

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

Tuesday, September 12-Friday, October 6 – NWEA Testing Window

Thursday, September 21 – Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 pm, Lecture Hall

Monday-Friday, September 25-29 – Secondary Homecoming Week

Saturday, September 30 – High School Homecoming Dance

We've done it again!

Grand Traverse Academy has earned high national and metro area rankings in [U.S. News & World Report's 2023 Best High Schools](#), in both the high school and charter categories. GTAHS ranks in the top 19.5 percent of the nearly 18,000 ranked public high schools in the nation, the top 10 percent of the 1,166 ranked Michigan high schools and #9 of the 147 charter high schools in Michigan. We have earned this recognition a total of eight times, including 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Carpool notes

With two weeks of school under our belts, carpool has been very smooth! Just a couple reminders to keep it safe for students, parents and staff:

- When dropping off students in the south lot in the morning, please use the carpool lane. Idling at the edge of the parking lot causes congestion for drivers who are parking and creates a safety hazard for pedestrians.
- In the afternoon, parents of high school students may use the parking lot for pickup vs. going through the carpool lane. Be sure to park in a marked space vs. idling in the lot.
- Please observe the posted speed limit on school grounds and watch for pedestrians. As the mornings get darker, walkers will be harder to see.

With everyone's cooperation and understanding, we can continue to keep our carpool process smooth, efficient and safe for all!

Mustang spirit wear shirts available

If your child is in need of a spirit wear shirt for Fridays,



Mr. Thomas's 6th grade class has a few tie-dyed T's left from their class business last spring! Sizes available are youth small, medium and large and adult small and medium. They are priced at \$15 each

and can be purchased in the Purple 3 classroom on Friday mornings from 7:45-8:15 while they last.

College representatives to visit GTA

Juniors and seniors are invited to visit with



representatives and gather information about various colleges and universities right here at GTA! A sign-up sheet is available outside the Secondary Office. Meetings will take place in MPR 1 & 2

on the dates and times below.

College	Date	Time
Michigan Tech	September 20	8:00 am
Hillsdale College	September 20	10:45 am
Notre Dame	September 21	8:50 am
Central Michigan	October 6	9:20 am
Grand Valley	October 9	8:00 am
Calvin University	October 12	9:50 am
U of M	October 13	8:00 am
Aquinas College	October 13	8:30 am
LSSU	October 19	9:00 am
NMU	October 26	9:00 am

"Pink Out" volleyball game planned

Plans are underway for our annual Pink Out volleyball game, set for **Tuesday, October 24** in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The JV team will play at 5:30 pm and the varsity game starts at 7:00. The evening will include several fun activities, including a silent auction! Special Pink Out t-shirts are available for purchase now and will be delivered in time for the game. An order form was given to all students but one is attached to this newsletter in case it didn't make it home. The shirts are just \$10 each and may be worn on Fridays as spirit wear. **Orders are due by Friday, September 22.** Feel free to order shirts for the whole family, as profits will be donated to the Smith Family Breast Center.



Carpool help needed

A GTA dad is looking for someone to assist him with afternoon pick-up a couple of days a week. He lives on Pintail Drive, off of North Spider Lake Road. If you can help, please call Tom at (231) 218-1250.

There's an app for that!

If you haven't already downloaded our app, get it free at the Apple Store (<https://apple.co/3bCRz87>) or on Google Play (<https://bit.ly/3h9NIX0>). You'll find quick access to staff contact information, PowerSchool, the event calendar and more – plus, you'll receive news and important notifications, such as snow days, right at your fingertips!



Find us on social media

Grand Traverse Academy has both a [public Facebook page](#) and a [private Facebook group](#) for parents who are looking for school-related carpool assistance or wish to buy or sell gently used uniform pieces. Please find and like our Grand Traverse Academy public page to keep up with events and news. When joining the private group, we ask that you **please provide the names and grades of your GTA children for safety and**

identification purposes, and review and agree to the group rules for approval. Doing so will speed up the approval process.

Authorization needed for all medication

As we begin the new school year, please know that according to state law, we must have a physician's authorization in order to administer prescription medication to your children at school, and a parent's authorization for over-the-counter medications (including herbal homeopathic remedies). *The only exception is over-the-counter cough drops, which students may carry with them at school as needed.* Authorization forms are available in either office and can be faxed to and from the doctor's office if necessary. Completed forms should be dropped off in the office *by a parent*, along with the labeled medication. Thank you for your understanding.



Family Council volunteers needed

The GTA Family Council, a group of parent volunteers, is looking for parents and guardians who are interested in lending a hand for various school activities throughout the year. Check out the attached flyer and add your name to the list (contact information is provided at the bottom). Many hands make light work!

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 for 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. It's easy to participate – simply save your receipts and deposit them in the box just to the right of the Elementary Office door.

Box Tops for Education. Box Tops for Education offers a way to support our school with the purchase of many grocery items: The [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!

Have a question?

No question is too silly or trivial to ask! Here's where to go for a fast answer to general questions about all things GTA, like uniforms, school pictures, carpool procedures, school hours and more:

Elementary Office: (231) 995-0665

Secondary Office: (231) 932-6038

info@mygta.us

For answers to more specific questions, please refer to the [list on our website](#). We want to be sure that you know exactly where to go for accurate answers.

Online payments available on GTA website

Parents are encouraged to use our convenient and secure [Pay Online feature](#) on the GTA website to purchase milk passes, pay athletics and materials fees, preschool tuition, Quality Care fees and more! Note that if you add an item to your bag and change your mind, you must continue to the checkout page to remove it from the shopping cart. Likewise, if you want to add another item to your bag, you must do so from the checkout page as well.



Safe. Loved. Learning

GTA Family Council

WHO WE ARE: GTA Family Council is made up of all of the parents, guardians, and caregivers within the GTA Community. If you have a student at GTA, no need to “join” because you are already a part of Family Council!

OUR MISSION: To create opportunities for families to get to know each other, for our students to have fun outside of school with their peers, and for the wonderful teachers and staff of GTA to feel appreciated.

WHAT WE DO:

- “Family Fun” events such as the back to school picnic, a fall fun event, movie nights, sledding, ice skating parties, etc.
- Conference night dinners for the teachers and staff
- Recycled uniform sales
- GTA staff holiday gift drive
- End of year staff luncheon
- Read-a-thon
- Gifts for staff birthdays, and more!

FAQ's:

- **Is there is a minimum commitment level?** Absolutely not! Get involved if, when, and how you are able.
- **Do I have to attend meetings?** We have 2-3 meetings a year. If you can make it...great! It is a wonderful way to get to know other parents. If not, no worries. As long as you are signed up to receive emails, you will be in the know of what is coming up and ways you can get involved.
- **I don't have a lot of extra time so can my involvement really make a difference?** YES! We want you to be involved in any capacity that you are able. Even if you can't help, just by coming to the events and showing support, you are making a contribution.

CONTACT INFO: To get connected, simply send your name and email to: Kristin Boogaard kristinboogaard@gmail.com 616.328.4646.

Pink Out T-Shirt Order Form



Student Name _____

Teacher or Advisor _____

\$10 per shirt

Order form and payment due on Friday, September 22, 2023

Shirts may be worn on Fridays as spirit wear

Order shirts for the whole family!

**Profits will be donated to Munson's Smith Family Breast Center in recognition
of Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Please indicate the quantity beside each size:

YS _____ YM _____ YL _____ YXL _____ AS _____ AM _____ AL _____ AXL _____ A2XL _____

Number of shirts _____ x \$10 = _____

Checks should be payable to Grand Traverse Academy