



**Dates to remember**

**Monday, November 2** – *School Picture Retakes*

**Tuesday, November 3** – *Election Day: Remember to Vote!*

**Thursday, November 19** – *GTA Cares Fill the Pantry Jeans Day*

**Mustang roundup**

**Varsity cross country teams advance to regionals.**



Congratulations to our Mustang girls, who took first place with 33 points, and the boys, who came



in second with 64 points at pre-regionals at Buckley last weekend! They will compete in regionals at Buckley

**tomorrow, October 31.** We wish them well!

**Varsity volleyball moves on to districts.** Best wishes to our Mustang girls as they advance to district competition. They play Traverse City St. Francis in Mancelona on **Monday, November 2.** Go Mustangs!

**Basketball season begins.** Cooler outdoor weather brings sports indoors, with basketball starting in the next few weeks. Junior high boys are in full swing, high school girls start on **November 9**, elementary girls on **November 14** and high school boys on **November 16.** Junior high girls' basketball starts in January – watch for more information!

**Co-op ski meeting planned.** Looking ahead to snowy weather, interested high school students are invited to learn more about our co-op ski team at a pre-season meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday, November 3 at 8:00 pm.** Other participating schools include St. Francis, Elk Rapids and Central Lake. Contact Mrs. Alejandro for details and login information.

**New online payment page available on GTA website**

We are pleased to introduce an [all-new online system](#)



for GTA fees and other school-related payments. You can still pay for milk passes, athletics fees, Quality Care, preschool tuition and

high school materials fees (or donate to your favorite GTA cause!) safely and securely online – the page just looks different. Click on Payments on the site menu, then Pay Online, and you'll find a "catalog" of items that you can pay for at your convenience. **Note that quantities may be changed, items removed from your shopping cart and a note or special instructions added at checkout.** As usual, be sure to include your child(ren)'s name and other pertinent information where applicable so that we know how to apply your payment. We appreciate your patience during the transition to this new system and hope you find it easy and convenient to use!

**Order Secondary yearbooks online**

Junior high and high school students may order their full-color hardcover 2021 yearbooks online at [Herff Jones](#), using the school order code 12952. The cost is \$50 through January 27, when the price increases to \$55. If you are unable to order online, please call the Secondary office at 932-6038. TIP: If you cannot remember if you placed an order, log in to the Herff Jones website as shown above and click on "Find Your Order" to find out!

## Senior corner

The Class of '21 is already eight weeks into their senior year! There are several important deadlines coming up that students and parents should make a note of:

- College applications should be submitted by this **Sunday, November 1** for priority acceptance. Transcripts may be obtained at [www.Parchment.com](http://www.Parchment.com).
- The senior class composite photo will be taken at school next **Friday, November 6**. Boys should wear a white button-down dress shirt. Ties will be provided for the photo, as well as portrait shoulder drapes for the girls.
- The deadline to submit personal yearbook photos is **Friday, November 20**. They should be vertical head and shoulder shots at least 300 dpi in resolution.
- Cap and gown orders are due on **Monday December 18**.

Project Graduation, our all-night tobacco-, drug- and alcohol-free party for graduates, has become a tradition at Grand Traverse Academy. Organized by parents, the event is funded through the generosity and support of our community. Do you wish to make graduation night a memorable one for one of our seniors? See the Sponsor a Senior flyer attached for details!

## 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**. Students must bring in their original photo packet in order to have their school picture retaken.

## Virtual college rep meetings planned

Juniors and seniors have the opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges, universities and the armed services right here at school. This is a great way to learn about program offerings and ask questions during the post-secondary decision-making process. **This year, the meetings will be done virtually through Google Meet** and recorded and stored so that other

students may access the information later. Upcoming dates are as follows, with more to come!

### Monday, November 2

Grace Christian University  
Northern Michigan University



**Tuesday, November 3**  
University of Chicago

### Wednesday, November 4

Western Michigan University



**Tuesday, November 10**  
United States Air Force  
Detroit College for Creative Studies

### Thursday, November 12

Aquinas College

## MDHHS, CDC publish safe holiday guidelines

The Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District has shared with us guidelines published by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control for helping to prevent the spread of COVID-19 this holiday season. The guidelines are attached to this newsletter.

## Keep GTA safe with screening

Screening for COVID-19 symptoms daily before leaving for school is helpful in keeping our GTA community healthy. The Grand Traverse County Health Department screening protocol is attached for your convenience.

## 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 \$65 per half day or \$125 per full day; benefits are working with and for our team of dedicated professionals and spending time with our awesome students! Contact Maria Dean at [deanm@mygta.us](mailto:deanm@mygta.us) to apply.



## Website design contest announced

The Michigan Council of Women in Technology's annual Website Design Competition launched on October 1. Junior high and high school girls are invited to combine creative expression with technical skills for a chance to win cash prizes. This year's theme is to create a website comparing three aspects of your life and how they are different from (or are like) your grandparents' era. Girls can participate individually or in teams of two, using the overall theme as a guide to showcase their website design skills and knowledge of HTML. Finalists are invited to a virtual event where they present their sites to a panel of IT industry experts who in turn award prizes to winners in each category. Website experience is not required and free (virtual) training is available. Learn more about the competition and enroll at <https://mcwt.org/programs/list/K-12-Initiatives/WEBSITE-DESIGN-COMPETITION>

## LSSU student holiday art contest open

Lake Superior State University, which granted our school charter, is holding their annual holiday art contest. All LSSU academy students in grades K-12 are eligible to submit their artwork in the following categories: K-grade 2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12. Winners will be notified by December 14 and will receive an LSSU t-shirt and SWAG bag and have their work displayed on the university's charter school office official 2020 holiday card! Interested young artists should complete their designs on plain, white letter-sized (8 ½ x 11") and include their name, age, grade, t-shirt size (youth or adult S, M, L or XL) and the name of our school on the back. Any medium can be used but keep in mind that the image will be scanned. Submissions must be received by **Wednesday, November 25**. Mail to:

Julie Hopper  
Academic Assessment Specialist  
Lake Superior State University  
Charter Schools Office – Fletcher Center  
650 West Easterday Avenue  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

## 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



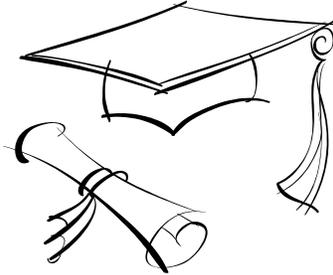
SEE THIS...  
**SCAN**  
YOUR RECEIPT

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!



# SPONSOR-A-SENIOR



## PROJECT GRADUATION CLASS OF 2021

Project Graduation has become a proud tradition at Grand Traverse Academy. It is an exciting all-night event that is tobacco, drug and alcohol free. This graduation celebration is for all Grand Traverse Academy Seniors. Organized by parents, Project Graduation is funded through the generosity and support of the Grand Traverse Community.

### **OUR SENIORS NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

Do you know a senior that you would like to sponsor to help make his or her graduation night a memorable occasion? Please complete the form below. Donations, regardless of the amount, are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to: **GTA Project Graduation** and mailed to:

GTA Project Graduation  
ATTN: Mindy Van Houzen  
1245 Hammond Road East  
Traverse City, MI 49686

If you have any questions, please contact Mindy at (231) 932-6960

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SPONSOR NAME AND ADDRESS

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my general donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the class of 2021.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Senior\*

My "Congratulations" should read:

\_\_\_\_\_  
From: \_\_\_\_\_

\*An acknowledgment of your sponsorship will be sent to the senior.



LEADING  
LIFETIME  
LEARNING

Nicholas E. Ceglarek, Ed.D., Superintendent  
Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District  
1101 Red Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684  
231-922-6200 FAX: 231-922-6270  
www.tbaisd.org

October 23, 2020

Dear Traverse Bay Area regional school community,

On behalf of a consortium of area leaders representing the medical, educational, public health and business communities of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties, we commend the members of these communities for their perseverance and extraordinary patience as we continue to work through this pandemic. While safety remains a top priority, it is a privilege for us to witness the energy in our schools and throughout our business community the past few months. Each day, we are reminded of how critical our combined efforts are in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our communities safe and open.

As we approach the holiday season we wish to remind everyone to remain vigilant and continue to follow guidance and safety measures from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

With the recent increase of positive cases across the region, health officials are urging families to consider modified holiday celebrations that are small, local, and encourage wearing of masks, social distancing, and proper hygiene practices to help slow the spread of the virus. Our goal is to stay safe, keep our schools open face-to-face, and our businesses and economy moving forward.

Below is guidance from MDHHS and the CDC to consider before, during and after a gathering to stay safe this holiday season.

- [MDHHS Celebrating the Holidays During COVID-19](#)
- [MDHHS tips on TRAVELING during the holiday season](#)
- CDC [Know Your Travel Risk](#)
- CDC [Know When to Delay Your Travel to Avoid Spreading COVID-19](#)

Our schools are ready to transition to distance learning if the need does arise, and we will continue to work in partnership and follow public health data in the months ahead. We urge you to minimize group gatherings, continue to monitor for symptoms, and practice [basic preventative measures](#) to prevent the spread of viruses such as COVID-19, influenza and the common cold.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we **can** slow the spread of COVID-19! Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

Respectfully,

Dr. Nick Ceglarek, Traverse Bay Area ISD Superintendent with community partners listed below

### **Regional Health Officers**

Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director and Lisa Peacock, Health Officer  
Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department and Health Department of Northwest MI  
Kevin Huges, District Health Department #10 Health Officer  
Wendy Hirschenberger, Grand Traverse County Health Department Health Officer  
Dr. Michael Collins, Grand Traverse County Health Department Medical Director  
Dr. Christine Nefcy, Munson Healthcare Chief Medical Officer

### **Regional School Leadership**

Rich Satterlee, Alba Public School Superintendent  
Mark Brenton, Bellaire Public Schools Superintendent  
Amiee Erfourth, Benzie County Central Schools Superintendent  
Jessica Harrand, Buckley Community Schools Superintendent  
Mike Hill, Crawford School - Excelsior District #1 Superintendent  
Julie Brown, Elk Rapids Public School Superintendent  
Josh Rothwell, Forest Area Community Schools Superintendent  
Jeff Tousley, Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools Superintendent  
Jon Hoover, Glen Lake Community Schools Superintendent  
Jim Coneset, Grand Traverse Academy Superintendent  
Mike Buell, Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools Superintendent  
Robert Walker, Greenspire School Head of School/Superintendent  
Trey Devey, Interlochen Center for the Arts President  
Terry Starr, Kalkaska Public Schools Superintendent  
Dr. Keith Smith, Kingsley Area Schools Superintendent  
Arden Wilson, Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy Head of School  
Stephanie Long, Leland Public Schools Superintendent  
Jeff DiRosa, Mancelona Public Schools Superintendent  
Sue Frost-Mayse, New Covenant Christian Academy  
Darci Long, North Central Academy Principal  
Neil Wetherbee, Northport Public Schools Superintendent  
Renee Kolle and Danielle Clayton, Old Mission Peninsula School Principals  
Lisa Medina, St. Mary Hannah School Principal  
Megan Glynn, St. Mary Lake Leelanau Catholic School Principal  
Casey Petz, Suttons Bay Public Schools Superintendent  
Michele Shane, The Children's House Head of School  
Rob Hansen, The Leelanau School Head of School  
Jill Vignski, The Pathfinder School Head of School  
Dr. John VanWagoner, Traverse City Area Public Schools Superintendent  
Tyler VanSchepen, Traverse City Christian School Superintendent  
Kyle Smith, Trinity Lutheran School  
Jeremiah Stieve, Woodland School Director

### **Community Leadership**

Nate Alger, Grand Traverse County Administrator  
Warren Call, Traverse Connect President and CEO

## 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](http://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](#)

