

Dates to remember

▶ **2022-23 Open Enrollment Period Ends Thursday, March 10**

▶ **Monday, February 28-Friday, March 4** – *Scholastic Book Fair (see below)*

▶ **Thursday, March 3** – *Parenting with Choice Theory, 6:00-7:00 pm, Green 1 Classroom*

▶ **Thursday & Friday, March 3/4** – *Parent-Teacher Conferences and Used Uniform Sales (see below)*

▶ **Monday-Friday, March 7-18** – *K-6 Read-A-Thon*

▶ **Thursday, March 10** – *Band Jam 2022, 6:30 Junior High/7:30 High School, Big Gymnasium*

Secondary Students of the Month named

Congratulations to the following Students of the Month, who were selected based on the character trait of Integrity:



Diana Cherkasov, grade 8, is the daughter of Valentina and Dmytro Cherkasov. She enjoys traveling with her family, playing volleyball, baking, singing and playing the piano. Diana is also interested in starting to play a sport at school. Once she graduates,

she would like to attend college to study either photography or culinary arts and get a job that pays well. Other goals include learning many new languages and traveling to new places around the world.



Hudson Conner, grade 8, is the son of Amy Conner and Philip Conner. His interests include technology, and creating and building things. Hudson also enjoys helping others and may work at a golf course this summer. A goal is to become very good at

basketball. After high school, Hudson hopes to attend Cedarville College and join their Heartsong Ministries band. Ultimately, he wants to be a prosthetic designer and become very wealthy!



Elisha Gamalski, grade 9, is the son of Melanie Panek. His interests include snowboarding, playing airsoft and cooking. He also participates in GTA's Weightlifting Club. Elisha plans to attend college after high school, establish a good career and improve

his cooking skills.



Aariyah Harmon, grade 11, is the daughter of Dara Sek. Her interests include animals, reading mythology and folklore, and drawing. Aariyah's goals include reading more diverse genres of books, such as horror and science fiction, traveling and

adopting a cat. Her current career interests are microbiology or oceanography (specifically doing deep sea research).

GTA student a finalist in writing competition

Congratulations to GTA junior **Makaila Scott**, whose one-act play, *Justified Murder*, was chosen as one of six finalists in the City Opera House Young Playwrights Festival. She won \$100, will be paired with a national theater mentor and see her play performed onstage at the City Opera House in Traverse City! The performances are scheduled for April 24 at 1:30 pm.

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

GTA students honored

The following GTA students were accepted into the National Technical Honor Society at North Ed Career Tech (formerly the TBA Career-Tech Center): Juniors **Ethan Schwabe, Chase Snell, Norah VanWingerden** and **Elizabeth Kornexl**, and senior **Maya Weber**.

Membership requirements are a grade of “B” or better in their Career Tech program, good citizenship, and completion of 10 hours or more of service each semester. Congratulations, one and all!

Parent-teacher conferences conclude next week

Second semester parent-teacher conferences conclude on Thursday & Friday, **March 3 & 4** for both Elementary and Secondary students. If you haven't already participated in or

scheduled yours, use the following links to SchoolBookings, our online conference manager:

Elementary

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/x2f7x>

(Call 995-0665 with questions)

Secondary

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/54bet>

(Call 932-6038 with questions)

All parents/guardians are encouraged to participate in parent-teacher conferences as a way to stay connected with teachers, share concerns and successes, and send a message to your children that school is important. The more their parents are involved, the better children perform in school. We look forward to seeing you!

Read-A-Thon begins soon!

March is National Reading Month and the GTA Family Council is excited to announce a Read-A-Thon fundraiser for grades K-6. This program brings students together with family and friends to

encourage reading and build literacy skills. Read-A-Thon promises to be a fun, exciting journey for all participants as they begin a personal reading adventure



Read·A·Thon

that challenges each reader to complete 10 reading sessions over our two-week event, **March 7-18**.

Watch for paperwork to be sent home with your reader explaining how to activate their personal Read-A-Thon page. By using the promotional tools found there, friends and family anywhere in the world can show their support for your reader by making a donation to our Read-A-Thon. Your involvement will help your child develop a lasting love of reading.

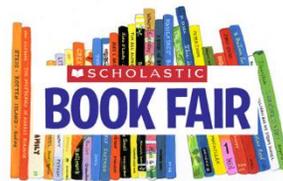
We hope you'll activate your child's personal page as soon as they bring home their paperwork to help us reach our goals of \$4,000 raised and 80,000 minutes read! The money raised will be used to give each K-6 teacher \$100 toward their classroom library. Classes with the most reading minutes AND money raised will each get a pizza party! What's more, participants have a chance to win a Disney theme park trip for four in a nationwide Read-A-Thon drawing.

Stay tuned for more information!

P.S. If you own a business and would like to support GTA's Read-A-Thon (or have an employer who might), please see the attached flyer and letter.

Scholastic Book Fair next week!

We're excited to announce a Scholastic Book Fair here at school from **February 28-March 4 in the Small Gym**. 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**.



For your convenience, we are offering an “eWallet” payment system, to allow for digital cashless payments for your child's books! To get started, visit our [eWallet page](#) on the Scholastic website right away, so funds will be available as soon as the book fair begins. Remember that the book fair benefits your children by encouraging reading and also benefits our school with the purchase of every book.

FAFSA reminder

Attention, students who will be seeking scholarships or financial aid to help pay for college: The FAFSA deadline is quickly approaching. **March 1, 2022 is the deadline** for students to qualify for grants and/or subsidized loans. Visit <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> to apply. March 1 is also the deadline for all Grand Traverse Region Community Foundation

Scholarships, including the Gene's Auto Parts scholarship, which is open to GTA students only. Learn more or apply at <https://www.gtrcf.org>.

Have you downloaded our app yet?



It's everything GTA, **in your pocket.**
Events · Staff Directory · Alerts · Athletics



Current events, school news, a staff directory, access to Mustang sports calendars, weather closure notifications and more are in your pocket and at your fingertips with the Grand Traverse Academy app. Download it today at the App Store or Google Play!

GTA board opportunity

Grand Traverse Academy's mission is for all students to



be safe, loved and learning as they achieve excellence in character and academics. If you have an interest in

helping our school to continue to achieve that mission, have 2-5 hours per month to devote to guiding our school, are a team player and are willing to serve as an ambassador for GTA in the community, you just might be a great candidate for Grand Traverse Academy's board of directors. The board is currently accepting applications for one member to replace one whose term will expire this year. The term will begin at the start of the 2022-23 school year. For more information or to apply, please contact board trustee Katherine McCulley at mcculleyk@mygta.us.

Winter soccer update

All students, grades 3-12, will be combined into one group, from 12:30-2:00 pm, for the remaining sessions of our Saturday soccer drop-in sessions. Students do not need to attend all sessions in order to participate. Please check the [soccer calendar](#) for the full schedule.

Band Jam 2022 sponsors sought

If you, your business or your workplace are interested in becoming a Band Jam sponsor, contributors of \$25-1,000+ will be recognized both at the event and in the program. Checks may be dropped off or mailed to GTA at 1245 Hammond Road East, Traverse City 49686 with "GTA Band Jam" written on the memo line. Business donations may also be picked up by contacting Mr. Floering at floeringg@mygta.us.



GTA Family Council news

Book fair volunteers needed. If you have some time to spare, we could use your help at our upcoming book fair. Simply go to the [sign-up sheet here](#) and choose your available date(s) and time(s). It's fun and a great way to get to know your fellow GTA parents!

Donations needed for staff dinner during evening

conferences. A big thanks to those families who contributed toward dinner for GTA staff during last night's Parent-Teacher Conferences – it was much appreciated! Family Council will provide dinner for staff during next week's Parent-Teacher Conferences as well. 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 link for [March 3](#). With your help, we can furnish a meal for GTA staff who will be at school for 12+ hours for evening conferences.

Used uniform sale next week. The GTA Family Council will hold a used uniform sale during next week's Parent-Teacher Conferences, **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; for either opportunity. Proceeds from the sale will support Family Council activities.

Fund raising opportunity continues. Car wash coupons are a convenient way to keep your car clean during these slushy winter months. Purchase a Mirror Image Car Wash & Detailing 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.

👉 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.

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!



Enrollment Information Meetings continue

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2022-23 school year **continues through Thursday, March 10**, with an enrollment lottery drawing on Friday, March 11 if applicants exceed available space. Several Enrollment Information Meetings are planned, as shown below. Each includes a brief presentation, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities.

Enrollment Information Meetings		
Day	Date	Time
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) 932-6900 or enrollment@mygta.us to reserve their spot at one of these meetings. Individual tours with a school leader are also available by appointment.

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; if you have questions, please call the Elementary Office at (231) 995- 0665.



Summer job corner

MDOT Youth Mentoring Program. Students interested in a career in transportation or engineering might want to look into the Michigan Department of Transportation Youth Development and Mentoring Program. This is an opportunity to explore the world of transportation while earning a steady summer income. For more information, visit www.michigan.gov/mdot/0,4616,7-151-9623_38029_66959---,00.html

Cherry receiving station. A cherry receiving station on the Old Mission Peninsula is looking for team members for a wide range of positions, including computer input, fruit weighing and grading, and outdoor positions such as lift truck drivers and pad maintenance. No experience is necessary, as they will train! The station is open seven days a week, July 4-August 4 (based on the weather and size of the crop). Applicants must be at least 14 years of age. Desired traits include initiative, ability to anticipate tasks in succession and ask questions, flexibility, ability to work independently as well as with a team, organized and punctual. **For more information, please contact Mr. Lazar at lazarj@mygta.us.** He looks forward to hearing from you!

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. It continues to be 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!

Dad Jokes from Don



Why did the Oreo cookie go to the dentist?

It lost its filling.

Elementary Pizza Days – Every other Wednesday, as follows: *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 cheese or pepperoni

Secondary Bagel Sales – Every Wednesday in Multipurpose Rooms 3 & 4, 7:40-8:00 am, \$2.00 each for several varieties

Fill the Pantry Jeans Days – March 24, May 26



 Traverse City, MI

Showcase Your Business in front of
470 families
in your community while supporting
reading and education at the same time.

GTA Family Council

is holding a Read-a-thon for the next few weeks and we need your help. Would you consider supporting our Read-a-thon by placing an ad that will appear on all of our public web pages? Our readers, families and their friends will learn more about you and your business and know you support their reading project.

How Your business ad could be seen 23,030 times

When you support our Read-a-thon your business advertisement is placed on several pages viewed by our reader's family, friends, and supporters. Below you will see a breakdown of the pages of which your ad will appear.



497 Donate Pages

Every reader donate page, every class donate page and our school donate page



470 Reader Dashboards

Every reader's personal dashboard account page will show your business ad.

* Potential ad views are based on the current average views per page in our system and are subject to change. Not all readers participate in the program.



Ready to get started?

Getting started is simple. We have created a secret code that you can enter into our website and you will be directed to a secure donation page for our Read-a-thon. Please visit the following url:

www.read-a-thon.com/donate/

Your Secret Code:

46231



March 2022

Dear Community Member,

March is National Reading Month and Grand Traverse Academy will be holding a Read-A-Thon fundraiser for grades K-6 from March 7-18. Read-A-Thon is a program that brings students together with family, friends and businesses in their community to encourage reading and to build literacy skills. The Read-A-Thon promises to be a fun, exciting journey for all participants as they begin a personal Reading Adventure.

As a fellow community member, we are asking for your support of this reading event. Your participation will play a part in helping GTA students develop a lasting love for reading. Grand Traverse Academy does not have a school library. As a result, each teacher is responsible for supplying their own personal classroom library with books for their students. If we meet our financial goal during our Read-A-Thon, we will have enough money to give each K-6 teacher \$100 toward their classroom library!

How can you help? Please consider financially supporting our Read-a-thon. To thank you for your support, you will receive a free digital ad which could be seen over 23,000 times! Your logo will also appear on over 400 t-shirts which will be given to students and staff for GTA Field Day events in June. Your company will also be promoted as a supporter of our Read-A-Thon on GTA's Facebook page and weekly newsletter.

Please see the attached flyer for more information on how to get started. We appreciate your consideration and thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Grand Traverse Academy Family Council

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](#)

