

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Monday, September 26 – *Recorder Orders Due*

Tuesday, September 27 – *Superintendent Candidate Open House and Interviews (see details below)*

Friday, September 30 – *Coffee Orders Due*

Monday-Friday, October 10-14 – *Scholastic Book Fair, Small Gym (see volunteer information below)*

Superintendent candidate open house and second interviews announced

As you may know, your board of directors is in the process of choosing the next superintendent of Grand Traverse Academy. Members have selected two candidates for second interviews: **Michelle Floering**, GTA interim superintendent/secondary principal; and **Rachel Roberts**, director of elementary leading & learning and choice at Brevard Public Schools, headquartered in Viera, Florida.

The board welcomes your input and participation as they identify the next leader for our school. Two opportunities are planned for **Tuesday, September 27**:

- **Open House**, White 1 Classroom (Floering) and White 2 Classroom (Roberts), 4:30-5:15 pm
- **Interviews**, Aqua 5 Boardroom, 5:30 pm (Floering) and 7:00 pm (Roberts)

The public will have the opportunity to meet and chat with the candidates during the open house and to observe both interviews. Written feedback may be provided to the board following the open house and after each interview. Input may also be sent to the board at boardmembers@mygta.us. If you are unable to attend the interviews, you may view them virtually via the following link: <https://meet.google.com/voh-tzmr-pam?hs=224> and email any feedback to Board President Dana Holcomb at holcombd@mygta.us and she will forward them to all board members.

The GTA Superintendent Selection Criteria, results of the public online survey conducted over the summer and other documentation related to the search process are posted on the GTA website at <https://www.mygta.us/article/770451>. The agenda for the September 27 second-round interviews meeting may be found at <https://www.mygta.us/page/board-members-and-meeting-dates>. Parents and staff are encouraged to participate in this very important process for Grand Traverse Academy.

Book Fair volunteers needed

The Scholastic Book Fair will be back during the **week of**



October 10. Volunteers are critical to the success of our book fair! We are looking for parent volunteers to greet our students and parents in the mornings, help students shop at the fair during the day, and welcome parents

and students during evening parent-teacher conferences. Our book fairs earn rewards that go toward the purchase of books and other educational materials for our teachers and students. PLEASE consider taking some time to volunteer. Our students love when they see their parents helping out at school and it's a great way to meet other GTA parents.

Here's how to volunteer, in three easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp: <https://signup.com/go/nKhZpaC>
2. **Enter your email address.** (You will not need to register an account on SignUp)
3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots; SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders. Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Mrs. Schuetze at schuetzej@mygta.us and she can sign you up manually.

Thank you for supporting our school!

It's time to order recorders!

Part of the Middle Elementary music curriculum is



learning to play the recorder, which helps students to further develop their musicianship by applying music reading and composition skills to an

instrument. Recorders may be

purchased directly through the school at a discount; **an order form with details is attached.** If you choose to purchase a recorder on your own, Marshall Music is a recommended retailer. Recorders purchased at discount or big box stores are intended to be toys and are not suitable for classroom instruction. **Order forms, with payment, are due by Monday, September 26.**

Carpool assistance needed

A GTA parent is need of a ride home for his son one to two days per week (he can be flexible with whatever days are convenient for the driver). He lives in the Spider Lake area and will help pay for gas. If you can offer assistance, please call Tom Tafelsky at (231) 218-1250.

Science students take part in NASA program

Students in Mrs. Callahan's junior high aerospace



exploration elective are participating in NASA's TechRise Student Challenge! TechRise invites

student teams to develop, build and launch science and technology experiments on high-altitude balloons. Administered by the Future Engineers organization, the challenge offers hands-on insight into the design and test process used by NASA-supported researchers, and aims to inspire a deeper understanding of Earth's atmosphere, space exploration and more. The project correlates with the class's study of lighter-than-air vehicles and aeronauts. After experiment ideas are submitted next month, 60 winning teams will receive \$1,500 to build their experiment and receive a spot on a NASA-sponsored high-altitude balloon flight. Good luck, GTA!

North Carpool reminder

A note for those who use North Carpool (Hammond Road entrance):

- Please use the carpool lanes to drop off students in the morning. If you need extra time for drop-off, please park in a marked parking space to keep the driving lanes open for drivers and safe for those walking through the lot and into the school.
- In the afternoon, parents of high school students are encouraged to use the parking lot for pickup vs. going through the carpool lane. Please park in a marked space and watch for pedestrians.

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

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.

Find us on social media

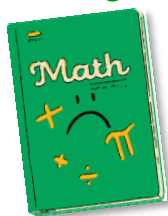
Grand Traverse Academy has both a **public Facebook page** and a **private Facebook group** for parents who are looking for school-related carpool assistance or wish to buy or sell gently used uniform pieces. Please find and like our Grand Traverse Academy public page at <https://www.facebook.com/mygta.us/>. 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.

There's an app for that!

If you haven't already downloaded the GTA app, get it free 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, our event calendar and more – plus, you'll receive news and important notifications, right at your fingertips.



Dad jokes from Don



Why did the math book look so sad?

It had a lot of problems!

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.** Checks should be made payable to Grand Traverse Academy, with "coffee fundraiser" on the memo line. Orders will be delivered to the school on **Friday, October 7.**



Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Box Tops for Education. Box Tops for Education offers an easy 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! Download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn free money 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 for 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).



Ongoing events

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: September 28, October 12 & 26, November 9, December 7, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22, March 8 & 22, April 12 & 26 and May 10 & 24 (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 by Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni

Elementary Doughnut Sales – Every Friday in the Intention Room (at the entrance to the Elementary Wing), 7:50-8:05 am, \$1 each for several varieties

Secondary Doughnut Sales – Every Friday in Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1 each for several varieties

Secondary Beverage Sales – Monday-Thursday at Lunch in Bronze 1, \$1.50 each for Snapple fruit drinks

Fill the Pantry Jeans Days – Thursdays: November 17, January 12, March 23, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)

Dear Third and Fourth Grade Parents,

As part of this year's music curriculum, your child will be learning to play the recorder. We learn how to apply music reading and composition skills with the recorder to help students further develop their musicianship.

Below you will find information on ordering recorder supplies. If you decide not to purchase a recorder through the school, please do not purchase a recorder from a box store. Recorders purchased from stores such as the Dollar Store or Wal-Mart are intended to be used as toys, not for classroom instruction. If you would like to purchase a recorder from a local music store I recommend Marshall Music.

Macie Publishing Company, the publisher of the recorder materials we will be using, has provided us with reduced rates that allow us to purchase a high quality instrument for a very reasonable price. If your child already has a recorder there is no need to order.

Each student will need their own recorder for music this year.

Please have your child return their recorder order and payment in an envelope. Orders should be turned in to their classroom teacher.

Order forms must be accompanied by payment. Orders may be paid for by cash or check.

Please make checks payable to GTA.

Orders are due by Monday September 26, 2022.

If you have any thoughts or questions about purchasing a recorder for your child you may reach me by phone at 932-6034 or through email at diephouses@mygta.us

I would enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Diephouse
Elementary Music Teacher

Please cut and return the order form with payment.

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

PARENT NAME:_____

CLASSROOM TEACHER'S NAME:_____

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>CIRCLE COLOR CHOICE</u>	<u>UNIT PRICE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
-----	Recorder	Orange Blue Black Green	\$5.00	-----
		Pink Red Yellow Purple		

Total Amount Enclosed:\$-----



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 _____