

## Dates to remember

**Friday, April 29** – Family Movie Night, 7:00 pm, Small Gym (see details and register using the link in the Family Council corner on page two)

**Monday, May 2** – College Decision Day Celebration (see related story)

**Friday, May 6** – Art in the Park (see related story)

## We've done it again!

Grand Traverse Academy has earned high national and metro area rankings in **U.S. News & World Report's 2022 Best High Schools**, in both the high school and charter categories. Schools that rank in the top 40 percent of the almost 18,000 public high schools in the nation achieve status as a **U.S. News Best High School**. (GTAHS actually ranks in the top 18.6 percent of all public high schools, with an overall score of 81.36/100, and the top 6.6 percent of Michigan high schools). According to the publication, "The highest ranked U.S. public schools in U.S. News & World Report's 2022 Best High Schools rankings are those whose students demonstrated outstanding outcomes above expectations in math, reading and science state assessments, earned qualifying scores in an array of college-level exams and graduated in high proportions." We have earned this recognition a total of seven times, including 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021 and now 2022.

## Art in the Park returns!

Art in the Park is back after a two-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions. Join us on **Friday, May 6**, when the Elementary Bands perform at **11:00 am in the Big Gym**. Student paintings, drawings and other visual art will be on display in the main and Early Elementary Wing corridors for your viewing pleasure before or after the concert.



## Secondary Students of the Month named

Congratulations to the following, who were selected as Students of the Month for March, based on their demonstration of the character trait of Caring:

**Mackenzie Brown-Bannon**, grade 7, is the daughter of



Liz Johnson and Andrew Bannon. She is interested in finding volunteer work and believes in doing whatever comes her way to the best of her ability. Mackenzie has been learning the tricks of the baking trade lately from her mom and loves it! She hopes to follow

in her footsteps and become a pastry chef one day.

*"Mackenzie displays all the characteristics of a caring student on a consistent basis. In class, she is caring to her peers when she thinks of other students' needs, sometimes before her own. She cares for the wellbeing of others and likes to make others feel comfortable and welcome. Mackenzie's friendly demeanor and infectious smile and laugh light up any room that she enters."*

- Ms. Rautenberg

**Ryilan Shimko**, grade 7, is the son of Jen Shimko and



Jeremy Shimko. His interests include robotics, skating, track & field and drama. Ryilan's goals include becoming a faster athlete, a better skater and a more proficient percussionist. After graduating, he is interested in becoming a logger.

*"Ryilan goes above and beyond to help his peers. Whether it's during Robotics assisting his teammates, in Advisory exploring the "Choose Love" curriculum or in the hallway with his friends, Ryilan constantly puts others ahead of himself. He is a considerate, compassionate young man."*

- Mrs. Callahan

**Marcus Rose**, grade 9, is the son of Bob and Janie Rose.



At school, he is involved in robotics and hopes to continue his involvement in the Robotics Club. When he's not busy with school activities, he works at Tropical Smoothie Café. Marcus enjoys mostly winter outdoor activities, such as snowboarding and

snowmobiling. After graduation, he would like to get a

welding license and hopes to attend Michigan Technological University to study engineering. Personal goals include continuing to learn the German language and traveling to Japan, Germany and Scotland.

*"Marcus is caring in the way he interacts with others. Marcus always uses caring words when talking with adults and peers. Marcus uses caring actions when working with peers. He is patient and kind when sharing his knowledge with others."*  
- Mrs. Rosinski

**Phoebe Riess**, grade 9, is the daughter of Debby and Mike Riess. Her interests include herpetology (the study of amphibians and reptiles), drawing and architecture. Phoebe enjoys working with the children at her church on Wednesdays and Sundays. Her goals after high school graduation include working with children and earning a college degree – possibly in the field of architecture.



*"Phoebe shows fellow members of the GTA family that she cares about them on a daily basis. I overhear her giving her classmates various compliments and words of encouragement quite often, and this is not restricted to only her close friends. She is very empathetic and is always there to lend a helping hand to whoever may be in need."* - Mr. Ross

## Beginning Band information

All 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join elementary band for the 2022-23 school year! Interested students will take part in instrument fittings with Mr. Floering and Mrs. Diephouse to help select an instrument that they are excited to play and that will be well-suited for their success. See the attached flyer for program details and a permission slip for the fittings, which is **due back by Friday, May 20**.

## Teacher news!

Junior high science teacher **Mrs. Callahan** will attend Arizona State University's online program this summer as a graduate student. She is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in Education,



with a focus on K-12 STEM curriculum design. She is excited to apply the content of the program to our STEM classes. Our students will be fortunate to reap the benefits of her continuing education.

## EmbroidMe announces sales

EmbroidMe, one of our two official school uniform suppliers, has announced two sales as you plan for the 2022-23 school year:

- Early Bird Sale – 20% off ALL ITEMS the entire months of May and June, online only at [www.topshelfpromos.squarespace.com/grand-traverse-academy](http://www.topshelfpromos.squarespace.com/grand-traverse-academy).
- Summer Sale – 10% of ALL ITEMS the entire month of July, both in-store (9:00 am-2:00 pm Monday-Friday) or online at [www.topshelfpromos.squarespace.com/grand-traverse-academy](http://www.topshelfpromos.squarespace.com/grand-traverse-academy).

Reminder: All uniform orders must be placed by August 1 to ensure delivery before school starts. The EmbroidMe showroom is located at the corner of LaFranier and South Airport Roads at 1567 W. South Airport Road, Suite 3 in Traverse City.

## A note on uniform purchases

As you begin to think about your children's school uniforms for the 2022-23 school year, keep in mind that GTA has two uniform vendors to choose from, [EmbroidMe](#), a local store with an online ordering option, and [French Toast Schoolbox](#), an online store. Visit the [Uniforms](#) page on the GTA website for guidelines by grade level and contact information for both vendors. If you have gently used uniform pieces you would like to sell or are interested in buying used pieces for your children, GTA also has a private [Carpool & Uniform Exchange Facebook](#) group. In addition, used uniform sales take place during the school year, usually during parent-teacher conferences.

## Freshman field trip scheduled

On May 12, GTA 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take a morning field trip to the Grand Traverse County Civic Center for MiCareerQuest, a college and career readiness event. MiCareerQuest will give students the opportunity to talk one-on-one with professionals in a variety of fields and connect classroom learning with jobs and their requirements. Careers represented include construction, manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, agriculture, hospitality and more.

## Elementary Field Days are coming!

It's hard to believe but plans are underway for **Field Days on June 7 and 8**. These events are a fun way to celebrate with classmates and teachers and are always looked forward to with great anticipation! Mr. Dix and Mrs. Kline could use your help with supplies, monetary donations, treats and volunteers. An event schedule is shown below and a donation and t-shirt order form is attached to this newsletter. Thank you for any assistance you are able to offer!

Grades	Date	Time
Preschool & Kindergarten	Tuesday, June 7	9:30-11:30 am
Grades 1 & 2	Wednesday, June 8	9:30-11:30 am
Grades 3 & 4	Tuesday, June 7	1:00-3:00 pm
Grades 5 & 6	Wednesday, June 8	1:00-3:00 pm

## Elementary golf returns

GTA boys and girls in grades 3-6 are invited to learn the fundamentals of golf at a spring clinic with GTA parent and PGA professional Bruce Anderson. The one-hour sessions will take place at the **Traverse City Golf Center on Secor Road on Wednesdays (4:30-5:30 pm) and Fridays (3:00-4:00 pm), May 18 & 20 and 25 & 27**. The cost is \$35 per student for all four sessions and all necessary equipment will be provided. A registration form with details is attached to this newsletter and is due back, with payment, **no later than Friday, May 13**. The form and payment may be sent to school with your child to give to their teacher.

## College Decision Day celebration

National College Decision Day, when many high school seniors will officially commit to a college, is Sunday, May 1.



We're celebrating all the postsecondary plans of our graduating students on **Monday, May 2**. Seniors will have the honor of wearing a shirt with the logo of the college, technical school, trade school, university, military branch or credential program they have chosen to attend. Teachers and staff are invited to join them by wearing a shirt recognizing their alma mater.

## Vote now for Record-Eagle "Simply the Best 2022"

We have learned that Grand Traverse Academy and several of our staff have been nominated for the Traverse City Record-Eagle's "Simply the Best 2022," which highlights northern Michigan's businesses, organizations and nonprofits. We were a runner-up last year. Although winners are drawn randomly from businesses and individuals who receive at least 25 votes, it is great exposure simply for our school and staff members to be on the list of nominees. If you care to vote for GTA or one of the teachers nominated, or make your own nomination, you can find the [nomination form here](#). Votes can be made daily until midnight on May 13 and winners will be announced in September.

## Sophomores to host Jr. High Field Day

GTA 10<sup>th</sup> graders are hosting a Field Day for GTA 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders as a class fund raiser, planned for **Friday, May 20 from 12:30-3:00 pm**. The \$20 cost includes lunch, a custom-made, one-of-a-kind t-shirt and an afternoon of fun and games! A sign-up/parent permission slip is attached to this newsletter. The



form and fee are due no later than **Friday, May 6** in the Secondary Office.

## GTA board opportunity

Grand Traverse Academy's mission is for all students to be safe, loved and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. If you have an interest in helping our school to achieve our mission, have 2-5 hours per month to devote to guiding our school, are a team player and will serve as a community ambassador for GTA, you might be a great candidate for our board of directors. The board is currently accepting applications for a member to replace one whose term will expire this year. The term will begin at the start of the 2022-23 school year. For more information or to apply, please contact the board's Education and Recruitment Committee at [EdRec@mygta.us](mailto:EdRec@mygta.us).

## Coffee sales to support class trip

Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class is selling Leelanau Roasting Company coffee to help pay for their field trip on the Inland Seas Schoolship this spring. The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular & Decaffeinated, Whole Bean & Ground. Prices are \$13 for Regular and \$14 for Decaf. An order form is attached and may be returned with your child to their classroom teacher, along with payment. **Orders are due next Friday, May 6 and coffee will be delivered to students on Friday, May 13.**

## Upcoming Elementary music events



Our K-6 students have been busy practicing for several spring performances. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following events:

### Elementary Bands "Art in the Park" Performance

Friday, May 6 - Big Gym

11:00 am - All Elementary Band Students

### Elementary Choir plus Mustang & Chamber Choirs

Friday May 20 - 6:00 pm, Big Gym

### Young Explorers "Informance"

Friday, May 27 - 11:00 am, Small Gym

## GTA Family Council corner

**Movie night planned.** GTA Elementary students and their parents are invited to a special presentation of the movie, "Sing 2," rated PG, on **Friday, April 29 at 7:00 pm in the Small Gym.** Concessions will be available for a nominal cost. Sign up [here](#) to attend. Children may dress in their PJ's and bring a comfy chair or bean bag!

**Fund raising opportunity continues.** Purchase a Mirror Image Car Wash & Detailing single basic wash coupon for \$7 or a book of five for \$35. Full-service interior & exterior washes are available for \$25 each or \$125 for a book of five. Profits will support the GTA Family Council's efforts throughout the school year. Follow this link to purchase: [GTA FC CAR WASH](#) or contact Kristin Boogaard at (616) 328-4646 or [kristinboogaard@gmail.com](mailto:kristinboogaard@gmail.com).

 Reminder: Be sure to join the Facebook group, **GTA Family Council**, to stay connected and keep up to date with all the amazing service opportunities.

## 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. Parents of current students are asked to complete our [Intent to Return Survey](#) and submit it at your earliest convenience. 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. Questions may be directed to Amy Truesdell at [truesdella@mygta.us](mailto:truesdella@mygta.us) or 932-6900.

## Student health screenings important

One of our goals at GTA is for students and staff to stay healthy. It continues to be so important for parents to screen for illness **before** bringing your children to school, especially for COVID symptoms, and keeping them home if necessary – both in their best interest and for the protection and safety of others. Screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before leaving for school is helpful in keeping our GTA community healthy. Please check for the following and keep children home with any of these symptoms: *fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough, new absence of taste or smell, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain or new onset of a severe headache (especially with a fever).* Please keep children home with any of these symptoms. **This is especially important on returning from break, particularly if your family has done any traveling.** The Grand Traverse County Health Department screening protocol is attached for your convenience. Please screen your children and follow the protocol if any symptoms are noted. Thank you!

## Dad jokes from Don



I put my daughter's grandma's phone number on her cell phone speed dial.

*It's our version of insta-gram.*

## **Ongoing events**

**Elementary Pizza Days** – *Every other Wednesday, as follows: May 11 & 25 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), \$1.50 per slice of pepperoni or cheese*

**Secondary Pizza Days** – *Every Thursday (order and pay on Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni*

**Secondary Bagel Sales** – *Every Wednesday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$2 each for several varieties*

**Elementary Bagel Sales** – *Every Wednesday in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing), 7:45-8:10 am, \$2 each for several varieties*

**Secondary Doughnut Sales** – *Every Friday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1 each for several varieties*

**Elementary Doughnut Sales** – *Every Friday in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing), 7:45-8:10 am, \$1 each for several varieties*

**Fill the Pantry Jeans Day** – *May 26*



Hello future 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents,

We would like to extend an invitation to your son/daughter to join elementary band for the 2022-2023 school year! All students in 5th and 6th grades have the opportunity to join band at GTA. To help your child prepare for this, middle elementary students were able to visit the secondary band room during their music classes in March. They were able to see and listen to instruments played by our secondary band students.

The week of May 23<sup>rd</sup> (during school hours) Mr. Floering and Mrs. Diephouse will be providing “fittings” to help you and your child select an instrument that they are interested in playing and that is also well suited for them to be successful. You will receive a letter with which instrument(s) best suit them along with options for purchasing or renting an instrument. Your child may already know what instrument they would like to play, but we recommend having a couple instruments in mind so that they can try a couple and choose the instrument that physically fits them the best.

We recommend families consider renting an instrument from Marshall Music to help ensure that students are able to learn to play with a quality functional instrument. Instrument rental costs range from \$30-\$85 a month, depending on the instrument. More information about Marshall Music’s rental program can be found on their website at [www.marshallmusic.com/rentals](http://www.marshallmusic.com/rentals). This program is rent-to-own, so each monthly payment is applied to the total cost of purchasing the instrument. If you decide to purchase a used instrument, it is wise to have it inspected by Marshall Music so that any repairs can be made before school starts.

Be aware that instruments that you find in “big box” stores and stores that are not music stores are not acceptable band instruments. In addition, any instrument that is green, blue, purple, red, or any other color other than natural metal or wood colors are frustrating for beginners because they were not designed to last. Also, if you find an instrument on ebay or the internet, please call or email one of us so we can help advise you on brands. Many of the inexpensive models on the internet advertise as real student instruments, however, they do not work for the students.

**Students must have a band instrument and Standard of Excellence Book 1 by Monday September 19, 2022 in order to participate in the 2022-2023 elementary band program.**

*Please consider your options for an instrument and financially plan for it. We have just a few school owned instruments available in cases of financial hardship. However, we encourage families to work with their children and find areas to cut back to make an instrument possible. When a child is willing to work or sacrifice for it, they will usually take the privilege more seriously and you’ll see great results!*

If you have any questions about the elementary band program, instrument fittings, or instrument rental options you may contact Mr. Floering or Mrs. Diephouse.

Musically yours,

*Stephanie Diephouse, Elementary Band/Music  
(231) 932-6034 or [diephouses@mygta.us](mailto:diephouses@mygta.us)*

*Glenn Floering, Director of Bands  
(231) 932-6031 or [floeringg@mygta.us](mailto:floeringg@mygta.us)*

**Please return by Friday May 20, 2022 to participate in the instrument fittings**

**Yes! We are interested in signing up for *Elementary Band* for the 2022-2023 school year!**

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*Student's First and Last Name*

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*Grade in the Fall*

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*Current Homeroom Teacher*

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*Parent's Name & Phone Number*

***Questions?***

***Please contact either Mrs. Diephouse or Mr. Floering***

**Stephanie Diephouse:**    diephouses@mygta.us (231) 932-6034

**Glenn Floering:**        floeringg@mygta.us (231) 932-6031



# GTA "We Came to Play!" Field Day!



Dear Parent(s) or Guardian,

We have our dates for Field Day down! Every year the students look forward to this day. Below is the scheduled event by grade level. We have attached the donation and t-shirt form.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you would like to volunteer for Field Day as well!

Who: Preschool & Kindergarten	Who: 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Who: 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Who: 5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Where: GTA North Field	Where: GTA North Field	Where: GTA North Field	Where: GTA North Field
When: Tuesday, June 7, 9:30-11:30am	When: Wednesday, June 8, 9:30 - 11:30am	When: Tuesday, June 7, 1:00 - 3:00pm	When: Wednesday, June 8, 1:00-3:00pm

## Donation Form

Supplies and/or donations needed. Please indicate how many you plan to donate on the blank space!  
(Items Due May 27)

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 Burlap Sacks    \_\_\_\_\_ 8 Baseball Tees    \_\_\_\_\_ 32 Whiffle Balls    \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Plastic (Durable) Bats  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 100 Yellow Car Sponges    \_\_\_\_\_ 1,000 Ice pops    \_\_\_\_\_ 1,000 Water Balloons    \_\_\_\_\_ 10 5-gallon buckets  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 Beach Towels    \_\_\_\_\_ 8 Footballs    \$\_\_\_\_\_ Monetary Donation towards Extra T-shirts or Supplies

## T-Shirt Order Form (Due May 11)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Qty.) T-shirt for my student  
 Cost: **\$8.00** each (please circle shirt size)



YS YM YL YXL AS AM AL AXL A2XL (\$2 extra)

If writing a check, make please make payable to Grand Traverse Academy

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you again for your donations and support. We are looking forward to giving these kids all the fun they deserve! Mr. Dix & Mrs. Kline

## Junior High Field Day Sign-Up

Junior High Field Day will take place on **May 20, after school from 12:30 to 3:00 in the north field (weather contingent)**. It costs **\$20**. Included with the cost is lunch, a t-shirt, and an afternoon of games. Lunch will be hot dogs and chips, so if you have any dietary restrictions that prevent you from eating the provided lunch, please bring your own lunch. Remember to bring a change of clothes that you are prepared to get wet and dirty.

**Sign-up form & fee are due by May 6 to the Secondary Office.**

NAME (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_

SHIRT SIZE (adult sizes) : (circle one)      S      M      L      XL

PARENT SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_



Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class is selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help pay for their field trip on the Inland Seas Schoolship this spring. The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. Orders are due on Friday, May 6 and will be delivered on Friday, May 13. Prices are \$13 for Regular and \$14 for Decaf. Thank you for your support!

	Whole Bean	Ground
Bakery Blend	_____	_____
Bakery Blend Decaf	_____	_____
GTA Blend	_____	_____
GTA Blend Decaf	_____	_____
French Roast	_____	_____
French Roast Decaf	_____	_____
Hazelnut	_____	_____
Hazelnut Decaf	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines	_____	_____
Caramel & Pralines Decaf	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival	_____	_____
Chocolate Cherry Festival Decaf	_____	_____

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

## Student Screening

Screen your child for the following symptoms daily before they leave for school. Follow the directions below if your child displays symptoms or has been exposed.

### Symptoms

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

### Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days, has your child:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the **symptom** questions, keep your child(ren) home from school.

If the answer is **YES** to any symptoms question and **YES** to any close contact/potential exposure question, call the school as soon as possible to let them know the reason your child(ren) won't be there today. Call your healthcare provider right away. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to [www.mi.gov/coronavirustest](http://www.mi.gov/coronavirustest) or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms (see "[Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)"):

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

**DISCLAIMER: This screening tool is subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.**

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)

