



# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

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

**Tuesday, June 13** – Half Day for Secondary Students (see dismissal times below)

**Wednesday, June 14** – Last (Half) Day of School for K-11 (see dismissal times below)

Have a wonderful summer!



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

## School hours next week

Please take note that junior high and high school students will take final exams next week and their schedule is abbreviated on Tuesday and Wednesday. Elementary students will have a full day on Monday and Tuesday, with a half day on Wednesday – the last day of school for all students. Dismissal times will be as follows:

Dismissal Times – Week of June 12			
	HS	JH	EL
<b>Monday, June 12</b>	Regular Dismissal Times		
<b>Tuesday, June 13</b>	12:05 pm	12:10 pm	3:50 pm
<b>Wednesday, June 14</b>	11:15 am	11:30 am	11:50 am

## Summer office hours

Grand Traverse Academy will have office hours during summer break as follows: **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 am-1:00 pm (closed July 4-6)**. If you call outside of these hours, please leave a message and it will be returned the next day that the office is open. The office location will rotate depending on who is on duty; feel free to call us at (231) 995-0665 before stopping by so you know where to park. In addition, the **Secondary Office will be open during the**



same hours on **June 19 and July 10** to greet students and accept payments for Summer School.

## Spirit Day on June 14

All students and staff are encouraged to show their school spirit on the last day of school!



GTA spirit wear tops may be worn with uniform bottoms one last time before school is out for the summer.

## Lost & Found reminder

Students and parents are reminded that anything remaining in the Lost & Found (with the exception of embroidered uniform pieces and library books) will be donated to charity after June 14. Please have students check for missing water bottles, books, lunch boxes, jackets, etc. We have accumulated quite a collection!

## First graders needed for Cherry Festival

Calling all current first graders: Be a part of the fun at this year's Cherry Festival by joining Prince Joel and Princess Emma on the Grand Traverse Academy float! School floats participate in the Community Royale Parade on



**Thursday, July 6 at 6:30 pm** and the Cherry Royale Parade on **Saturday, July 8 at 11:15 am**. Parents may contact Stephanie Diephouse at (231)-649-8268 or Leah Rasmussen at (248) 660-3309 to sign up or for more information. They would love to have a good-sized group of students there to represent our school!

## Student medications reminder

**If your child has medication (including over-the-counter remedies) in either office**, please remember to pick it up by the last day of school, Wednesday, June 14. All medications that are not picked up will be disposed of after this date. Please note that medication may not be sent home with students but should be collected by a parent.

## Bookmobile visits conclude

Many thanks to our friends from the Traverse Area



District Library for bringing the library to us via their bookmobile! Our K-6 students have borrowed several hundred books these past few months and it's been great to see their enthusiasm on bookmobile

day. June 8 was the last visit of the school year, with books due back on July 6. If your child has finished reading them by June 14, they may be brought to school. Otherwise, they may be returned to any TADL location (the main library on Woodmere or the East Bay, Kingsley, Fife Lake, Interlochen or Peninsula branches). We look forward to the bookmobile returning this fall! See the story about the TADL Summer Reading Challenge on page three to keep your child engaged in books all summer long.

## Elementary students have fun with clay

All of our K-6 students have enjoyed working with Sculpey Oven-Bake clay in art class recently. The clay should stay workable until they want to bake their creations. Once it has been baked, it can be colored with permanent marker or painted with watercolor or acrylic paints. In case your child has misplaced the baking directions, Mrs. Wildner wanted to share them:

*Bake on an oven-proof glass or metal surface at 275° Fahrenheit for 15 minutes per ¼ inch of thickness. For example, if the clay is ½ inch thick, bake for 30 minutes. Baking should be completed by an adult. Wash hands after use. For more information or ideas, visit <https://www.sculpey.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.



## Chromebooks to be collected Tuesday

Just a reminder that school-issued Chromebooks will be collected from students in grades 9-11 **on Tuesday, June 13**. Please be sure that your child brings theirs to school, along with the accompanying charger. Thank you!



## 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](http://www.trevorhuffman.com).

### 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.

## 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.

## Important immunization reminder

Please be aware that 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 your children's 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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:thomasm@mygta.us)**

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

**Elise Ballinger - [ballingere@mygta.us](mailto:ballingere@mygta.us)**

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

## 2024 Washington, DC trip planned

GTA 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:vanhouzenm@mygta.us).

## 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 a the TADL bookmobile! This is a free event for all ages.

## Ongoing events

Pizza, muffin, bagel, donut and juice sales have concluded for the school year. Thanks to everyone for supporting the school organizations and classes that have benefitted from these fundraisers!