

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**Friday, April 7** – **NO SCHOOL**, Good Friday

**Wednesday, April 12** – No GTA Classes for Seniors; Juniors May Leave at Approximately 1:00 pm (see below)

**Friday, April 14** – Father-Daughter Dance, 6:30-8:30 pm, Big Gym (registration form attached and due with payment by April 10)

## Spring testing begins next week

Standardized testing for students in grades 3-11 begins next week:

- The M-STEP testing window for students in grades 3-8 begins on Monday, April 10.
- The PSAT test will be administered to students in grades 8-10 on April 12.
- Students in grade 11 will take the SAT on April 12 and the ACT WorkKeys on April 13.

Note that there will be **no school at GTA for seniors only on Wednesday, April 12**, as all other secondary students will be testing. These students are still required to attend any Career Tech or NMC classes scheduled for that day, however. **Juniors may leave at approximately 1:00 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup>, after completing the SAT**, and will be excused from both GTA and Career Tech classes that afternoon. They must attend NMC classes if they have them. Juniors who stay on campus must attend their regularly scheduled GTA classes.

## Pit Spitters announce Reading Club

Students in grades K-6 will receive reading logs for the Traverse City Pit Spitters Reading Club. Those who read for 15 minutes each day during April and fill out the log will earn two free tickets



to one of five select Pit Spitters home games. Extra tickets may be purchased. Cash, credit cards or checks will be accepted and payment is due when the log is turned in. Checks should be made payable to TC Pit Spitters.

## NHS holding “basic necessities” drive

Personal care items, such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, hairbrushes, deodorant, adhesive bandages, hand sanitizer, etc., are being collected by the GTA National Honor Society **through next Friday, April 14**. Items will be donated to a local charity for distribution to area families in need. If you can help, please send your donations to school with your secondary student or drop them off in either office for Mrs. Sherman, NHS advisor. Your participation is appreciated.



## Golf clinic planned for grades 3-8

GTA students in grades 3-8 are invited to join Coach Bruce Anderson and his high school golf team for spring clinics. Instruction will take place at The Crown golf course at 2430 West Crown Drive in Traverse City (off West Silver Lake Road). Dates are **Saturdays, April 29, May 6 and May 13**, with elementary students meeting from 3:00-4:00 pm and junior high following from 4:00-5:00. A registration form is attached and is due by Thursday, April 27.

## Eight GTA artists make the cut in Cherry Festival contest

We are thrilled to announce that submissions from eight of our students (see attached) made the top 30 out of a total of 64 in the National Cherry Festival Commemorative Student Art contest! Congratulations to junior high students **Piper Tierney, Zaya Bright, Molly Mesko and Sam Link**, and high school students **Isabella Rodriguez, Ava Butera, Aariyah Harmon and**

**Luke Hoffman.** The next step is narrowing down the list to the “People’s Choice Top Five” on the [National Cherry Festival Facebook page](#) through Sunday, April 9 at 11:59 pm. Note: You may ONLY “Like” your top five favorite images shown in the album. If you “Like” more than five, your votes will not count. The festival’s panel of judges will reconvene to determine the top three finalists, who will receive scholarships. In addition, they will award the “Best Use of Theme” and the teacher with the most student submissions. Overall, there will be over \$4,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded.

## Charter Schools Week opportunity for parents

Charter Schools Week, May 8-12, 2023, is just around the corner. Last year, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) delivered over 1,000 letters to Michigan’s representatives and senators from districts across the state and hope to do the same this year. These letters, which will be hand-delivered during Charter Schools Week, create a direct line to our local lawmakers and help build their connection with charter school stakeholders in their communities. If you care to participate, you may complete [the fillable form here](#) by Friday, April 21, 2023, or hand-write your letter ([download the template + instructions here](#)).

## Elementary Spring Sing events scheduled

GTA students in grades K-4 will perform mini concerts in upcoming weeks to show what they have learned in their music classes. All performances will take place in the Small Gym. Dates and times are as follows:

Classes	Date	Time
<b>Grades 1-2</b> Bohrer, Popp, Zak	Tuesday, April 18	6:00 pm
<b>Grades 1-2</b> Gubbins, Gorton, Haines, Keenan	Tuesday, April 18	7:00 pm
<b>Grades 3-4</b> Lazar, King, Drost	Thursday, April 20	6:00 pm
<b>Grades 3-4</b> Cherup, Kipke, Olin, Wilson	Thursday, April 20	7:00 pm

## Father-Daughter Dance next Friday

We invite GTA girls of all ages and their father, stepfather, uncle or grandfather to our biennial Father-Daughter Dance on **Friday, April 14 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Big Gym.** The cost is \$15 for father and daughter or \$20 for father and multiple daughters. A 4x6”



photo, a photo frame craft, music provided by a DJ and an ice cream sundae bar are included. Preregistration is required and a registration form is attached to this newsletter. Forms should be turned in, along with payment, at either office by **Monday, April 10.**

## Test-out information for high school students

Under Michigan law, high school students may request the opportunity to “test out” of any high school class they select, with the exception of a course in which they are currently enrolled or have previously failed. The intent is to allow students to demonstrate knowledge and skills they already possess to enroll in higher level courses. If a student believes they have the extensive knowledge and background to demonstrate competency in a course, they may wish to consider this opportunity. Details and a test-out application are available [here](#). The application must be completed on or before April 21, 2023; courses requiring students to complete extended projects and/or research papers in addition to passing the test-out exam.

## Remember to vote for Simply the Best!

Nominations for the Record-Eagle’s Simply the Best



2023 are underway. Grand Traverse Academy is in the running for Best School and several of our teachers have

been nominated for Best Teacher. If you are so inclined, we invite you to visit <https://www.record-eagle.com/simplythebest> and cast your votes in support of Grand Traverse Academy. Best School and Best Teacher can be found under the Children, Family & Education category. **Note that you may nominate an**

**individual or organization once per day and nominations may be submitted until May 14.** (If you submit at least 25 nominations, you might be one of three lucky winners to receive a \$100 Downtown Traverse City gift certificate!) Voting for the top three nominees in each subcategory will run from May 22-July 30 and winners will be announced in September.

### **MUCC volunteer opportunity**

The Michigan United Conservation Club's On the Ground program is excited to be a part of whitetail expert Mark Kenyon's 2023 Working for Wildlife Tour. Join OTG on Saturday, April 22 from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm (check-in starts at 9:00) as they work to maintain wildlife openings and build brush piles on public hunting land in the Traverse City Forest Management Unit in Kalkaska County. [Click this link](#) to sign up or for more information. This project is open to volunteers of all ages and is a great reason to get outside on Earth Day!

### **Huffman Basketball Skills Camp returns**

Huffman Basketball Skills Camp will return to Grand Traverse Academy on **Monday, June 19-Friday, June 23**. For details and registration information, visit [www.trevorhuffman.com](http://www.trevorhuffman.com).

### **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: 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 Secondary Doughnut Sales** – Every Friday in Multipurpose Rooms 1 & 2, 7:40-8:00 am, \$2 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 Day** – Thursday, May 25 (\$2 per person to wear jeans with a uniform top)

Athlete Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>

## Co-Ed Golf Registration Form



**Philosophy:** Elementary 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 3-6th grade students may participate.

**Coaching Staff:** Golf Pro & GTA Parent Bruce Anderson with his HS Golf Team

**Schedules/Times/Deadlines:** Sessions will take place on **Saturday Apr 29, May 6, and May 13 3:00-4:00 for 3rd -6th grade and 4:00-5:00pm for JH.** . In the case of inclement weather, sessions will be canceled. 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 Crown, 2430 W Crown Dr, Traverse City, MI 49685

**Registration Deadline:** Thursday, April 27, 2023

**Athletic Fees:** \$35

**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.





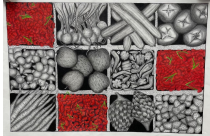

**Release, Waiver, Covenant Not To Sue.** In consideration of the student being allowed to participate in the athletic related activities, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, I waive, release and forever discharge and agree not to sue, and to indemnify and hold harmless, Grand Traverse Academy, 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: \_\_\_\_\_

# Cherry Festival Print Contest

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=cherryfestival&set=a.744089423834452>

	#2	Piper Tierney - JH
	#3	Zaya Bright - JH
	#4	Molly Mesko -JH
	#5	Sam Link -JH
	#7	Isabella Rodriguez - HS
	#8	Ava Butera - HS
	#9	Aariyah Harmon -HS
	#24	Luke Hoffman -HS



# Father-Daughter Dance

Show her how special she really is! Fathers, uncles, grandfathers with a special girl are invited to spend a semi-formal evening on

Friday, April 14, 2023

6:30-8:30 pm

Grand Traverse Academy Gymnasium

\$15 for Father and One Daughter

\$20 for Father and Daughters

Includes one 4 x 6 photo and one photo frame craft per daughter

œ DJ

œ Ice cream sundae bar

œ Photographer

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***Please Return This Portion to the Elementary Office No Later Than April 10***

***\*\*pre-registration and payment are required\*\****

☐ Father and one daughter \$15      ☐ Father and daughters \$20

Names of Attendees \_\_\_\_\_