

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Thursday, April 20 – *GTA Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm, Aqua 5*

Saturday, May 6 – *Junior-Senior Prom, Grand Traverse Yacht Club, 8:00-11:00 pm (see details below)*

GTA teacher wins grant

Congratulations to English Language Arts Teacher John VanPatten, who won a PopIn2Win grant from the



Meemic Foundation. The award is a set of various percussion instruments, which his students will use to work on rhyme and meter in poetry. He plans to take one or two of his classes to the Elementary Wing, where they will share their poetry and music!



Last chance to see student art exhibit

Several of our students have artwork on display in the Crooked Tree Arts Center's annual Youth Art Exhibit, including award winner Noah Kinney, grade 5. This weekend is your last chance to see the creations of many Grand Traverse area students, as **the exhibit closes on Saturday, April 15**. The Center is located at 322 Sixth Street in Traverse City and gallery hours are 11:00 am-5:00 pm on Friday and 10:00 am-4:00 pm on Saturday. There is no admission fee to attend.

GTA offers online reporting tool

We are pleased to announce that Grand Traverse



Academy has joined forces with STOPit Solutions to offer an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse and other at-risk behaviors and actions before they escalate. STOPit provides

students and parents access to the STOPit mobile app to make anonymous reports designed to alert school administrators to issues of concern. Privacy of student data is a priority. We encourage all parents to read the attached flyer, view the STOPit training video and download the app with your family today. Questions may be directed to [Mrs. VanHouzen](#), [Mrs. Patrzik](#) or [Mrs. Floering](#).

Prom date set

The 2023 prom, Nautical Night, is planned for **Saturday,**



May 6, from 8:00-11:00 pm at the Grand Traverse Yacht Club. Juniors and seniors may attend and may bring a high

school student as a date. If the guest is from another school, a High School Event Visitor's Application (available in the Secondary Office) must be completed and turned in to Mrs. VanHouzen no later than Wednesday, May 3. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a variety of desserts and beverages. Students can purchase their tickets now in the Secondary Office.

Credit Recovery Summer School available

High school students have the opportunity to recover credit for classes in which they earned less than a "C" for a final grade. Each of two, two-week sessions allow for recovery of one-half credit, for a total of one credit if both sessions are taken. Classes meet Monday-Thursday from 8:30 am-12:00 pm. The cost is \$175 per two-week session (see session dates on the form below). A completed [registration form](#), along with a \$100 deposit, is due by June 10, with the balance due on the first day of the summer school session.

GTA Travel Club plans Vietnam trip

Current 8th, 9th and 10th graders are invited to join Mrs. VanHouzen on a 2025 Spring Break trip to Vietnam. An informational meeting is planned for **Tuesday, May 2 at 6:00 pm in the**



Multipurpose Room. For additional information and to register for the meeting, use the following link: <https://bit.ly/3mcXRVP>.

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.

Discount available on GTA spirit wear

Spring sports are underway and spirit is in the air! If you



need to update your spirit wear wardrobe, now is the time. The [Sideline Spirit Wear Store](#) on the GTA website is offering 15 percent off on \$100 purchases through April

30! Use code EXTRA15 to earn your discount.

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](#)).

Board seeking "directors-in-waiting"

The terms of two members of our board of directors will expire this June. The board is seeking applicants who are willing to devote time each month in helping our school accomplish its mission of ensuring that all students are safe, loved, and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. For more information or to apply, please contact Lori Hansen at hansenl@mygta.us.

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

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.

GLMA to host open house

The community is invited to the Great Lakes Maritime Academy's "Open Ship," showcasing the training ship State of Michigan from 1:00 to 4:00 pm on **Saturday, April 22**. The day will include self-guided tours of the T/S State of Michigan, interaction with current maritime cadets and an opportunity to learn more about the Maritime Academy, maritime careers, how to become a chef on a ship and Navy commissioning options. Tours will begin at the pier security gate entrance on the north side of NMC's Great Lakes campus, 715 East Front Street. Low-heeled, closed-toe, soft-soled shoes are highly recommended! The event will occur rain or shine. For more information, contact the academy at maritime@nmc.edu or (231) 995-1200.

Cool Tech Camp returns

Northwest Ed's Career Tech is back this summer with Cool Tech Camp 2023, **June 20-22**. Created for students in the 5th, 6th and 7th grades, the courses range from Bugs, Mud & Waterways to Medical Crime Scene Investigation. The cost is \$50 and includes a t-shirt, supplies, snacks and a pizza party on the last day. Register online at Cool Tech Camp 2023 or call (231) 922-6322 for more information.

TCJGA to plans open house

This **Saturday, April 15**, the Traverse City Junior Golf Association will hold an Open House at Bay Meadows Family Golf Course from 1:00-3:00 pm. Find out more about their summer programs, lessons, tournaments and leagues for ages 5-22. For more information, see the attached flyer or contact TCJGA at www.tcjga.com or (231) 935-GOLF.

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.

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 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)*

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that our school has enrolled with STOPit, by STOPit Solutions

STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously
- Report it anonymously through STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center
- Submit photo or video evidence (App/Web Only)
- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate

No personal information is needed to use STOPit. The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the [Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

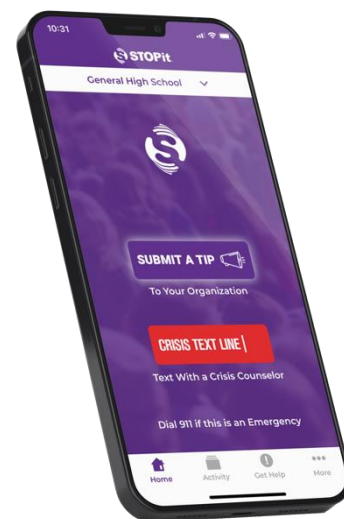
Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your students' school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use STOPit, go to: [Student Training Video](#).

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive. Thank you!

Mindy VanHouzen

Dean of Students



Athlete Name: _____ Grade: 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th

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: _____

Learn more about TCJGA and golf opportunities for kids!

FREE

TCJGA OPEN HOUSE

Bay Meadows Family Golf Course

Saturday, April 15, 2023 from 1:00-3:00pm

Golf Instruction • Golf Activities • Golf Clubs Provided

Information about junior golf opportunities with TCJGA and Bay Meadows staff.
Weather permitting, we will be outdoors, if not we will be in the Learning Center.



tcjga.com

baymeadowsfgc.com

ABOUT TCJGA

- *Ages 5 - 22*
- *Memberships only \$20*
- *Over \$380,000 in college scholarships since 1995*
- *Year-round golf opportunities*
- *Award-winning coaches/instructors*
- *Use of free golf clubs if needed*
- *Continued alliance with Bay Meadows Family Golf Course*



TCJGA SUMMER PROGRAMS



SIGN-UP IS EASY!

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OR

baymeadowsfgc.com • 231.946.7929

BAY MEADOWS

FAMILY GOLF COURSE

*Teaching the following
'Life Skills through Golf'*

Honesty

Integrity

Respect

Confidence

Playing by the Rules

Good Sportsmanship

IMPORTANT TCJGA DATES

April 15

Open House 1-3pm

April 18

Spring Junior Programs Begin

June 19

Summer Junior Programs Begin

September

Fall Junior Programs Begin

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SUMMER PROGRAMS • LESSONS • TOURNAMENTS • IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS • LEAGUES