

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

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

Tuesday & Wednesday, June 6 & 7 – Preschool and Elementary Field Days

Friday, June 9 – Last Day at Career Tech for Juniors

Friday, June 9 – Last Day of Preschool

Monday-Wednesday, June 12-14 – Secondary Final Exams (see attached schedule)

Tuesday, June 13 – Half Day for Secondary Students Only

Wednesday, June 14 – Last (Half) Day of School for K-11

Thursday, June 15 – Board of Directors Annual/Regular Meeting, 6:00 pm, Aqua 5

Final Bookmobile visit on June 8

The Traverse Area District Library's bookmobile will make its last visit of the school year on Thursday, June 8. Any library books that children borrowed at the May visit will be due back at that time. Note that books borrowed on Thursday will be due by July 6. They may either be returned to classroom teachers by June 14 or at any TADL location after school is out for the summer.



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.

Class of 2023 graduates tonight

It's hard to believe, but the Class of 2023 has finished their days at GTA and will receive their diplomas at Commencement this evening! In keeping with tradition, they greeted parents at



carpool yesterday morning and walked through the Elementary and Secondary Wings one last time after their awards ceremony. We will surely miss these young people but can't wait to see what they will accomplish in the next chapter of their lives. If you have family or friends who wish to watch a livestream of the event, please feel free to share this link:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=km-BqURk51M>.

Junior high track & field athletes attend Megastar Meet

Our junior high Mustangs co-op athletes did an



outstanding job at Wednesday's Megastar Track & Field Meet in Shepherd. This event is one of the largest in the country, with 140 schools in attendance. Similar to high school

State Finals, athletes must qualify to compete. Despite the unusually hot weather, everyone represented GTA and TC Christian so well. Our girls' 4x200m relay team (Stella York, Abby Karczewski, Lauren Dalstra and Bailey Stephen) and Bailey's 400m dash both scored in

the top 8. GTA qualifiers were **Nathan Kinney** (shot put), **Chez Acheampong** (100m, 200m), **Eli Willoughby** (55m hurdles, 200m hurdles), **Addison Patrzik** (1600m), **Bailey Stephen** (4x200m relay, 4x800m relay, 400m), **Maria Schwerin** (4x800m relay), **Madison Smith** (4x800m relay) and **Stella York** (4x200m relay). Congratulations to all!

GTA sophomore excels at Honor Roll Meet

Congratulations to GTA sophomore **Weston Kinney**,



who won 1st place overall in the high jump at Tuesday night's Record Eagle John Lober Honor Roll Track Meet at Traverse City Central High School. He jumped his personal best and broke the school record for the second time, with an incredible jump of 6'2"!

Huffman Basketball Skills Camp returns

Don't forget that the Huffman Basketball Skills Camp will take place at Grand Traverse Academy right after school is out for the summer! The camps are open to boys and girls in grades 7-12 on **Monday, June 19-Friday, June 23.**

Trevor Huffman, a native of Petoskey, is Kent State University's all-time leading scorer, a 13-year overseas player and head coach, NBA point guard and an innovative skills trainer who holds camps around the state. For details and registration information, visit www.trevorhuffman.com.

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.



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.

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

Vote daily 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 our school. 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.

Important immunization reminder

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.

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.

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

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 love to have as many students as possible take

advantage of the opportunity! Questions may be directed to Mrs. VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us.

NMC Children's Choir opportunities



If you have a child entering grade K-9 who loves to sing, NMC offers an award-winning children's choir program. Auditions for grades 3-9 take place next **Tuesday & Thursday, June 6 & 8** at NMC's Fine Arts Building from 6:00-8:00 pm. [Find more information here](#). Auditions are not necessary for grades K-2. Children in grades 1-4 are invited to a Kids' Choir Camp from **June 19-23** from 9:30 am-12:00 noon, also in the Fine Arts Building. [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

TADL Summer Reading Challenge begins

The Traverse Area District Library has announced the details of its annual [Summer Reading Challenge](#), open to all ages, and running 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, free sno-cones, games, snacks and prizes, as well as the TADL bookmobile! This is a free event for all ages.

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 – *Secondary Pizza Days have concluded for 2022-23*

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*

GTA Secondary School Exams

June 12, 13, and 14, 2023

Second Semester Exams

Monday, June 12: Exam Review/Some Exams Begin

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

Tuesday, June 13: Half Day of Exams (secondary students only)

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

Wednesday, June 14: Half Day of Exams

High School

8:05-9:05	7th Hour
9:10-10:10	8th Hour
10:15-11:15	9th Hour

Junior High

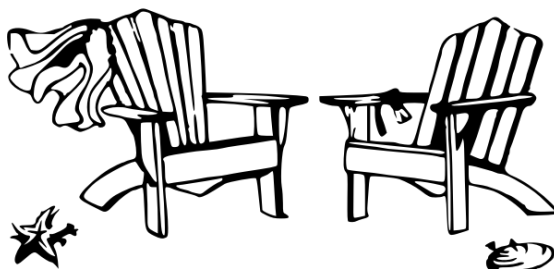
8:05-9:10	7th Hour
9:15-10:20	8th Hour
10:25-11:30	9th Hour

Summer Vacation Begins!

Happy Summer Break!!
See you on September 5th!

Summer School

Monday, June 19 session I begins
Monday, July 10: session II begins
Visit the GTA website for Online Registration



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.

