



Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Monday & Tuesday, September 12 & 13 – NWEA Math and Reading Testing for Grades 7-10

Tuesday, September 13 – Girls Who Code Club Informational Meeting, 3:45-5:00 pm, Bronze 2

Wednesday, September 14 – School-Wide Picture Day (school uniforms required for K-12)

Thursday, September 15 – Fill the Pantry Jeans Day

Thursday, September 15 – GTA Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00-7:00 pm, Aqua 5 (Boardroom)

Friday, September 16 – Elementary Choir Auditions, 12:15-2:00 pm (information attached)

Friday, September 16 – Mustangs Robotics Camp, 12:15-3:00 pm

A note from Mrs. Floering

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Grand Traverse Academy's 23rd year of providing excellence in education to students in the Grand Traverse area! This first week of the 2022-23 school year provided a wonderful atmosphere for students and teachers to connect or reconnect with each other, for students to meet new friends and for all of us to ease back into the school routine after a beautiful summer. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and being able to once again showcase your children's classroom accomplishments and talents with culminating events and other in-person activities here at school.



At GTA, our mission is that "all students are safe, loved and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics." Safety is a priority and, with that in mind, all exterior doors are kept locked during the school day.

We ask that you please ring the buzzer outside the main doors and check in at the office if you need to visit.

I am honored to be serving as interim superintendent while our board of directors interviews candidates and selects the next leader of our school. In the meantime, Stephanie Patrzik is serving as interim secondary principal along with her responsibilities as school counselor. Both of us, as well as Colin Smith, elementary principal, are available and happy to meet with you should you have any questions or concerns.

It's going to be a great year!

Respectfully,

Michelle Floering
Interim Superintendent/Secondary Principal

Carpool reminders

Our first week of school is behind us and we thank you for your smiles and patience as you become accustomed to our carpool process. We ask that you keep the following in mind to make the process even more efficient – with safety as our top priority:

- In the morning, all parents are encouraged to use the carpool lanes vs. parking in the lot and walking children to the entrance.
- As you wait in the carpool lanes, take care not to block parking lot entrances/exits, as students, staff and other parents may be coming and going.
- In the afternoon, parents of high school students are encouraged to use the parking lot for pickup vs. going through the carpool lane. Park in a marked space vs. idling in the lot.
- If the youngest student in your car is in grades K-4, please use the south (Hammond Road) entrance for afternoon pickup to avoid backups for those parents who are picking up children at the Three-Mile Road entrance.

- On exiting at the front of the building, please do not cut through the parking lot to use it as an exit as this can create a safety hazard.
- Please observe the posted speed limit on school grounds and watch for pedestrians.

With everyone's cooperation and understanding, we can continue to keep carpool smooth, efficient and safe for all.

Carpool assistance needed

A GTA parent is in need of a ride home for his son on Mondays and Wednesdays. He lives in the Spider Lake area and will help pay for gas. If you can help, please call Tom Tafelsky at (231) 218-1250.

Picture Day is next week!

All preschool and K-12 students and staff will have school pictures taken on **Wednesday, September 14**. Online orders are highly encouraged to keep lines moving quickly and prevent errors. Simply scan the code below or visit the Timeless Image ordering site at <https://vando.imagequix.com/A9PRL9G>. Be sure to use the appropriate school code as follows:



Elementary: 5822

Secondary: 6322



Order forms were handed out at last week's Open House (and are available in either office) should you choose that option. Uniforms are required of all staff and K-12 students for school pictures.

Golf clinic offered

Girls and boys in grades 6-8 are invited to learn the fundamentals of golf with former PGA professional, and GTA parent Bruce Anderson. Instruction will take place from **4:30-5:30 on September 19, 21, 26 & 28 at The Crown Golf Course** just off of N. West Silver Lake Rd in Traverse City. The cost is \$40 per person for all four sessions and all necessary equipment will be provided. A registration form is attached to this newsletter; completed forms, along with payment,

should be returned to Mrs. Alejandro in the Secondary Office by **Friday, September 16**.

Mustangs Robotics Camp announced

Is your 7th-12th grader interested in robotics but not sure what it is? They're invited to join veteran team members and explore driving, coding and engineering robots. They will have a chance to work with VEX V5 Robots in a competition arena! No previous experience needed but it is welcomed! The camp takes place on **Friday, September 16 from 12:15-3:00 pm in Bronze 2**. Questions? Email Coach Annie Callahan at callahana@mygta.us.

Computer Science club planned for girls

Girls Who Code is a FREE after-school computer science club for girls in grades 7-12. The first informational meeting will be held in **Bronze 2 on Tuesday, September 13 from 3:45-5:00 pm**. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Callahan at callahana@mygta.us.

There's an app for that!

If you haven't already downloaded our app, get it free



It's everything GTA, **in your pocket**.
Events · Staff Directory · Alerts · Athletics



at the Apple Store (<https://apple.co/3bCRz87>) or on Google Play (<https://bit.ly/3h9NIX0>). You'll find quick access to staff contact information, PowerSchool, the event calendar and more – plus, you'll receive news and important notifications right at your fingertips.

Find us on social media

Grand Traverse Academy has both a **public Facebook page** and a **private Facebook group** for parents who are looking for school-related carpool assistance or wish to buy or sell gently used uniform pieces. Please find and like our Grand Traverse Academy public page at <https://www.facebook.com/mygta.us/>. The private page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/930613170849541>. To join, click "Join Group" at the top of the page. Please

provide the names and grades of your GTA children for identification purposes and review and agree to the group rules for approval.

Procedures for absences and late arrival

The school day begins at 8:05 for Junior High and High School students and 8:30 am for Kindergarten and Elementary. Students should arrive at least five minutes in advance of their start time in order to get to class on time. If you arrive late, Elementary parents are asked to sign their children in at the office so that we can give them a tardy pass. Secondary students should stop in to the Secondary office for a late pass; if a parent wishes to excuse the tardy, they should call the office at the number listed below. **If your child(ren) will be absent from school, please call the office (Elementary: 995-0665 or Secondary: 932-6038) as soon as possible to let us know.** Feel free to leave a voice mail message if the offices haven't opened yet. Parents will be called to verify any absences that have not been called in. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring the safety of students at Grand Traverse Academy.

Open House activities a huge success

Many thanks to all who participated in our used



uniform and pizza sales at last week's Back-to-School Open House. The **GTA Family Council** raised a whopping \$938 to support various projects – more than twice what they brought in last year. Many thanks to those who donated uniforms to the cause, as

well as those who volunteered to sort and display the items or work at the event. A big thanks also to GTA parents **Troy and Sarah Hall**, new owners of That's a Pizza, who provided takeout pizza to our families that evening. They sold 150 pizzas, donating \$5 per pizza to our school, for a total contribution of \$750, which will directly benefit our students.

Coffee sales are back!

Mr. Thomas's Upper Elementary students are selling



coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities this year. The coffee comes in 12-ounce bags and is available in Regular (\$13) and Decaffeinated (\$14), whole Bean

and Ground. **An order form is attached and should be returned to school with your child (along with payment) by Friday, September 30.** Orders will be delivered to the school on **Friday, October 7.**

Elementary Band and Elementary & Mustang Choir information

All students in the 5th & 6th grades have the opportunity to join the Beginning Band. Students must have their instrument and the Standard of Excellence – Book 1 by **Monday, September 19.**



4th and 5th graders may audition for the Elementary Choir and students in grades 6-8 may join the Mustang Choir, with no audition necessary. Please note that new member auditions for the Elementary Choir will take place on **Friday, September 16, from 12:15-2:00 pm.**

Detailed information about both choir and band (including instrumental rental/purchase procedures and a choir permission slip) is attached.

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 fill it up for the quarter and we welcome your

help. On **Thursday, September 15**, we're holding our first of five Fill the Pantry Jeans Days for all students and staff. School-appropriate jeans (no holes, rips or leggings style) may be worn with uniform tops in exchange for a \$2 per person donation. We thank you for your assistance, which is always voluntary.

Authorization needed for all medication

As we begin the new school year please know that,



according to state law, we must have a physician's authorization in order to administer prescription medication to your children at school, and a parent's authorization for over-the-

counter medications (including herbal homeopathic remedies). *The only exception is over-the-counter cough drops, which students may carry with them at*

school as needed. Authorization forms are available in either office and can be faxed to and from the doctor's office if necessary. Completed forms should be dropped off in the office *by a parent*, along with the labeled medication. Thank you for your understanding.

NWEA testing next week

Students in grades 7-10 will be administered the NWEA tests in math and reading during their math and English language arts classes on Monday and Tuesday of next week. NWEA tests measure growth and proficiency in school subject matter and provide insights to help with instruction. Be sure that students arrive at school promptly to avoid any possible delays or disruptions in testing.

School district notifications

Please see the [District Information](#) on the GTA website for important parent notifications.

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Save your Oleson's receipts, please! Do you shop at Oleson's Food Markets? Did you know that your cash register receipts are worth money to our school? With the Oleson's



Community Share Program, you earn "Community Share Points" each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, so if you spend \$100 on groceries, you've earned \$1 for GTA! These points add up quickly and resulted in over \$1,000 in earnings last year, even though the school year was cut short. It's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and place them in the collection box inside the Elementary entrance (to the right of the office door).

Box Tops for Education. Box Tops for Education offers a new way to support our school with the purchase of many grocery items: The [Box Tops mobile app](#) allows you



to scan store receipts, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. No more clipping, taping onto collection sheets and dropping them off at school! You may still find the traditional Box Tops coupons on certain items, which can still be brought in to either office, but be sure to download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn free money for GTA!

Have a question?

No question is too silly or trivial to ask! Here's where to go for a fast answer to general questions about all things GTA, like uniforms, school pictures, carpool procedures, school hours and more:

Elementary Office: (231) 995-0665

Secondary Office: (231) 932-6038

info@mygta.us

For answers to more specific questions, please refer to the [list on our website](#). We want to be sure that you know exactly where to go for accurate answers.

Dad Jokes from Don

If you're new to GTA you are probably not familiar with Mr. Crowell, our daytime custodian who brightens our days with jokes that usually make us laugh but sometimes cause a groan! Here is his first "dad joke" of the school year:



What do you call a wandering caveman?

A Meanderthal

Athlete Name: _____ Grade: 6th 7th 8th Shirt Size _____

Co-Ed Golf Registration Form



Philosophy: MS sports are intended to provide a formative, competitive, and instructional framework for athletics. All participants will learn the fundamentals of the sport and be given the opportunity to develop strong and disciplined athletic minds and bodies.

Format: This sport will be structured as instructional skill sessions. Each session will focus on the development of a different aspect of the game.

Eligible Grade Levels: All enrolled male and female GTA 6th-8th grade students may participate.

Coaching Staff: Golf Pro & GTA Parent Bruce Anderson

Schedules/Times/Deadlines: Sessions will take place on **September 19, 21, 26, & 28 4:30 - 5:30..** Weather adjustments will be made by 1:00 the day of the session. Parents will be notified via the Remind text service. In the case of inclement weather, sessions will be canceled altogether. Make sure to dress warmly on session dates.

Equipment Needed: All necessary equipment will be provided, no personal equipment is needed

Location: Sessions will take place at the *The Crown, 2430 W Crown Dr, Traverse City, MI 49685*

Registration Deadline: Friday, September 16, 2022

Athletic Fee: \$40

Athlete Acknowledgement: I understand that it is important to have good sportsmanship & be a positive person in my community. I also understand that being an athlete will give me the chance to be a role model for other people. I know that competition builds character & will help shape me into who I will be after school. Integrity, reflection, & respect for athletics are all pieces of good sportsmanship that I hope to achieve. I will commit to the sport season, respect the coaches, athletes, equipment and have a positive attitude each and every time I represent my school. I will listen, work hard, and have fun while learning my sport.

Athlete Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Remind Service/Emergency Contact: the primary method the Athletic Department uses to communicate with athletes and families is via the Remind text service. Please put any numbers that you would like to receive season updates.

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Allergies/Other Notes: _____

Medical Authorization & Release: I hereby hold Grand Traverse Academy, its employees and agents harmless for injuries sustained as a result of participation in the sports program. I agree to and assume financial responsibility for medical treatment as a result of any such injury. By signing, you hereby grant to the child's team coach/administration the responsibility for the care of the child if a parent/guardian is unavailable. This involves the required consent and authorizations for the delivery of medical care, diagnosis, and treatment if necessary, on behalf of my minor child named above. In making any such decisions, the persons hereby authorized to make the decisions may rely on the advice of available medical advisors, which may include physicians, nurses, EMT's, or other apparently qualified persons. In connection with such decisions, I hereby release the school, and their representatives, from any liability for the results of such treatment and care. It is my understanding that the school will use its best efforts to promptly contact one of us in the event medical treatment or care is considered necessary or appropriate.

Concussion Awareness Educational Material Acknowledgement: I acknowledge, in accordance with Michigan's Sports Concussion Laws (Public Acts 342 and 343 of 2012) that I have received the Concussion Fact Sheet for Parent and/or the Concussion Fact sheet for Students (as applicable) provided by the Grand Traverse Academy Athletic Department. I am aware of the signs of concussions and proper reporting procedures. I understand that state law requires the immediate removal of a student athlete from physical participation if a concussion is suspected. I further understand that state law requires that a student athlete suspected of a concussion not return to physical activity until s/he receives written clearance from an appropriate health professional.

Photo Release: Grand Traverse Academy likes to celebrate the achievements of our students and staff. Throughout the sports season, the Athletic Department may take photographs of athletes during practice and competition to celebrate their hard work. These photographs may appear in various school materials and platforms and will be used in a celebratory nature. If you do not wish for your student's photograph to be released by GTA, please promptly submit a completed copy of the GTA opt-out form to the Main Office pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 USC 1232g, 34 part 99, and Michigan's Student Privacy Law, MCL 380.1136.

Inherent Risks & Dangers. I fully understand that there are risks inherent in athletic training, practices, competitions and events (collectively, "athletic related activities") and ground transportation that include risks and dangers of serious bodily injury and property damage, including but not limited to, permanent disability, paralysis and even death ("risks"). These risks may be caused by the Athlete's own actions or inactions, the actions or in actions of others participating in the athletic related activities, and/or by the conditions in which the athletic related activities take place.

Assumption Of Risk. I freely and voluntarily assume any and all risks arising out of, or relating to, the athlete's participation in the athletic related activities. I understand that it is my responsibility to evaluate carefully the risks inherent in the athletic related activities and, in signing this form, represent that I have taken such steps as I deem necessary and appropriate to obtain information and clarification on any questions or concerns. I represent and warrant that there are no physical or other health related problems that would render the Athlete's participation in the athletic related activities dangerous or harmful to others or the athlete. I understand that GTA does not provide medical, health, or other insurance for students participating in athletic related activities and that it is my responsibility to maintain such insurance as I deem necessary or appropriate. Knowing the risks associated with the athletic related activities, and with sufficient knowledge of the athlete's physical condition and limitation(s), if any, I voluntarily assume all responsibility and risk of loss, damage, illness and/or injury to the participating athlete or property in any way associated with the student's participation in the athletic related activities.

Release, Waiver, Covenant Not To Sue. In consideration of the student being allowed to participate in the athletic related activities, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, I waive, release and forever discharge and agree not to sue, and to indemnify and hold harmless, Grand Traverse Academy, its Board Of Directors, each director, its officers, administrators, employees, agents, contracted service providers, volunteers, representatives, and assigns their successors, heirs or estates ("releases") from and against any and all financial obligations, liabilities, claims, demands and causes of action of any kind, on account of any loss, damage, illness or injury to person or property alleged to be caused, in whole or in part, by the releases, in any way arising out of, or relating to, the student's participation in the athletic related activities, whether due to negligence or other action or inaction of the releases, excluding claims for intentional misconduct or gross negligence. No part of this consent form shall be deemed or constructed as a relinquishment or waiver of the immunity from Tort Liability provided in section 7 of ACT NO 170 of the Michigan Public Acts of 1964, as amended, being sections 691.1407 ET SEQ of the Michigan Compiled Laws. If despite this release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk and indemnity, I or anyone acting on my behalf or on behalf of the now-minor participating athlete, makes a claim against any of the releases, I will indemnify, save, and hold harmless each of the releases from any litigation expenses, attorney fees, loss, liability, damages, or costs of any kind as my incur as a result of any such claim.

By printing and signing your name below, you agree as a parent to all athletic policies outlined here.

Parent #1: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent #2: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class is selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities this year. The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. Orders are due on Friday, September 30 and will be delivered to the school Friday, October 7. 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 _____



Hello 5th and 6th Grade Parents,

Welcome back to another exciting year for our Grand Traverse Academy band program! If your child was in the band last year we know that they are eager to continue participating. If you are brand new to our school this year and missed the opportunity to be fitted for an instrument, we would like to extend an invitation to your son/daughter to join the Elementary Band for the 2022-23 school year. All students in 5th and 6th grades have the opportunity to join the band at GTA.

In the past, we have hosted a rental meeting to help facilitate students getting an instrument. However, Marshall Music has developed an online rental system that is easy to use and delivers your child's instrument to your door! We recommend that 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. 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 are advertised as real student instruments; however, they do not work for 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 purchasing 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!

**Advanced Band students will need their instrument on the first day of band for their class.
Check with their teacher for the band schedule.**

Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have!

Musically yours,

Stephanie Diephouse, Elementary Band and Music
(231) 932-6034 or diephouses@mygta.us

Glenn Floering, Director of Bands
(231) 932-6031 or floeringg@mygta.us

Grand Traverse Academy Elementary and Mustang Choir

2022-2023 AUDITIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Friday, September 16, 2022 from 12:15-2:00 pm

New members will be contacted with their audition time

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Elementary Choir: 4th and 5th graders meet Monday and Wednesday 7:50-8:25

Mustang Choir: 6th, 7th and 8th graders meet Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 7:30-8:00

All rehearsals take place in the choir room behind the big gym

Rehearsals begin the week of September 19, 2022

ELEMENTARY CHOIR

The Elementary Choir is comprised of students in grades 4 and 5 who are looking for more opportunities to develop their voice in addition to their regular music or band class. The choir is a year long experience for students with two concerts, one in December and the other in May. Rehearsals for Elementary Choir will be held Monday and Wednesday mornings from 7:50-8:25. Students must be able to attend both weekly rehearsals in order to be a member of the choir and perform with us in the concerts. Students who have not been in the Elementary Choir before must complete an audition in September, no preparation is required. No audition is required for returning members.

MUSTANG CHOIR

The Mustang Chor is composed of students in grades 6-8. Students in this ensemble will continue developing their vocal skills. Mustang Choir is a year long experience for students who are interested in continuing or expanding their singing opportunities. Rehearsals for Mustang Choir will be held Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings before school to allow students to continue participating in band or other electives during the school day. Students must be able to attend the three weekly rehearsals in order to be a member of the choir and perform with us in the concerts. The Mustang Choir has 3 performances during the year that take place in December, March, and May.

While no audition is required for this choir, students must complete the attached permission slip to participate.

Questions can be directed to Stephanie Diephouse by email, diephouses@mygta.us
or phone, 932-6034.

**If you are interested in being a member of the Elementary Choir or Mustang Choir please
complete the permission slip below.**

Please Cut and Return to Mrs. Diephouse by Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Student Name

Grade

Classroom Teacher

Parent Name

Phone Number