



Dates to remember

Thursday, March 18 – Fill the Pantry Jeans Day

Friday, March 19 – GTA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:00 pm (virtual for the public: see below for instructions to join)

Monday, March 29-Monday, April 5 – Spring Break (school resumes Tuesday, April 6)

Congratulations to talent show winners!

The competition was tough and voting was difficult



after last Friday's GTA's Got Talent virtual talent show, which drew a total of 49 acts! In the end, the top five vote-earners were **Kaden & Lincoln Klooster, Clay**

Weaver, Claire Whipple, Lilia Miller and Levi Hansen. Congratulations to prize winners **Kaden & Lincoln** for their amazing and unusual talents, which took several weeks to plan and practice. Thank you to all of our participants and those who purchased a ticket to watch and vote. If you were not able to attend virtually or want to share the show, [you can view it here.](#)

Will your children return to GTA in the fall?

Though current GTA students do not need to reapply to attend Grand Traverse Academy during subsequent school years, we do wish to know if your children will be returning in the fall as we plan for next year. **Watch for an email tomorrow, March 13, regarding your intent to return to GTA, and please reply as soon as possible.** If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, or will be transferring to GTA from another school, an [enrollment application](#) must be completed. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Truesdell at truesdella@mygta.us or 932-6900.

MAPSA Administrator, Teacher of the Year semifinalists announced



We were thrilled to learn this week that Superintendent **Jim Coneset** and Middle Elementary GEMS Teacher **Maria Drost** made the list of semifinalists for the Michigan Association of Public School Academy's 2021 Awards. Over 700 administrators and teachers were nominated, nearly 150 were chosen to complete an application, and the list was narrowed to the top 10 teachers and the top 10 administrators as semifinalists. Five finalists in each category will be announced on **March 29** (teachers) and **March 30** (administrators), with the winners announced on **May 14**, during the 2021 Charter Schools Week celebration. We wish them both the best of luck and are proud to have them representing Grand Traverse Academy!

Secondary Students of the Month selected



Kaden Klooster, grade 7, is the son of Brittani and Daron Klooster. He likes sports, especially basketball, and plays for GTA. Kaden also enjoys playing video games and his trumpet, as well as spending time with his brother, Lincoln. He works on music and sound for his family's church and helps out with live streaming the services. Once he is high school, Kaden hopes to dual enroll at NMC to get a head start on college. At the moment, his ultimate goal is to work as a professional film editor.



Lucy Balderach, grade 8, is the daughter of Victoria Hughes. She enjoys playing softball and snowboarding, and volunteers regularly at her church. At school, Lucy has been a member of the Builders Club and served as

president. After graduation, her goal is to attend college and medical school and eventually become a cardiologist.



Jonah Novak, grade 9, is the son of Brad and Christine Novak. His interests include reading, watching movies, walking trails and spending time with friends and family. Jonah is working on goal-setting so that he can become more productive, and is

optimistic that one day he will improve his professional work habits. He hopes to maintain good grades this year and throughout high school so that he has the opportunity to attend a good college after graduation.



Lilly Sarya, grade 10, is the daughter of Julie Sarya and Daniel Sarya. Currently, she is the vice president of both her class and the Key Club. Lilly volunteers at a local dog shelter and works five days a week in the summer at Milk & Honey. Passionate

about personal fitness, she hopes to remain active and healthy while contributing to the community. Lilly is unsure of a career path but is interested in psychology, where she can help and communicate with others. Her main goal is to live life to the fullest and make a difference in others' lives.

Elementary girls' running club returns

Girls Take Action will be starting up again on **Tuesday,**

April 13. Girls Take Action teaches girls to be self-confident and is based on the GTA character traits. This will be a club for girls in grades 3-6 and coached by Ms. Kipke and Mrs. Callahan. Practices will be held on

Tuesdays and Thursdays right after school until 5pm. Note that the program is subject to change based on State of Michigan COVID-19 mandates.

Keep Running! - Ms. Kipke and Mrs. Callahan



Fill the Pantry Jeans Day planned

Did you know that GTA has a food pantry to provide lunches for less fortunate students (and those who occasionally forget their lunch at home)? It's time to stock it for

the quarter and we welcome your help. Next **Thursday, March 18**, we're holding a Fill the Pantry Jeans Days for all students and staff. School-appropriate jeans (no holes, rips or leggings-style) may be worn with a uniform top in exchange for a **\$2 per person donation**. We thank you for your assistance, which is voluntary.

Carpool reminders

We truly appreciate our parents' patience and cooperation as we continue revised carpool procedures due to the COVID-19 safe distancing requirements. We ask that you please keep the following in mind to ensure that morning and afternoon carpool are as safe and smooth as possible for everyone:

- Please do not drop off or pick up your children in the parking lot; use the carpool lanes to keep children safe, as staff and older students are entering and exiting the parking lots before and after school.
- Now that the weather is warming and snow is melted, the lawns are very wet. Please avoid driving on the grass to prevent muddy ruts and damage to sprinkler heads.
- If you are waiting in line in the driveway, please do your best to avoid blocking the parking lot entrances/exits. This will help prevent others from choosing to drive over the grass instead of waiting for an opening.

Preschool accepting applications for fall

Mighty Mustangs Preschool is accepting enrollment



applications for the 2021-22 school year. Our preschool offers a play-based and developmentally appropriate program for 3-, 4- and 5-year-

olds. Options include 2, 3 or 5 mornings or full days per week, and the days of operation follow the GTA school calendar. If you have preschool-aged children or know someone who does, an application and more information can be found at mygta.us/page/preschool. Contact Sharon Swartz, director, at swartzs@mygta.us with questions.

Secondary school information for 2021-22

Our course catalog for Secondary school classes offered in the 2021-22 school year has been published! You can find it on the GTA website under the Students tab by choosing [Secondary Course Catalog](#).

Registration open for current 6th graders.

- Students interested in applying for Honors English Language Arts should complete all requirements shown on the attached application and submit them to Mrs. Patzik by Friday, April 9, 2021 to be considered.

Secondary registration open.

- Current 7th-11th graders and their parents should review the 2021-22 course catalog, located on the GTA website, and select and register for classes via the registration portal on PowerSchool.
- Mrs. Patzik will be meeting with all students during the school day until Spring Break to review graduation progress and 2021-22 course registration, provide guidance and answer questions.

Career-Tech Center registration open for next year's 11th & 12th graders.

- CTC Registration forms, available in the Secondary Office, are due by March 26.
- Current juniors planning to return to the CTC for a second year must also return a registration form to secure their spot. Students will be notified in early May of their enrollment status.
- Teacher Academy, Film and New Media, Front Street Writers and Manufacturing Technology programs require additional paperwork before enrollment decisions are finalized. Please allow ample time to complete the needed steps; applications are available on the [CTC website](#).

Dual enrollment registration for Fall 2021 begins!

- Current 10th & 11th graders interested in dual enrollment at Northwestern Michigan College must attend a mandatory meeting to learn more about the process, benefits and potential risks related to enrolling in college courses as a high school student.

Students will receive an email notification with a link to register for the meetings.

Board of Directors meeting next Friday

Our next GTA board of directors meeting is set for **Friday, March 19 at 1:00 pm** and will be live for the board and virtual for the public. To join via Google Meet, go to <https://meet.google.com/boc-qigw-ayn?hs=122&authuser=0>.

Student art competition announced

Each spring, the Congressional Institute and



participating Members of Congress sponsor "An Artistic Discovery," a nationwide high school visual art competition that recognizes and encourages artistic talent in

each Congressional District. The competition is open to all high school students currently living in the First District. The winning submission will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year and viewed by visitors and dignitaries from all over the world. The deadline for all art submissions is April 23; read more about the updated rules and procedures [here](#). Once completed, students must submit the [Student Release Form](#) along with a digital copy of their artwork to Bergman.Art@mail.house.gov.

Girls' softball coach needed

The Mustang athletic department is seeking applicants for a junior high girls' softball coach for our co-op team with Traverse City Christian School. Requirements include coaching experience, knowledge of the game, the ability to teach and motivate our student athletes, and a commitment to the success of the program. A background check and fingerprinting are required. Interested? Contact Shelley Alejandro at alejandros@mygta.us.

GTA Trivia

The pattern on the carpet in our classrooms and offices



is called Aftermath II and was created by designer Jhane Barnes. She was influenced by the work of mathematicians Euler and Fibonacci. With sketchy, graphic renderings of Euler's Phi function and

Fibonacci's famous sequence, the design is said to stimulate one's imagination!