



Dates to remember

Friday, October 2 – *GTA's 20th Birthday!*

Wednesday, October 7 – *Fall Student Count Day*

Monday, November 2 – *School Picture Retakes*

It's our birthday!

Today, October 2, Grand Traverse Academy celebrates two decades of providing a quality K-12 education to Grand Traverse area children, offering a tuition-free option where students are safe, loved and learning!



A 20-year timeline:

- **September 2000** – Construction delays push back the opening of newly chartered Grand Traverse Academy; a pre-opening event attracts nearly 300 students!
- **October 2, 2000** – 271 students and 23 teachers, staff and administrators move into the building, approved for occupancy, but with interior walls still under construction, no lockers and bare sheathing on the exterior, while finish construction continues. (Six of those first staff members are still here 20 years later: Ms. Myers, Ms. Kipke, Mrs. Bohrer, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Swartz and Mrs. Schuetze.)
- **September 2002** – Grand Traverse Academy officially adds preschool classes with a total of 34 students. (The daughters of current staff members Mrs. Van Houzen and Mr. & Mrs.

Wilson were among our first preschool students; they continued at GTA until their graduation!)

- **September 2003** – Grand Traverse Academy introduces its first school sport, cross country, with one girl (Mrs. Schuetze's daughter) and one boy on the team.
- **December 2004** – Students participate in groundbreaking for a junior high and high school wing, added to accommodate growing student numbers.
- **March 2005** – Grand Traverse Academy is declared a Glasser Quality School, one of only 15 in the nation.
- **September 2005** – Secondary students move into their own newly constructed wing, with science labs, a lecture hall and dedicated band and music rooms.
- **June 2007** – Grand Traverse Academy graduates its first senior class, with a total of 11 students. (Mrs. Van Houzen's son was a member of this class.)
- **June 2007** – Students participate in groundbreaking for another much-needed wing for preschool and kindergarten, including a second gymnasium.
- **September 2007** – The Early Childhood wing opens for the school year.
- **June 2013** – Grand Traverse Academy graduates its first class of seniors who would have been able to attend K-12. (The class included children of current staff members Mrs. Page, Mrs. Alejandro, Mr. & Mrs. Floering and Mrs. Schuetze.)
- **2013, 2014, 2017, 2019 and 2020** – U.S. News and World Report ranks Grand Traverse Academy's high school among the best in the nation!

We thank all of our families for being a part of our organization by sharing your children with us! In honor of our 20th birthday, we invite you to share a fond memory you have of Grand Traverse Academy by

sending it to farrellk@mygta.us. We'll publish your thoughts (names optional) in future issues of the newsletter and on our website.

Introducing our new mobile app and website!

Exciting news for GTA families: We are thrilled to

There's an app for that



announce a GTA app for mobile phones! Now, current events, school news, access to real-time Mustang sports scores, student stories, emergency

notifications and more will be in your pocket and at your fingertips. At the same time, we are introducing a brand new website that integrates with the app to ensure that our families are consistently informed. The app is live now and we will be transitioning to the new site later this afternoon. You can find our app in the Apple Store (<https://apple.co/3bCRz87>) or on Google Play (<https://bit.ly/3h9NIX0>). Watch for more information next week about what to find and how to navigate the app to keep you informed about everything GTA.

Mustang scoreboard

Soccer. On Tuesday, our co-op varsity soccer team (GTA, TC Christian and St. Francis) won their game vs. Boyne City, 2-0 and beat Benzie yesterday, 8-0 bringing their record to 13-2-2. The team is currently ranked in the top 25 in the state of Michigan in



Division 3! A few of their goals for the remainder of the season are:

- Scoring over 100 goals for the season (at 87 as of October 1; 15 more will get them into the MHSAA record books)
- Finishing the season with as many shutouts as possible (currently at 12; three more will earn them a place in the MHSAA record books)
- Improving on last year's performance in district play

Upcoming soccer games are as follows:

- Home vs Charlevoix 5 pm 10/6/20
- At TC West (under the lights - Senior Night) vs TC Bulldogs (home school) 7 pm 10/9/20, \$5 admission charge
- Home vs Harbor Springs 5pm 10/12/20

Home games, with the exception of Senior Night, are played at the TBAYS championship field (the only field with bleachers and a scoreboard). Masks are required for attending the game, but there is NO ADMISSION FEE - so you can cheer on our team for FREE! They would love to see more GTA support in the crowd, especially as they get closer to district play, which starts the week of October 12. As the season winds down, they look forward to seeing more GTA students join the team next fall. If your high school student is interested in playing next year, please contact Justin Lazar, assistant coach, at lazarj@mygta.us. Thank you for supporting GTA and Mustang Athletics!

Volleyball. Playing against TCBA last night, the Mustangs won in three sets 25-19, 25-13, 25-15! It was a total team effort led by **Norah Vanwingerden** with 19 assists and four aces, **Autumn Larsen** with six aces, **Morgan Smith** with nine digs and three kills, and **Michaila Kinney** with a triple double 12 kills, 10 digs, and 10 aces. Great job, ladies!

It's not too late to order school pictures!

If you did not order pictures when they were taken in September, it's not too late! Either [visit the Timeless Image website](#) or scan the QR code at left to place and pay for your order. Order codes are 5820 for Preschool & Elementary and 6320 for Junior High & High School. **As a reminder, School picture retakes are scheduled for Monday, November 2.**



Virtual College Fair scheduled

High school students should save the dates for the Grand Traverse Area Virtual College Fair, **October 13 and 14 from 4:00-8:00 pm**. An updated flyer with registration information is attached.

GTA guidance counselor selected for fellowship

A big “Congratulations!” to **Stephanie Patrzik**, who successfully moved through a rigorous application process to be selected as a fellow in the inaugural school counselor fellows program, offered through a partnership between the Michigan College Access Network and San Diego State University. Over the next two years, Mrs. Patrzik will receive advanced school counselor leadership, peer consultation and professional development training and serve as a mentor to the next participants in the program. The program’s goals are to strengthen equitable school counselor leadership practices. This is a great honor, Stephanie – we’re proud of you!



October is Michigan College Application Month

At Grand Traverse Academy, we encourage our graduates to continue their education by pursuing post-secondary learning opportunities, whether that means attending a college or university, learning a trade, joining the military, or enrolling in a technical school. Our goal is for every senior to apply to at least one post-secondary institution. October is College Application Month and is an important time for college-bound seniors to apply to the schools they are interested in attending, as applications must precede the Free Application for Student Aid. If you have a 12th grader, please remind them to let Mrs. Patrzik know when they have submitted an application for post-secondary education or the military – and when acceptance letters start coming in, to share a copy with her so they can receive a “Congratulations on Your Acceptance” magnet for their locker! There is no need to make a decision at this point in the school year but we love to highlight our students’ opportunities.

College readiness assessment coming soon

On **Wednesday, October 14**, high school students will participate in the college readiness assessment, which would typically have been taken in the spring. Tests for each grade level are as follows:

- Freshmen – PSAT 8/9
- Sophomores – PSAT 10
- Juniors – PSAT 10/NMSQT
- Seniors – SAT

Students will take their test first thing in the morning, which begins promptly at 8:10 am. They should make an extra effort to arrive early on that day, as late arrivals may not be able to enter the testing room and there are no make-ups for these tests.

Virtual college rep meetings planned

Although our current situation restricts visitors to our building, we are still dedicated to offering our students the opportunity to visit with representatives from various colleges, universities and the military. This year, they’ll be done virtually through Google Meet! Juniors and seniors will be added to a Google Classroom created specifically for meetings with virtual visitors. Students will register to attend by submitting a Google Form in advance of the meeting date, which will give them permission to leave class and join (properly distanced) in the Multi-Purpose Room to meet with the representative on their individual Chromebooks. Meetings will be recorded and stored so that other students may access the information later. Upcoming meetings are scheduled as follows:

Thursday, October 8

Central Michigan University
7:30-8:30 pm, CMU in Traverse City Night

Monday, October 12

Michigan Technological University

Tuesday, October 13

Saginaw Valley State University

Thursday, October 15

Calvin College

Tuesday, October 20

Grand Valley State University

Thursday, October 22

Alma College

Monday, October 26

Northwestern Michigan College

Yearbook content wanted!

Grand Traverse Academy’s yearbook staff is busy at work preparing the 2020-21 yearbook. They would love to include photos and information highlighting your

Secondary students' quarantine or summer activities, summer jobs, vacations or family pets. Photos and information may be emailed to gogoline@mygta.us.

Substitute teachers needed

There is a shortage of substitute teachers at schools throughout the region and Grand Traverse Academy is no exception. If you are interested in covering for teacher absences at our school, we'd love to hear from you! You need not be a certified teacher or have a degree: requirements include at least 60 credits earned from an accredited college or university. Pay is \$55 per half day or \$100 per full day; benefits are working with and for our team of dedicated professionals and spending time with our awesome students! Contact Jim Coneset at conesetj@mygta.us to apply.



Save the date: Three-Mile Trail outdoor open house at GTA

On **Thursday, October 22, from 4:30-6:00 pm** in our **south parking lot** (off Hammond Road) TART Trails, along with their partners at East Bay Township, will be hosting an outdoor, socially distanced, public open house at to seek community feedback on your vision for the proposed Three-Mile Trail extension between South Airport and Hammond Roads, as well as other potential non-motorized connections in the nearby vicinity. Project partners will be on hand to share maps of the study area, record your perspectives, and answer your questions as they kick off the preliminary design for the trail, part of which will bisect the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's Mitchell Creek Meadows Property and will be planned in coordination with Norte's Safe Routes to Schools program. **All attendees are required to wear masks and social distancing measures will be in place. The event will be outside under a tent: please dress for the weather and wear layers!** Those who cannot attend the event will have the opportunity to provide feedback to the same questions posed via an online survey released immediately after the open house.

French Toast 50 percent off sale good through Sunday only

French Toast Schoolbox has brought back their biggest offer of the year – 50 percent off your purchase! But don't wait, because the offer is only good through Sunday, October 4. See the attached flyer for details, as some exclusions apply.

Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

Save your Oleson's receipts, please! Do you shop at Oleson's Food Markets? Did you know that your cash register receipts are worth money to our school? With the Oleson's Community



Share Program, you earn "Community Share Points" each time you shop (with the exception of alcohol purchases). One point equals one cent, so if you spend \$100 on groceries, you've earned \$1 for GTA! These points add up quickly and resulted in over \$1,000 in earnings last year, even though the school year was cut short. It's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and place them in the collection box inside the Elementary entrance (to the right of the office door).

Box Tops for Education. If you're familiar with the Box



SEE THIS...
SCAN
YOUR RECEIPT

Tops for Education coupons found on many grocery items, you may have noticed

something new: Now you can earn cash for our school in a whole new way. A new [Box Tops mobile app](#) allows you to scan store receipts, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our earnings online. No more clipping, taping onto collection sheets and dropping them off at school! You may still find the traditional Box Tops coupons on certain items, which can still be brought in to either office, but be sure to download the app now to take advantage of this easy way to earn free money for GTA!

2020 Northern Michigan

Virtual COLLEGE FAIR

Tuesday, October 13
Wednesday, October 14

4:00 - 8:00 p.m. both days



**REGISTER
NOW**

www.tbaisd.org

Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District
and Northwestern Michigan College
invite all high school students to attend the
2020 Northern Michigan **VIRTUAL** College Fair

Learn More

- ▶ Many colleges, universities and military branches
- ▶ Financial aid information and Q&A sessions
- ▶ NMC Dual Enrollment and TBAISD Early College

REGISTRATION IS EASY

- 1 Register at www.tbaisd.org
- 2 Receive event details and links to dozens of LIVE virtual sessions with college/military representatives
- 3 Attend from the comfort of your own space on the date and time that works best for you!

Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers
(MACRAO) sanctioned event hosted by
Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District and
Northwestern Michigan College
Questions? Contact:
TBAISD (231) 922-6349 or
Scott Herzberg, NMC (231) 995-2526

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*Offer valid 9/28/2020-10/04/2020 at 11:59 PDT.

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We've donated over
\$1.8 MILLION IN UNIFORMS
to help students in need across America.

It's just one of the ways we're sending students back to school with HEALTH, LOVE & PEACE OF MIND. Find more at Frenchtoast.com

HEALTH
LOVE +
PEACE
of MIND

