



# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Now through Thursday, March 9 – 2023-24 Open Enrollment Period**

**Friday, January 13** – End of First Semester;  
Elementary Band Winter Concert, 6:30 pm, Big Gym

**Tuesday-Thursday, January 17-19** – Secondary First Semester Exams

**Wednesday, January 18** - Half Day for Secondary Students Only;  
Junior High Mini Schedules for Current 6<sup>th</sup> Graders

**Thursday, January 19** – Half Day for All Students;  
Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm, Aqua 5

**Friday, January 20** – NO SCHOOL FOR ALL STUDENTS

**Friday, January 20** – Family Council Ice Skating Event,  
Centre ICE, 11:30 am-1:00 pm

If you have friends or family members who are interested in learning more about Grand Traverse Academy for their children, please invite them to contact Amy Truesdell at (231) 995-0665 or [enrollment@mygta.us](mailto:enrollment@mygta.us) to reserve their spot at one of these meetings. Individual tours with a school leader are also available by appointment.

## Mighty Mustangs Preschool enrolling now

Grand Traverse Academy's Mighty Mustangs Preschool



is a licensed, tuition-based program created especially for 3-5-year-olds. Through fun, hands-on activities, children develop the

confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills that prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Full- and half-day sessions are available and parents may choose two, three or five mornings or days per week. For more information or to apply for enrollment, visit the Mighty Mustangs [Preschool webpage](#). Please feel free to share this information with other parents of preschool-aged children!

## Enrollment Information Meetings continue

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2023-24 school year has begun and **continues through Thursday, March 9**. Several Enrollment Information Meetings are scheduled, as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	January 24	6:00 pm
Thursday	January 26	9:30 am
Thursday	February 2	6:00 pm
Wednesday	February 8	6:00 pm
Monday	February 13	9:30 am
Thursday	February 23	9:30 am
Thursday	March 2	6:00 pm
Monday	March 6	9:30 am

## First semester exams next week, shortened week for all students

Students in grades 7-12 will have **first semester exams next week, January 17-19**. Monday and Tuesday will be review days, with some classes beginning their exams on Tuesday (teachers will let students know if this is the case). Wednesday will be a half day for *secondary students only*. High school students will be dismissed at 12:05 and junior high at 12:10; they will report to their usual carpool location. See the attached exam schedule for the week's details for secondary students.

Thursday will be a half day for *all students*, with students reporting to carpool at the same times and locations as a Friday. There is no school for all Students on Friday.

## Winter soccer is here!



Several Saturday soccer options are underway and it's not too late to join. Schedules and details are as follows. Questions may be directed to Mr. Lazar at [lazarj@mygta.us](mailto:lazarj@mygta.us). Participants are asked to please use the Elementary entrance.

### Elementary Instruction

- Grades 3-5
- January 21, 28; February 4
- 10:00 - 11:30 am
- Cost: \$50
- Big or Small Gym (depending on numbers)
- Registration form attached
- Bring: Ball, shin guards, water bottle

### Secondary Drop-In

- Grades 6-12
- January 21, 28; February 4, 11; March 4, 11
- 12:00 - 2:00 pm
- Cost: \$10 per session
- Big Gym
- Parent/guardian must sign a waiver at first session attended
- Bring: Shin guards, light and dark shirts, water bottle

### Secondary Goalkeeper Training

- Grades 8-11
- January 21, 28; February 4, 11; March 4, 11
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm
- Cost: \$10 per session
- Big Gym
- Parent/guardian must sign a waiver at first session attended
- Bring: Water bottle, long sleeve shirt or keeper jersey, goalkeeper gloves, comfortable clothing for diving

### Adult Drop-In

- January 21, 28; February 4, 11; March 4, 11
- 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- Big Gym
- Must sign a waiver at first session attended
- Bring a light and dark shirts for splitting into teams

## Outdoor Club reminder: two sessions offered

### A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear, Grades 6-



8. This course will include data analysis of bear characteristics, understanding the purpose of den checks, and carrying capacity for areas in which they live. This course will be offered **January 16 and 18,**

**from 4-5:00 pm in Mr. Lazar's room (Purple 3).** On day one, we will cover the purpose of den checks and analyze data collected from them, and on day two, we will analyze survival needs for bears within the areas in which they live. **Please drop off a completed registration form (attached) to Mr. Lazar in Purple 3 by January 16.** Questions may be directed to Justin at [lazarj@mygta.us](mailto:lazarj@mygta.us).

**Elk University, Grades 9-12.** This course will cover the population and impact of elk in our state. This course will be offered **January 23, 25, and 30, from 4-5:00 pm in Mr. Lazar's classroom (Purple 3).** On the first day, we will do a simulated population analysis (which is done from an airplane). On the second day, we will research the impact of elk in Michigan. On the final day, we will have a mock town hall meeting, where students will play the role of various stakeholders. **Please bring a completed registration form (attached) to Mr. Lazar in Purple 3 by January 18.**

## Mustang onesies available

Have you welcomed a future GTA Mustang into your family recently? Grand Traverse Academy babies receive an "M is for Mustangs" onesie as a gift from GTA! If you have a new little one, stop by or call the Elementary Office and we'll be sure to get one to you. Don't wait though, as they are sized for babies up to six



months of age.

### Winter fun fact:

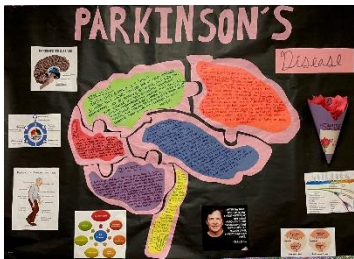
People born during the winter months are said to be less irritable.

## Career Tech visit planned

On Thursday, February 2, GTA 10th graders will take a field trip to North Ed Career Tech. Each year, the center allows sophomores the opportunity to choose and observe three programs that are of the most interest to them. This helps them to be prepared if they desire to enroll and attend in their junior year.

## Med Club makes donation

GTA's Med Club, open to high school students who have



an interest in pursuing a career in the medical field, made a \$500 donation to the Parkinson's Network North (PNN) last month. The

organization's director was so appreciative and quite astonished that a group of high school students could make a contribution of that amount. The six-member group's goal is to raise awareness of various diseases and promote good health. Each month, they focus on one disease or other health-related topic that is chosen as a group based on research and presentations they make at meetings. Donations are kept local and contributions come from their Monday muffin sales. Upcoming activities include a yoga wellness bulletin board and class, a dog walk and personal health-related resolutions for the new year.

## School absences or late arrivals

If your child will be late for school or absent for the day, please notify the office by 8:30 am. Parents will be called to verify any unexcused absences after that time.

**Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038**

## Ski & Snowboard School offered

The annual Kiwanis Club/Record-Eagle Ski & Snowboard School at Traverse City's Mt. Holiday has begun for students in grades 1-9. Details, including dates, cost and a link to register, are attached to this newsletter. Questions should be directed to Mt. Holiday at the phone number or email address provided.

## Sheriff Department visits

From time to time, you may see a sheriff patrol car parked in one of our lots or at an entrance. Their presence does not mean that there is a problem or emergency at GTA. It is likely an East Bay Township community police officer (CPO) paying a friendly visit. CPOs work closely with schools and their staff and students to create and maintain a positive relationship and just check in from time to time to say "hello."

## Ongoing events

**Med Club Muffin Sales (Secondary)** – Every Monday from 7:45-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties, Multi-Purpose Room

**Sophomore Class Bagel Sales** – Every Wednesday from 7:40-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties, Multipurpose Room 4 and the Intention Room (Mrs. VanHouzen's office)

**Elementary Pizza Days** – Every other Wednesday, as follows: January 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

**NHS 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

**NHS 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: March 23, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)

# **GTA Secondary School Exams**

## **January 17-19, 2023**

### **First Semester Exams**

**Monday, January 16: Exam Review**

**Tuesday, January 17: Exam Review/Exams Begin**

(Most classes will review, some will begin their exam. Teachers have communicated the schedule with students.)

**Wednesday, January 18: Half Day of Exams\***

*High School*

8:05-9:00	1st Hour
9:05-10:00	2nd Hour
10:05-11:00	3rd Hour
11:05-12:05	4th Hour

*Junior High*

8:05-9:05	1st Hour
9:10-10:10	2nd Hour
10:15-11:15	3rd Hour
11:20-12:10	Advisory/Exam Make-up

**Thursday, January 19: Half Day of Exams\*\***

*High School*

8:05-9:00	7th Hour
9:05-10:00	8th Hour
10:05-11:00	9th Hour
11:05-12:05	Advisory/Exam Make-up

*Junior High*

8:05-9:05	7th Hour
9:10-10:10	8th Hour
10:15-11:15	9th Hour
11:20-12:10	Advisory/Exam Make-up

**January 20: No School for any students**

Semester Break- Enjoy and be safe!

See you on Monday, January 23rd.

\*In the event of a snow day on Wednesday, Wednesday's exams will take place on Monday, January 23rd during regular class time.

\*\*In the event of a snow day on Thursday, Thursday's exams will take place on Monday during regular class time. In the unlikely event of a snow day on Wednesday *and* Thursday, Wednesday exams will be Monday and Thursday's exams will be Tuesday.

# Grand Traverse Academy Elementary Athletics Registration Form

Athlete Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade (circle) 3 4 5 Gender (circle) F M

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Co-Ed: ☐ Cross Country ☐ Soccer ☐ Volleyball ☐ Track & Field ☐ Girls' Basketball ☐ Boys' Basketball

**Eligible Grade Levels:** All students enrolled in grades 3-6 are eligible to participate in an elementary sport, with the exception of Track & Field, due to league restrictions, only grades 4-6 are eligible.

**Schedules/Registration Deadlines:** Visit the GTA website - <https://www.mygta.us/elementaryschedule> to view schedules for elementary athletics.

**Athletic Fees:** There is a \$50 fee for each sport.

**Athlete Acknowledgement:** I understand that it is important to have good sportsmanship and to 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 and will help shape me into who I will be after school. Integrity, reflection, and respect for athletics are all pieces of good sportsmanship that I hope to achieve. I will commit to the sports season, respect the coaches, athletes and equipment, and have a positive attitude each 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 athletic department uses the Remind texting service to communicate with athletes and families about schedules and team information. Please indicate any phone numbers that you would like to use for this purpose.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Other Contact # \_\_\_\_\_

**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, by 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 partly, 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 may incur as a result of any such claim.

**By printing and signing your name below, you agree to all athletic policies outlined above.**

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## 2023 Outdoor Club Registration Form

We are happy to announce the return of the GTA Outdoor Club! If your child has a passion for the outdoors and loves to learn about things related to Michigan's natural resources, this opportunity may be for them. Please read the information below and if your child is interested and committed, ***please have them return the slip at the bottom of this form to Mr. Lazar in the Purple 3 classroom by January 4, 2023.***

- **Go Wild for Wildlife, Grades 3-5.** This course will cover basic needs of our wildlife in Michigan. This course will be offered on January 9 and 11 from 4-5 pm in Mr. Lazar's classroom (Purple 3). On day one, we will cover the needs of many organisms native to Michigan. On day two, we will take a walk around GTA's property, looking for evidence of wildlife and habitat (boots recommended).
- **A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear, Grades 6-8.** This course will include data analysis of bear characteristics, understanding the purpose of den checks, and carrying capacity for areas in which they live. This course will be offered January 16 and 18, from 4-5:00 pm in Mr. Lazar's room (Purple 3). On day one, we will cover the purpose of den checks and analyze data collected from them, and on day two, we will analyze survival needs for bears within the areas in which they live.
- **Elk University, Grades 9-12.** This course will cover the population and impact of elk in our state. This course will be offered January 23, 25, and 30, from 4-5:00 pm in Mr. Lazar's classroom (Purple 3). On the first day, we will do a simulated population analysis (which is done from an airplane). On the second day, we will research the impact of elk in Michigan. On the final day, we will have a mock town hall meeting, where students will play the role of various stakeholders.

If your child is interested, please be sure they can commit to all dates. Students attending will be expected to consistently participate in all activities. All courses will be limited to 20 participants. Please have them arrive a few minutes before 4:00 pm so we can collect attendance and get started promptly. Elementary students can come to my classroom right after school at 3:45 pm. Afterwards, please pick up your child at the north entrance (Secondary Wing) at 5:00 pm or communicate with me that they will be going to Quality Care. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at [lazarj@mygta.us](mailto:lazarj@mygta.us).

Best Regards,

Justin Lazar

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Student Name	Go Wild for Wildlife (Grades 3-5)	A Year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear (Grades 6-8)	Elk University (Grades 9-12)

### Contact Information

Student Homeroom Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

GTA Family Council presents:

# ICE SKATING!

Friday, January 20, 11:30AM-1PM

Centre Ice Arena

The event is free and includes skate rental, with donations accepted at the door. Money raised will benefit the GTA Family Council and will be used to help fund future school activities! Hope to see you there!

Please note: Limited number of rental skates available.  
Please bring your own skates if you have them.



Grand  
Traverse  
Academy





## Kiwanis Club / TC Record Eagle Ski & Snowboard School

Lessons held at Mt. Holiday Ski & Recreation Area, 3100 Holiday Rd, Traverse City, MI 49686

**All Lesson Times are: 6-8pm**

<u>Ski Lessons</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Snowboard Lessons</u>	<u>Grades</u>
January 10, 11, 12	K-1	January 10, 11, 12	1-2
January 17, 18, 19	K-1	January 17, 18, 19	1-2
January 24, 25, 26	2-8	January 24, 25, 26	3-9
January 31, Feb. 1, 2	2-8	January 31, Feb. 1, 2	3-9
February 7, 8, 9	2-8	February 7, 8, 9	3-9
February 14, 15, 16	2-8	February 14, 15, 16	3-9
February 21, 22, 23	K-1	February 21, 22, 23	1-2

**Cost of the Lessons are:**

**\$42 per 3-Day Session**

**Cost of Rental Equipment (if needed)**

**\$15**

**To Register Click on the LINK: <https://mt-holiday.com/ski-snowboard/>**

**Payment is collected on the online registration using credit or debit card.**

Questions regarding Ski & Snowboard School, contact Mt. Holiday at 231-938-2500 or email: [skischool@mtholiday.org](mailto:skischool@mtholiday.org)

**To Bring/Wear: Warm Coat, gloves, hat and Helmet (if available). A helmet will be provided if you don't have one for your child.**



**REGISTER NOW**

