

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

- **2022-23 Open Enrollment Period Ends Thursday, March 10**
- **Wednesday, February 2 – Career-Tech Center Field Trip for Sophomores**
- **Wednesday, February 2 – Enrollment Information Meeting, 6:00 pm, Aqua 5**

Snow White is coming to GTA!

Secondary students have a chance to be a part of GTA's performance of an adaptation of the classic fairy tale, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"! Auditions will take place right after school **next Monday, Wednesday and Friday (January 31, February 2 and February 4)** in Brown 4, and are open to all students in grades 7-12. The performance will take place on Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14. For a cast list and more information, please email Mr. Kinney at kinneyr@mygta.us.



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GTA Family Council news

You're invited! Join us for a Family Fun Night next **Friday, February 4 from 6:00-8:00 pm** at Grace MacDonald Park (131 East Arbutus Lake Road, near the intersection of High Lake and Rasho Roads). This is a great opportunity to get together for some winter fun with your fellow GTA families! Bring your own sleds and hot cocoa, and be sure to wear warm winter gear. Glow sticks will be given to the first 30 GTA students to arrive! Questions? Contact Jessica Collings at jessicacollings@yahoo.com.

Help wanted at Book Fair. A Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled for **the week of February 28**. Hours are 8:00 am-4:15 pm Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 am-6:45 pm

Thursday and 8:00 am-1:15 pm on Friday. If you have some time to spare, we could use your help. Simply go to the [sign-up sheet here](#) and choose your available date(s) and time(s).

Donations needed for staff dinners during evening conferences. Family Council will provide dinner for staff during our upcoming parent-teacher conferences. If you can contribute toward pizza or donate chips, soft drinks, ice, cookies or tableware, or help with set-up or clean-up, please sign up at the following links for [February 24](#) or [March 3](#). Your help will be greatly appreciated by our GTA staff who will be at school for 12+ hours on the two days with evening conferences.

Used uniform sale planned. The GTA Family Council will hold a used uniform sale during our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences, **February 24 & 25 and March 3 & 4**. If you have clean, gently used GTA uniform pieces you'd like to donate, they may be dropped off in either office for delivery to Mrs. VanHouzen. Help is needed with setup and sales; [sign up here](#) for either opportunity. Proceeds from the sale will support Family Council activities.

Fund raising opportunity. Car wash coupons are a convenient way to keep your car clean during the slushy winter months. Purchase a Mirror Image Car Wash & Detailing (formerly Boone Street Car Wash) single basic wash coupon for \$7 or a book of five for \$35. Full-service interior & exterior washes are available for \$25 each or \$125 for a book of five. Profits will support the GTA Family Council's efforts throughout the school year. Follow this link to purchase: [GTA FC CAR WASH](#) or contact Kristin Boogaard at (616) 328-4646 or kristinboogaard@gmail.com.

March is Reading Month! Watch for more information on a fun fundraiser that encourages reading!

 **Reminder:** Be sure to join the Facebook group, [GTA Family Council](#), to stay connected and keep up to date with all the amazing service opportunities.

High school Frost Fest dance planned

GTA students in grades 9-12 are invited to "Winter Wonderland," this year's Frost Fest dance, on **Saturday, February 19 from 7:00-10:00 pm**. Admission is \$10 per person and tickets will be available for purchase in the Secondary Office from Monday, January 31 through Friday, February 18 at 12:15 pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance and guests from other schools may not be invited. Dress is semi-formal dance attire and masks will be required. (Note that the actual ticket is not needed for entrance, as we'll have a list of paid participants).

Robotics teams compete in VEX Robotics tournament

We're so proud of our four robotics teams, which did a fantastic job competing in a field of 20-plus teams at last Saturday's VEX Robotics tournament. Following are their results after the qualification rounds:



The two-man team of **Ashton Cherup** and **Coleman Mroczkowski** ended the qualifications in 5th place and won the Amaze Award, given to "...the team that has

built the most consistently high-scoring and competitive robot. The robot shows high



quality construction and the robot programming is effective, successful and consistent." The team of



Rylan Shimko, Dawson Hula, Evan Smith, Leo Mulholland, Jacob Haase, Logan Lambert, and Henry Hartl took 6th and was chosen to be in an alliance with Ashton and Coleman. **Tommy Blake, Clay Weaver,** and

Marcus Rose came in 10th. The team of **Emerson Slepika, Sam McMann, Jacob Graf, Jordan Williams, Rhys Hadfield** and **Eli Willoughby** was crucial in the pits, helping our other teams prepare for competition, despite not qualifying.

A huge thank you to first-time coach **Annie Callahan** for all of her efforts! She commented that our students showed great sportsmanship, respect, kindness and optimism all day long.

Our character is showing

As a side note, Robotics Coach Annie Callahan wanted to share a touching story from last Saturday's tournament that is truly a testament to our students' character. The qualification rounds narrowed the field down to the top eight teams. Each of these teams' captains chose who they wanted to be in an alliance with to compete in the finals for the top awards. The team of **Ashton Cherup** and **Coleman Mroczkowski** was asked by another team to join them. Ashton declined, as they had another potential partner in mind as their first choice. When it was Ashton's turn to select a partner, and their preferred team was no longer available, he and Coleman had some quick "non-verbal" communication across the gymnasium. Instead of choosing another high school team to join them in the finals, they invited our junior high team to form an alliance. Our two qualifying teams were able to share the thrill and experience of competing for the top awards. Now that's character, and these young men are tops in our books!

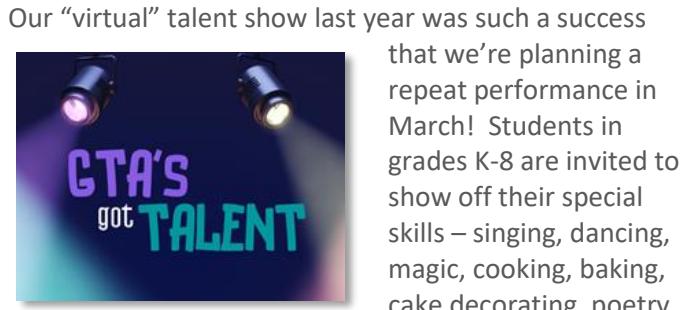
Elementary teacher requests for 2022-23

If you would like to request a specific teacher for your child(ren) for the next school year, please complete [this form](#) (one per child) by **Friday, April 22**. Detailed instructions are included, but if you need assistance or have questions, please call the Elementary Office at (231) 995-0665.

Manufacturing Day reminder

The Grand Traverse Area Manufacturing Council will hold Manufacturing Day on **Friday, February 4** for teenagers and/or their parents, starting at 4:00 pm. The event is free of charge and allows several area manufacturers to showcase their facilities and the careers they offer. For more information and to sign up, follow this [registration link](#) or check out the attached flyer. Please register by Monday, January 31.

GTA's Got Talent returns!



Our “virtual” talent show last year was such a success that we’re planning a repeat performance in March! Students in grades K-8 are invited to show off their special skills – singing, dancing, magic, cooking, baking, cake decorating, poetry

reading, comedy, juggling, you name it – on video, to a virtual audience watching via Zoom. There is a \$5 fee to participate and the cost is \$5 for viewers to watch from one screen at home.

The winner will receive a Nintendo Switch™ and will be determined by a popular vote of talent show viewers (a Google form ballot will be sent to all registered viewers when the show concludes). [Registration](#) closes on **Friday, February 11** and final videos are due on **Friday, February 25** to allow time for editing into the complete show, which will be aired on **Friday, March 4**. Guidelines and instructions for video submission are attached and information on how to join the audience will follow. So students, get your acts together and get ready to shine! Questions? Contact Mrs. VanHouzen at vanhouzenm@mygta.us.

Winter soccer is back!

Elementary and Secondary soccer is back and Saturday drop-in sessions will begin tomorrow, **January 29 (12:30-2:00 pm for grades 3-5 and 2:15-3:45 for grades 6-12)**. Please check the [soccer calendar](#) for the full



schedule. This is a wonderful opportunity for students in grades 3-12 to promote healthy living, develop a love for this exciting sport and build relationships. It also helps us to grow our high school co-op soccer team with TC Christian and St. Francis schools.

Mighty Mustangs Preschool enrolling now

Grand Traverse Academy’s Mighty Mustangs Preschool is a licensed, tuition-based program created especially for 3-5-year-olds. Through fun, hands-on activities, children develop the confidence, creativity and critical thinking skills that



prepare them for success in kindergarten and beyond. Full- and half-day sessions are available and parents may choose two, three or five mornings or days per week. For more information or to apply for enrollment, visit the Mighty Mustangs [Preschool webpage](#). And feel free to share this information with other parents of preschool-aged children!

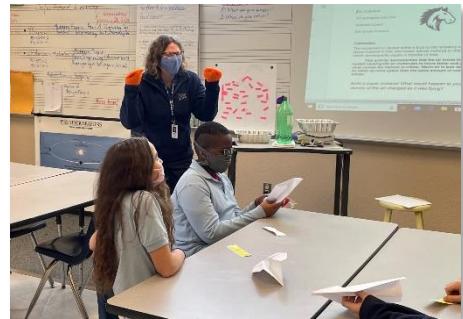
Sixth graders get a taste of GTA junior high

Grand Traverse Academy has a tradition of inviting our



6th graders to an abbreviated junior high class schedule on the afternoon that secondary students are

off due to semester exams. This experience makes the first day of 7th grade much less intimidating. It also gives



students a chance to meet teachers, learn classroom locations and get a feel for a day in the

life of a 7th grader! We thank our teachers for providing welcoming and engaging activities for them on Wednesday. It was a fun day for all involved!



Enrollment Information Meetings planned

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2022-23 school year **continues through Thursday, March 10.** Several Enrollment Information Meetings are planned, as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities. Masks are required and safe distancing will be practiced.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
Wednesday	February 2	6:00 pm
Tuesday	February 8	9:30 am
Monday	February 21	6:00 pm
Tuesday	March 1	9:30 am
Thursday	March 3	6:00 pm
Monday	March 7	9:30 am
Wednesday	March 9	6:00 pm

If you have friends or family members who are interested in learning more about Grand Traverse Academy for their children, please invite them to contact Amy Truesdell at (231) 932-0665 or enrollment@mygta.us to reserve their spot at one of these meetings. Individual tours with a school leader are also available by appointment.

At-home health screening reminder

Our goal for the 2021-22 school year and beyond is for our students and staff to stay healthy so that we may remain open for in-person instruction. With COVID cases on the rise in recent weeks, it is so important for parents to screen for illness **before** bringing your children to school, especially for COVID symptoms, and keeping them home if necessary – both in their best interest and for the protection of others. Please check for the following: *fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, new uncontrolled cough, new absence of taste or smell, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain or new onset of a severe headache (especially with a fever).* Please keep children home with any of these symptoms. If your child is symptomatic, please refer to the attached Student Screening tool to determine if they should be tested for COVID and when they may return to school, based on the guidance for their symptoms. **If a member of your family has had a positive result on a home test, it is important to tell your health care provider as soon as possible so that the Health Department can begin the contact tracing process to alert those who may have been exposed.** With your

help, we can all stay healthy and in school, where students learn the best!

Choice Theory for Parents

by Mindy VanHouzen

As a Glasser Quality School, we believe that all students are able to do competent work. For this to happen, a healthy connection between teachers and students must be present. This connection is established when teachers abandon external controls (Glasser's "deadly" or

Disconnecting Habits) and replace them with his Connecting Habits. Practicing the Connecting Habits at home helps support our use of them at school and strengthens relationships, too.

Connecting Habit #2: Encouraging. Encouraging means to give someone confidence to do something. We actually give them the courage to do something they may not have the courage to do on their own. We naturally encourage our kids all the time. We cheer them on when they are learning to walk or ride a bike. We shout words of affirmation from the sidelines of the soccer field or the basketball court. When we bring this same level of enthusiasm to other relationships in our lives, those bonds can grow very strong. When we have someone who acts as our cheerleader, we feel empowered to do great things. It is easy to see why encouraging is on the list of connecting habits!

Disconnecting Habit #2: Complaining. Complaining can come in several forms. We are all familiar with the chronic complainer, who never seems to be satisfied with anything. There is also the person who is "just venting." The unfortunate consequence of both types of complaining is that both the listener and the complainer end up feeling worse after the conversation. Complaining is also a way that we try to control someone externally. When we gripe about something another person is doing, we are trying to get them to change their behavior by letting them know we don't like what they are doing. A technique that you may consider using is ignoring behavior we don't want to see and praising the behavior we do want to see. In a sense, we stop complaining (by ignoring) and start encouraging (by praising).



Dad jokes from Don



What do you get when you cross Frosty the Snowman with Count Dracula?

Frostbite.

CTC Engineering Academy holds information sessions

The Career-Tech Center's Engineering Academy is holding in-person and virtual information sessions about the program in January, February and March. This award-winning STEM program offers rigorous academics with a focus on engineering, English, economics, math, science and physics and students earn 8.5 credits in the two-year program. For more information, see the attached flyer, or prospective students (juniors or seniors) may apply [here](#).

Ongoing events

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: *February 9 & 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27 and May 11 & 25 (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 on Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of pepperoni or cheese*

Secondary Bagel Sales – *Every Wednesday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1.50 each for several varieties*

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Secondary Bagel Sales – *Every Wednesday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$1.50 each for several varieties*

Fill the Pantry Jeans Days – *March 24, May 26*

GTA's Got Talent

- The Google Registration Form is currently available. In order to participate you will need these things prepared to email before the deadline:
 - Any lyrics (if applicable) ready to upload or typed out.
 - \$5 entry fee
 - Please follow these guidelines when submitting your videos:
 1. Email video to vanhouzenm@mygta.us as an attachment. Please, NOT a link.
 2. Title your video file with the **Student's Last Name, First Name** and include it as your subject in the email.
 3. Make sure your lighting and audio is bright and clear - voice should be louder than music
 4. Be aware of your background - (i.e. pets, younger siblings, etc)
- The act may not be longer than 3 minutes. Just a section of a song will be perfect. We have a time limit to our video.
- Please practice 'social distancing' in your videos. We reserve the right to not to include the act in the virtual Talent Show if this guideline is not respected.
- Each auditioning act must submit their Google Registration Form.
- *Regarding all music:*
 - *Music must be clean, appropriate and non-censored and hold a positive message. This is for ALL audition acts: singing, dancing, or background music, etc.*
- *Parents must screen their student(s) act for preparedness and appropriateness. We may ask a student to resubmit their act if it needs a little fine-tuning.*
- ***Submissions for videos are due on February 25 at midnight.***

Submission ideas

Create a Skit

You can write, or improv a skit of your choice. You may need to plan, work it, block it and video it to see what is working and what needs to be changed up if need be. You will need to think of props, setting and costuming which should be inline with your theme and will also need to think about the angle of the camera. Is it wide enough to take in the actors in the piece?

Sing a Song

Like all the main talent shows, you can search for age and content appropriate songs online, find a Karaoke version of it, research for the lyrics and rehearse.

Perform a Dance

Research good music, choreograph your dance yourself and then rehearse over and over until you are awesome and confident at it. When filming your online dance, make sure that you've got enough wide angle in your camera lense to pick up all your dancing.

Paint a Creative Art work

Paint or draw an amazing artwork within a set period of time 2-3 minutes. Use paints, pastels, pencils or sand on glass with a light coming through.

Puppet Show

You can organise puppets you already have at home. Or make puppets using socks, wools and bright colored material. Use a simple online script to act out using a simple storyline.

Decorating A Cake

A brilliant idea if you have the cake making equipment. Have a cake already made, preferably with the main icing on the cake. From there film a shot of the decorating of a cake, showcasing precision and skills.

Jump Rope Tricks

Using a skipping rope or jump rope come up with an entertaining and trick infused jump rope act. The more skill based the better performance and the more likely you'll impress the judges.

Cupping Tricks

Use your cup stacking skills from PE class. Why not add in a song with it and work a choreographed routine with the cups. You could incorporate singing as well.

Home Stunt Tricks

Make an obstacle course where you showcase your fun jump tricks. You could incorporate basketball shots, go over objects and under ropes. Set it up in a well coordinated way and make sure the camera catches the action. Use bmx bikes, scooters, and basket balls to help your routine look amazing.

Mime Artistry

You can choreograph a mime routine where you pretend you are in an invisible box, go under a small tunnel, sit on a shelf, open a door, punt along the river or walk 'down stairs'. Check out some posts on [mime performances](#) to see how to do it.

Trampoline Tricks

What would a virtual talent show be without a trampoline trick routine? Time to bring out a great routine with a couple minutes of a song. Make sure not to film with the sun looking into the camera.

Magic Tricks

You can arrange your own magic tricks that you find on the internet and practice with props you source from home.

SPOKEN word Poetry

Research online poems to present online. Or write your own using senses. Poems which provoke or which reveal our inner thoughts about an important topic get traction with judges. Remember to speak with passion and from the heart and you will feel a real sense of accomplishment.

Story Telling

Retell a story from childhood, family history, an indigenous story from all over the world. The more expressive the better.

Drum Jam

If you are lucky enough to have a drum kit or guitar or other musical instrument and can play with skill then this might be a winner. Choose a song to rehearse and make it happen. Or make it their own song!

Doggie Tricks

You can use your pet to do tricks and/or perform some rehearsed moves. People love dog tricks and this would be a fun way to show cuteness and fun in a virtual talent show.

Lip Syncing

Choose a song to lip sync to and film it. Choose an appropriate song and rehearse. Points for good lip syncing and presentation skills, also originality.

Recite a Famous Speech

As the title suggests, you can research famous politicians, speakers, orators and recite them word for word with your own performance.

Stand Up Comedy

You can write a funny script or re-deliver a famous comedian's routine (GTA appropriate, of course).

Juggling Act

It's relatively easy to start juggling, but if you want to impress, learn some fun extra tricks as well. Juggle more than sand balls. Enjoy your act and perform with a lot of hoopla.

Play a Musical Instruments

You may have been learning to play a musical instrument for a few years and have learned some awesome skills. Put together a routine, it could even be a medley

Monologues

Of course monologues are a great way to show acting talent. There are some great Shakespearean monologues to choose from and also contemporary monologues. You can purchase monologues for yourself [here](#) on Amazon.

Science Showcase

You should have the proper equipment and items needed to showcase a great scientific experiment. There is nothing better than mini explosions and bubbling fun. This should be a great winner with other students and teachers alike.

Write a Parody

Everyone loves a good parody of famous songs. Use the backing track from Youtube, download and re-write a song which is a play on the original.

Use Extended Vocabulary in fun Ways

Recite 10-15 sentences using the most ridiculously complicated words in an extended paragraph. Showcase your ability to articulate and use complicated words in a sentence. You'll be surprised at how wonderful you sound.

Verbal Tricks

There are a number of verbal tricks and clever riddles that can be told in a fun way. Research complex riddles to showcase, but the trick is to give a confident performance for your virtual online talent. Check out a great [book](#) for kids who want some good ideas for jokes and riddles to verbalise for the talent show.

Making Fun Balloon Animals

Like you get in a circus or a fun fair, buy some long balloons and rehearse making a variety of balloon animals or items. Make it into a routine and enjoy showcasing this on your virtual talent show.

Student Screening

Screen your child for the following symptoms daily before they leave for school. Follow the directions below if your child displays symptoms or has been exposed.

Symptoms

- Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Sore throat
- New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Close Contact/Potential Exposure

In the past 14 days, has your child:

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19; OR
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with person under quarantine for possible exposure to COVID-19; OR
- Had a travel history

If the answer is **YES** to any of the **symptom** questions, keep your child(ren) home from school.

If the answer is **YES** to any symptoms question and **YES** to any close contact/potential exposure question, call the school as soon as possible to let them know the reason your child(ren) won't be there today. Call your healthcare provider right away. If you don't have one or cannot be seen, go to www.mi.gov/coronavirustest or call 2-1-1 to find a location to have your child(ren) tested for COVID-19.

If the answer is **YES** to any of the symptom questions, but **NO** to any close contact/potential exposure questions, your student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms (see "[Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools](#)":)

- Fever: at least 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications
- Sore throat: improvement (if strep throat: do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken);
- Cough/Shortness of breath: improvement
- Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
- Severe headache: improvement

DISCLAIMER: This screening tool is subject to change based on the latest information on COVID-19.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; [Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)





RSVP TODAY!

Interested in exploring careers!? RSVP today to tour local manufacturing facilities. An excellent opportunity to learn about the careers within and explore the fascinating world of manufacturing!

100% FREE. AGES 14+.
FEBRUARY 4TH, 2022
4:30 PM-7:00 PM



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TENTCRAFT
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CLARK MANUFACTURING
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BRITTEN INC.
AND MORE**

Engineering Academy is looking for its next class of students



Attention high school sophomores and juniors!

Learn more about Career Tech's Engineering Academy at these information sessions (*attend in-person OR virtually*)

Tuesday, January 25
Wednesday, February 9
Thursday, February 24
Tuesday, March 8
Wednesday, March 23

RSVP to Engineering Academy Instructor Tim Wheatley at twheatley@NorthwestEd.org

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Engineering Academy
Career Tech
880 Parsons Road
Traverse City

Get links to virtual information sessions: www.northwested.org/career_tech/programs/engineering-academy/