



Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Monday, May 29 – **NO SCHOOL**, Memorial Day

Thursday, June 1 – Senior Awards Ceremony, 8:30 am, Big Gym (RSVP to 932-6038)

Friday, June 2 – Commencement Ceremony, 6:00 pm, GTA Gymnasium (advance tickets required)

Monday, June 5 – Preschool Graduation, 6:00 pm, Small Gym

Secondary Students of the Month announced

Congratulations to the following secondary students, who were named Students of the Month for demonstrating the character trait of Interpersonal Communication:



Beckett Dennis, grade 7, is the son of Tara Dennis and Maurice Dennis. This year, he has been involved in cross country, basketball, track & field, choir, band and drama. Once he's in high school, he hopes to beat a track & field record and earn mostly A's and B's in his classes. After graduation,

Beckett plans to attend college and "have a nice life after school."



Olivia Peltier, grade 7, is the daughter of Julie and Fred Peltier. She enjoys track & field, likes to speedrun video games and teaches younger children tae kwon do at Seung-ni Traverse City Martial Arts & Kickboxing Academy. Olivia participated in the GEMS Shakespeare in the Park plays in the 5th

& 6th grades. Goals for the future include earning her third degree black belt in tae kwon do, setting the school record for the 70m dash, making it to the MEGASTAR Meet for middle school track & field,

improving her shot put skills, setting a speedrun world record and having every 7th grader at school sign her yearbook.



Luke Hoffman, grade 9, is the son of Sara Hoffman and Tim Hoffman. He is a member of the National Honor Society who likes to draw and create stories and games. This summer, Luke plans to apply for a job at Ace Hardware. He hopes to continue to achieve good grades in high school so

that he will be accepted into the college of his choice, where he can improve his communication skills and be prepared for a well-paying job. Luke wants to continue to have a good relationship with his teachers as well.



Savannah Smith, grade 10, is the daughter of Robert and Agnieszka Smith. She plays volleyball at school, volunteers at the Cherryland Humane Society and enjoys hiking in the woods and hanging out with friends. Savannah's goals include excelling in her French horn studies, getting a

summer job in the medical field, attending college and traveling abroad to countries that interest her.

Join our Carpool & Uniform Exchange Facebook page today!

As you begin making plans this summer for the 2023-24 school year, we encourage you to join



our [special Facebook page](#) designed to help GTA parents share rides to and from school, find transportation for Career Tech and dual enrolled students,

and buy and sell gently used uniforms. We only ask that you be kind and courteous, respect everyone's privacy, refrain from promotions or spam and please stay on the topic.

2023-24 school year planning

Will your family be moving from the area this summer and leaving GTA? Although we don't like goodbyes, we wish you all the best and hope you'll reach out to us at (231) 995-0665 to let us know as we make plans for the 2023-24 school year.

Concert videos available

If you missed our Spring Choir and Band Concerts last week, or want to enjoy them again or share with friends and family, you have an opportunity to view them online!

[Elementary, Mustang & Chamber Choirs](#)

[Cadet & Concert Bands](#)

[Varsity Band](#)

[Symphony Winds Band](#)

Elementary spirit wear shirts available

Mr. Thomas's upper elementary class is selling tie-dye t-shirts as a class fundraiser. The cost is \$15 per shirt and sizes range from youth small to adult medium. There are just 10 available in each size, so don't delay! Details are attached to this newsletter.

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

Important immunization reminder for incoming kindergarteners and 7th graders

We are so looking forward to welcoming our incoming kindergarten students and those who will be making the move from elementary to junior high! Certain immunizations are required for entry into school, while the meningococcal conjugate vaccine and a DTaP booster are given at ages 11-12. Please check with your health care provider to be sure that immunizations are up to date. If you have opted against any of the required vaccines, please contact the health department to receive a current, certified State of Michigan waiver form, or your health care provider for a medical contraindication form. We ask that either a

copy of the appropriate form or current immunization record be provided to us by the end of July.

Preschool/Elementary Field Days coming!

Our Elementary Physical Education department is busy planning 2023 Field Days, scheduled for **June 6 and 7**. This fun outdoor event is one that our students look forward to!

Grades	Date	Time
Preschool & Kindergarten	Tuesday, June 6	9:30-11:30 am
Grades 1 & 2	Wednesday, June 7	1:00-3:00 pm
Grades 3 & 4	Wednesday, June 7	9:30-11:30 am
Grades 5 & 6	Tuesday, June 6	1:00-3:00 pm

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.

Vote through July 30 for Simply the Best!

Nominations are closed and voting has begun for the



Record-Eagle's Simply the Best 2023. Grand Traverse Academy is in the running for Best School and Best

Workplace, 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: You may vote for an individual or organization once per day through July 30.** Winners will be announced in September.

Coffee's on!

Mr. Thomas' Upper Elementary class has been selling coffee from the Leelanau Coffee Roasting Company to help fund their classroom activities, field trips and resources. The coffee comes in 12-oz. bags and is available in Regular and Decaffeinated, Whole Bean and Ground. **Orders are due on Friday, June 2** and will be delivered the following week. See the attached order form for details and to place your order. They thank you for your support!

2024 Washington, DC trip planned

GTA 8th graders (and their parents) who are interested in touring our nation's capital and the Civil War battlefields in the spring of 2024 are invited [to follow this link](#) to view the full itinerary. This trip is offered to the 8th grade class each year and our goal is to have as many students as possible take advantage of the opportunity! Questions may be directed to Mrs. VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us.

Summer tutors available

Each summer, some of our teachers are available to tutor students who may need a little extra help in a subject or two or don't want to lose ground over the summer. Fees and locations are to be arranged between parents and teachers. Be sure to watch this space, as more may be added as the end of the school year approaches.



Ben Whipple - bwhips@gmail.com

GTA School Wide Guest Teacher
Math (except calculus) for Grades 5-12
English Language Arts for Grades 7-12

Mason Thomas - thomasm@mygta.us

GTA Upper Elementary Teacher
Math & Reading Tutoring for Grades K-6

Elise Ballinger - ballingere@mygta.us

Certified Teacher/GTA Reading Interventionist
Reading Tutoring for Grades K-4

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 – Elementary Pizza Days have concluded for 2022-23

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 – Jeans Days have concluded for 2022-23

TADL Summer Reading Challenge planned

The Traverse Area District Library will announce the



details of its annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#) soon!

Signup will open on Thursday, June 1 and the program runs from June 19-

July 30. A kickoff party is planned at the East Bay Branch on Three-Mile Road on June 20 from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Stop in to enjoy live music with Rebekah Jon and free sno-cones provided by Sno Great, play games, eat snacks, win prizes and visit the bookmobile! This is a free event for all ages.

Grand Traverse Academy

Big T's Tie-Dye T-Shirts

You can't get tie-dye spirit wear from a regular store for \$15, but at Mr. Thomas' class shop, you can! With colors from light blue, to electric blue, navy blue, gray and black, these shirts will make great spirit wear for fun Fridays!

*These shirts range from Youth S to Adult M. **Note:** Wash alone or with other tie-dye in cold water for first wash (normal wash thereafter).*

Shirts are located at Orange 4, Mr. Thomas' Classroom.

Fridays only, 8-8:30 am.





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	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 _____