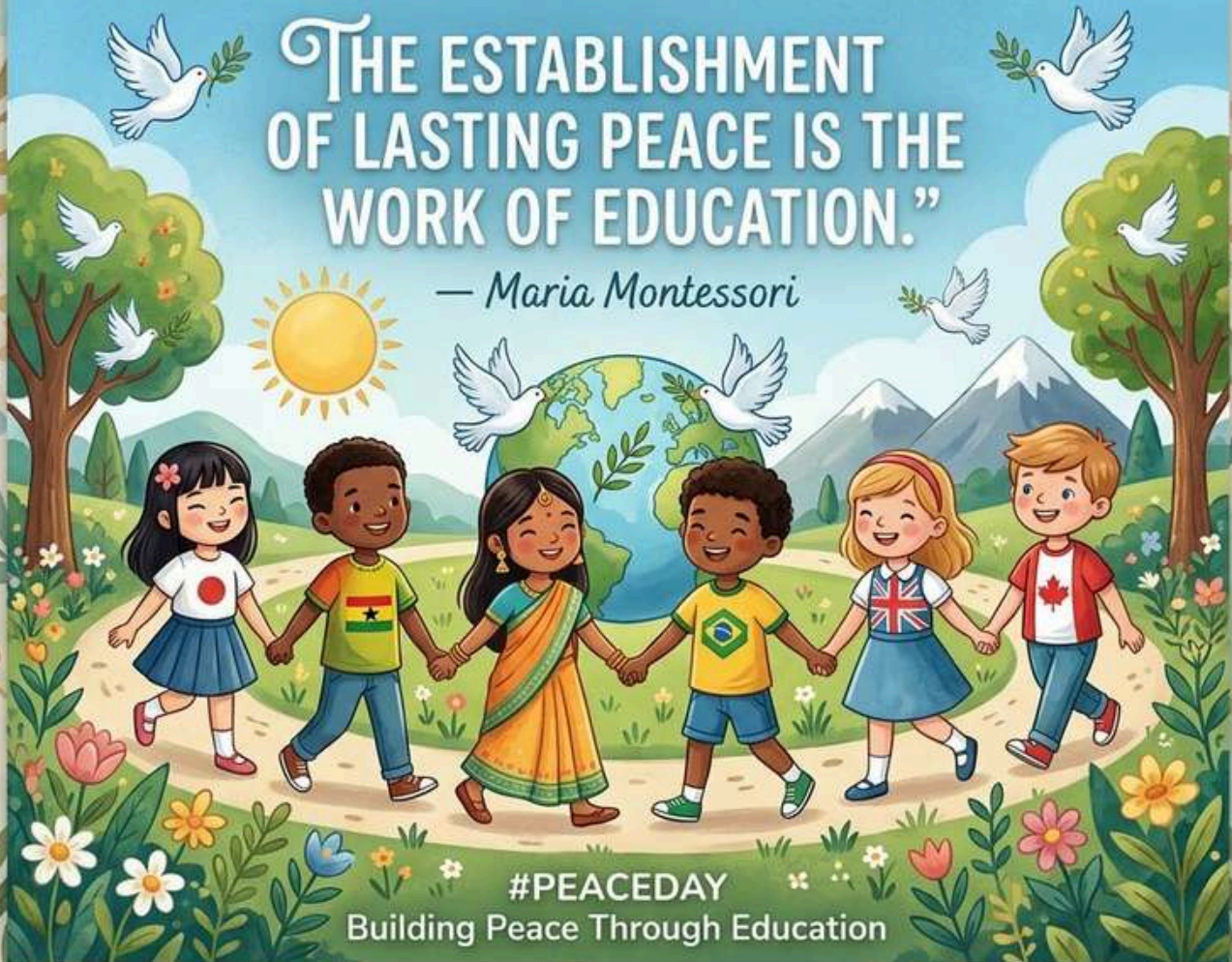
[A Fresh Start: What to Expect at the Beginning of the Montessori School Year — Montessori Child Development Center](#)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

SEPTEMBER 21ST

“THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF LASTING PEACE IS THE
WORK OF EDUCATION.”

— Maria Montessori



International Day of Peace is a very special day in Montessori because it reflects our belief in cultivating peace, respect, compassion, and understanding from the earliest years of life. On September 21st, Montessori students around the world come together to sing “Light a Candle for Peace” at a designated time. As children in different countries join in throughout their school day, the song travels around the globe, creating a beautiful continuous expression of peace. It is a meaningful reminder that even something as simple as a song can connect children across cultures and inspire hope for a more peaceful world.

Here is a link to the song so you can sing along with your child at home: [Light a Candle](#)

Toddler News

Ms. Ginny's & Ms. Stephanie's Class



We are in our third week of school and all the children are settling in well!

In August we talked about colors, shapes and numbers. That is something we continue with throughout the school year. We also got to know all of our new friends and helped get them used to enjoying our classroom.

In September we will learn all about the zoo. It's a fun month for sure. Yesterday we learned about some animals that lived there and listened to the sounds they make. We will learn some fun songs and also do a few crafts.

You are all doing great at drop off and pick up times. Thanks so much for being on time each day.

If your child brings home a bag with soiled clothing, please be sure to send in a replacement for his or her cubby the next day.

The children really seemed to enjoy their visit to the library. Please remember you can keep their book for the week- just be sure to send it back by the following Friday so they can check out another one.

If your child is prone to insect bites or sunburn, please apply the appropriate creams before you bring them to school. If they are in our late stay program, it will be reapplied then if you have sent in bugspray or sunscreen for late stay.

"Play is the work of the child." - Maria Montessori

- Meaning: Play is not just a pastime for toddlers; it is how they actively process, test, and make sense of the world around them.

Toddler News

Ms. Kelly's & Ms. Kristin's Class

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. Ms. Kristin and I are enjoying getting to know the children who are new to our class and re-connecting with returning students. Getting to observe each of these tiny humans working, playing, eating and sleeping is an absolute joy. The children are becoming more familiar with the routines and the schedule which helps make them comfortable.

During August we learned about colors and shapes and we are looking forward to learning all about zoo animals in September. We are blessed with a shady patio so we like to work and eat lunch outside. We have been working with water, practicing with funnels, pouring from cups, seeing items sink and float and watching how water flows down tubes and pipes. We also use sand for sensory work, shapes and colors. Grace and Courtesy lessons about "not pushing", no hitting and using "please and thank-you" have been introduced and we will continue to talk about these lessons. We encourage parents to reinforce these lessons at home. Inside the children have been exploring practical life activities such as sweeping, spooning, using tongs, sorting and picking up small objects. They are also learning to wipe up their milk spills during snack. This is something they can do at home as well. We encourage parents to let children participate in tasks around the house as much as possible. This aids their development, fosters a sense of accomplishment and builds their self-esteem. We walk to the library in the Upper Elementary building on Friday each week. Ms. Natalie reads us several stories and the children each pick out the book to bring home. Please be sure to return library books by Wednesday the following week.

Thank you for sharing your children with us each day, we appreciate and respect each of them.



Primary News

Ms. Angie's & Ms. Kelly's Class

We have had a great August and returning to school has been awesome. The children are adjusting to the daily class routine and also making new friends. It is a joy to watch the children working with each other. We are watching lifelong friendships being made and children who are growing and learning. We have been learning about Space. Please ask your children about the planets. We have also been singing a song called Rocketship Run and have learned some sign language to make it even more fun. The children are pretty impressive with it. We do enjoy incorporating sign language with our thematic lessons to make it more enjoyable as we learn.

We begin the month of September with a three day weekend, and we hope everyone enjoys having Monday off. Our thematic lessons this month will be the ocean. If your child has anything they would like to share pertaining to the ocean, please send it in. They can share about ocean animals, shells, books, and stories of their visit to the beach.

A big thank you to the families who have sent in fruit/veggies and flowers on their days. The children love to decorate the room with the beautiful flowers and they also enjoy trying new things with the snack.



A few reminders:

- ** Library day is on Fridays at 8:30. Please send in books on Thursdays. Children need to be here by 8:25 on library day.
- ** Music is on Fridays also with Ms. Angela. The children love this and we are also working on music for our programs.
- ** Flowers are to be brought in on Monday of your week.
- ** Snacks are brought in on Tuesday of your week.
- ** Please make sure that your child has extra clothes in their box.
- ** Folders are sent home on Fridays. Please return on the next school day.
- ** Nap rolls are sent home on Fridays. Please return laundered nap roll on next school day.
- ** Lunches are looking great!
- ** If your child will be late or absent, please text Ms. Kelly and myself to let us know. One of us will get back to you.
- ** Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

School is going GREAT!! Have an awesome September. Excited to see all the growing and learning opportunities with your children.

Ms. Angie and Ms. Kelly



Primary News

Ms. Ortrud's & Ms. Teri's Class

It's Tuesday night. You're making a sandwich for your youngest, reminding your middle schooler to grab her flute for tomorrow's concert, and mentally adding "wash uniform" and "sign permission slip" to your to-do list. Then your phone buzzes—time to check if your teenager turned in his math homework and confirm soccer carpool plans.

Sound familiar?

If you're a parent, this probably feels like a normal evening. You're doing it all because you care and want your kids to succeed. But when we do everything for our kids, we may actually be making things harder—for them and for us.

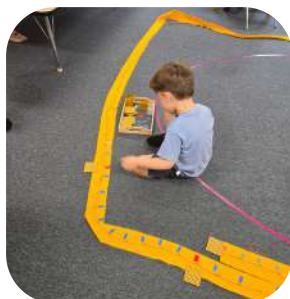
When kids don't get the chance to do things on their own, they miss out on learning important life skills. Independence builds confidence. It teaches kids they can face problems and figure things out. Without that practice, they may become more anxious, not less.

And let's be honest: constantly managing every detail of your child's life is exhausting. Many parents—especially moms—are "exhausted, burned out and perpetually behind" and increasingly report poor mental health.

Research shows that kids who learn to be more independent feel more confident and less anxious. They learn that they can handle challenges—which helps to build resilience against anxiety. Yet many kids today do not get the chance to practice navigating challenges because well-intended adults are so quick to step in. According to research from the University of Michigan/CS Mott Children's Hospital, parents see independence as beneficial, yet struggle to grant it to their children.

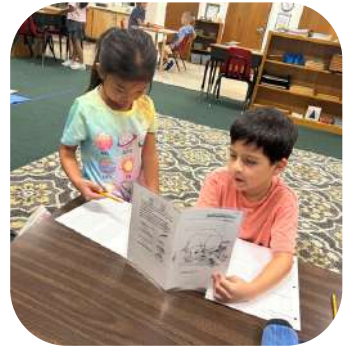
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[*Click here to continue reading*](#)



Lower EI News

Ms. Maggie's, Ms. Robin's, and Ms. Rana's Classes



Lower El News

Ms. Maggie's, Ms. Robin's, and Ms. Rana's Classes

What is Cosmic education?

Cosmic Education or The Great Lessons are an important and unique part of the Montessori curriculum. These lessons are bold, exciting, and are designed to awaken a child's imagination and curiosity. The child should be struck with the wonder of creation, thrilled with new ideas, and awed by the inventiveness and innovation that is part of the human spirit.

"Montessori uses the Five Great Lessons as an introduction to all topics, providing a "Big Picture" to demonstrate how the sciences, art, history, language, and geography are interrelated. Through the Five Great Lessons, children become aware that the universe evolved over billions of years, and that it is based on the law and order through which all the plants, animals, and the rest of creation is maintained."

The Five Great Lessons are traditionally presented in Lower Elementary. (6-9) and are presented every year so that children see them more than once. Below are the Five Great Lessons that are used to paint a broad picture before moving to more specific study.

1. **First Great Lesson** - Coming of the Universe and the Earth 8/21-27
2. **Second Great Lesson** - Coming of Life 8/28-9/10
3. **Third Great Lesson** - Coming of Human Beings 8/11
4. **Fourth Great Lesson** - Communication in Signs
5. **Fifth Great Lesson** - The Story of Numbers



First Great Lesson: Coming of the Universe and the Earth

The First Great Lesson is the most memorable and tells the story of the beginning of the universe. This lesson includes some demonstrations using solids and liquids to show how the continents and oceans first came together. This lesson leads to the study of:

- Astronomy: solar system, stars, galaxies, comets, constellations.
- Meteorology: wind, currents, weather, fronts, erosion, water cycle, clouds, glaciers.
- Chemistry: states of matter, changes, mixtures, reactions, elements, atoms, periodic table, compounds, molecules, chemical formulas, equations, lab work, experimentation.
- Physics: magnetism, electricity, gravity, energy, light, sound, heat, friction, motion, experimentation.
- Geology: types of rocks, minerals, landforms, volcanoes, earthquakes, plate tectonics, ice ages, eras of the earth
- Geography: maps, globes, latitude/longitude, climates, land/water form names, continent and country research.

Second Great Lesson: Coming of life

The Second Great Lesson involves the coming of life. This lesson revolves around the Timeline of Life, a long chart with pictures and information about microorganisms, plants, and animals that have lived (or now live) on the earth. The great diversity of life is emphasized, and special care is paid to the "jobs" that each living thing does to contribute to life on earth. This lesson leads to the study of:

- Biology: cells, organized groups, five kingdoms, specimens, dissection, observation, use of microscope
- Botany: study of plants, classification, functions, parts of plants (seed, fruit, leaf, stem, root, flower), types of plants
- Habitats: location, characteristics, food chains/webs, symbiosis, adaptation, ecosystems, conservation
- Ancient Life: eras of the earth, evolution, extinction, fossil records, excavation
- Animals: classification, needs, similarities/differences, human systems, nutrition, hygiene
- Monera, Protista, and Fungi Kingdoms: what they are, classification, observation.

We will finish the Great Lesson Series in the next few weeks. Our adventure is well underway!

Information courtesy of Montessori East

Upper Elementary News

Normalization ~ Peace Day ~ Tellus ~ Old Glory ~ Chickens!

The Year Begins

Our Upper Elementary bonding trips are a BIG milestone that gives students a real taste of independence outside the classroom. Students take the lead by working together, managing their days, planning, and navigating new friendships while strengthening old ones. Traveling away from home builds TEAM SPIRIT, helping classmates form deep friendships that carry right back into the school year. It is amazing to watch them step up, take responsibility for themselves, and look out for one another. Ultimately, these journeys give our 9-to-12-year-olds a major boost in confidence and create a tight-knit community spirit.

We are planning to go swimming and have a sleepover tonight to round out the bonding trip experience.

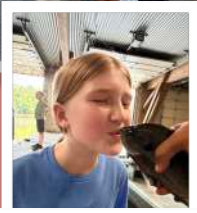
In the Classroom:

Great Lessons One and Two are complete, and we have moved on to Lesson Three: Coming of Man.

Math and Language review and test are over and new lessons have begun.

All enrichment classes have also begun; students are excited about their Spanish, Music, Tennis and PE with the YMCA.

We are looking forward to the Exchange Club, coming back to our classroom to give us a history of Old Glory's History



6th years reflect on their recent bonding trip

This year was the most awesome! We hiked at Sloppy Floyd Park and earned our **first Junior Ranger badges** by doing scavenger hunts and searching for animal tracks. At the Mathis farm, we all knew we would go fishing, but nobody was ready for a giant military plane to fly super low over our heads! And the weirdest part? Tons of my friends kissed the fish! **Alexandra**

This trip was the **MOST** Fun of all three years. I have been on—and we even found a dead snake at Sloppy Floyd! After we thanked the ranger, we all piled into the cars and headed to the Mathis farm. We cooked hot dogs and tried fishing with sliced cheese for bait (and the fish actually liked it!). We put all the fish back in the lake! **Grace**

I have been on three bonding trips in Upper, and this year was **the best!** We went to the State Park to immerse ourselves in nature; then we went to Mathis Family Farm, where we went fishing, and I saw a bee fly into the water and become fish food! Finally, we went back to school happy! **Liam**

Last year I was new to the country and new to the school. The bonding trip was a few days after I joined MSOR. I was not afraid; I had a good time. This year, I understood more English and **I had more fun.** **Haruto**

THE GIRLS ARE BACK!

When we got chickens, I was SO excited! We've never had any class pets except for the fish, and I already have chickens at home, so I felt like the class chicken expert. It's really fun showing my friends how to take care of them. We're hoping for fresh eggs for breakfast after sleepovers, and maybe we can even sell eggs to raise money for cool trips—like, what if we went to Italy or France? We got the chickens from the Townsends and from Jeb in Primary, and maybe I'll get to bring some of mine too!



ADOLESCENT & SECONDARY

The Year Begins!

September 2026



Back to school... this is a season full of starting anew. New classes, goals, workloads, friends, and opportunities to make an impact on our community. Maria Montessori had a clear vision for adolescents, and our curriculum emphasizes “meaningful, authentic work” that drives the students to connect with the outside world.

In our program, students design, plan and run MICROBUSINESSES, which are elective courses focused on bringing something positive to the MSOR community. These “occupations” find their definition in many forms; the most far-reaching ones being acts of community service and running a business. Our students are looking forward to a fantastic year of Art Club, Breakfast Box, Chess Club, Creative Movement, Spanish Club, STEM Club, 3D Prints, and so much more!

These entrepreneurial endeavors are an integral part of our curriculum. In this process, students create business plans, develop marketing strategies, run their clubs, and manage finances. All money raised from these endeavors are in turn used to raise funds for the program’s international travel component.



Entrepreneurship

For a successful business, I think there should be a clear goal. My hope is to

interest our club members and inspire them to find an interest in science through the fun activities that STEM Club provides. Our financial goal is to be able to raise enough money for our trips to Costa Rica and Greece, and at the same time, make the club time worth its cost. I think to make a club successful, there needs to be good advertising and a clear motive. I hope to help kids learn science, technology, engineering, and math while also letting them have fun during the process.

--Sabrina Chen (8th Grade)

I love art! In Art Club, I want to help everyone learn more about art and try new things. Art Club is a great place to be creative and teach creativity. I also



like to encourage our students to try new colors and techniques, and not to be afraid to make mistakes.

Teamwork is also really important. Every week, we meet to plan, share ideas, and help each other solve problems. Good communication and working together make Art Club more fun and successful. Everyone brings their own skills and ideas, and we share the work and help each other.

--Claire Chen (8th Grade)

Bonding Trip

Whenever we go on these bonding trips, I learn more about my friends, whether it is something simple or a

hidden talent. My favorite part of the bonding trip has always been the dance party by the fire, and getting to make smores. I have always enjoyed these bonding trips... It is the best way to start the school year!

--Charles Giles (10th Grade)

The Adolescent and Secondary bonding trips are a great way for us to do just that... bond. We always take two or 3 days to go on a trip where we get to do a lot of fun activities. We get the chance to go hiking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and even go fishing. We also do team building activities, such as splitting into groups to cook meals for each other. I think that the bonding trip gives all of us much needed quality time to get to know each other better.

--Zoey Reynolds (10th Grade)

What are your favorite classes so far?

Benjamin- AP Spanish & English

Charles- AP Human Geography & Spanish

Claire- Georgia Studies & Spanish

Kaleb- Calc 2 (Dual Enrollment) & Guitar

Parker- Georgia Studies & Spanish

Sabrina- Georgia Studies & Geometry

Seanna- English & Spanish

Tegan- American Gov (Dual Enrollment) & AP Lit

Wanling- AP Human Geography & Spanish

Will M.- Georgia Studies & Pre-Algebra

Will T.- Physical Science & Pre-Algebra

Wyatt- Georgia Studies & Pre-Algebra

Zoey- Algebra 2 & AP Human Geography

The Program Motto Leads Us Ahead!
“WORK HARD, PLAY HARD”





Senior Spotlight



Tegan Ashley

Now that senior year is here, I am planning and getting ready to have a successful last year at Montessori! In order to complete my senior year, I wanted to incorporate my senior project into something the community can participate in as well as recognize the problems we have to work towards changing in our local community. I have committed to continuing a meaningful partnership with Bloom Closet that I started last year. Bloom Closet is an organization in Rome and also in Fayetteville, where children in the foster care system have the opportunity to "shop" for what they need, and gain access to the necessities that they may not otherwise have. I am very fortunate to have grown up in a loving home, and I know that not all children and teenagers have the same experience. I want my partnership with Bloom Closet to continue so that I can help make difficult transitions a little easier for children entering foster care.

My Project consists of two elements- the Duffle Bag Project and the First Night Kit. The Duffle Bag Project is when you buy a duffle bag and stuff it with things like pajamas, hygiene items, a blanket, and a stuffed animal. This replaces the trash bag that most kids carry around with their belongings. The First Night Kit is composed of essential items like toothbrush and toothpaste, a change of clothes, and a comfort toy. Both of these projects will help to meet immediate needs, provide comfort and familiarity, as well as preserve the dignity of a foster child by giving them clean, age appropriate items that belong to them only. After the drives have been hosted, I plan to transport all of the items myself to Bloom Closet in Rome and from there, they will be transported to foster children who are in need of them at that time. When a child enters foster care, it is often sudden and unexpected, and our community can make that first night and week a little easier. If you are wondering how you can help, keep an eye out for my Duffle Bag Project Campaign, and my First Night Kit Drive! Another way to support the cause is by spreading the word to friends, family, and other members of the Montessori community so that together, we as a community can make a big difference in the lives of foster kids.



Class of 2027

Kaleb Pearson

What I am most excited for about senior year is getting to the final chapter of my high school experience, and seeing all of my hard work pay off. I am ready to go ahead and start the next phase of my life, but I also want to enjoy my last year. I've worked hard all through high school and I'm looking forward to celebrating my achievements, creating fond memories and gearing up for what's next. After high school, I am hoping to study civil engineering and business.

This year, for my senior project I am planning on collaborating with local people in my community to raise awareness about reducing pollution into our rivers. I am planning to assemble a team of people to float down sections of our local rivers to clean up some of the trash that is left behind everyday. I hope that I can raise awareness about litter in our water shed and help make a difference for local wildlife. I chose to do this project because I love the outdoors and want to help the local wildlife.



Benjamin Cramer

As a senior, I am excited to help others learn more about how to run their businesses. I want to help my friends understand how to be a leader, manage finances and have an amazing year. I am trying to get my work ethic on par with what I need to have in college, so I am excited to fix my bad habits.

I am looking forward to passing all my classes with straight A's, but I still have to get through this year so I can't look too far ahead. I am really excited to spend my last year here with all of my friends. It is such a blessing to be a senior. I am looking forward to being independent and free. I am looking forward to all of you going to our graduation.

After high school, I am looking forward to going to college and studying marine biology. I find marine biology so intriguing, especially when it comes to studying sharks. I think it would be a very fun experience meeting new people with the same interests as me as well as studying what I love the most. I find it exciting that I can be all by myself and not have to worry about my parents telling me what to do all the time. I am excited about how I can go at my own pace. I am really happy that I have been able to grow up at this school and have amazing teachers help guide my way to the top.

For my senior project, I am raising awareness about ocean pollution. Every year, 8-11 metric tons of plastics and trash are dumped into the ocean waters; harming the fish and the birds that think the trash is food. It is a problem that I do not think gets enough attention, and I see a great need to keep our waters clean. While there will be many aspects to my project, I plan to speak to the classrooms on what makes our wonderful oceans so important to our everyday lives. I will talk about how the trash is harming the fish, the coral reefs, and all of us as well. It is a topic that I am very passionate about, and I am thankful to have the opportunity to bring awareness on the subject.

