

Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dates to remember

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

Monday, October 2 – GTA's 23rd Birthday!



Saturday, September 30 – High School Homecoming Dance, 7:00-10:00 pm, Big Gym

Wednesday, October 4 – Fall Student Count Day

Monday, October 9-Friday, October 13 – PSAT Testing Window (Grade 11)

Thursday, October 12 – Family Council Meeting, 6:30-7:30 pm, Onyx 2 (in the first hallway to the right, inside the Secondary entrance)

Friday, October 27 – Travel Club Trunk or Treat Fundraiser, 5:00-7:00 pm, GTA South Parking Lot

Grand Traverse Academy voted “Simply the Best”!

We are honored to have been voted **Best School** for the



second consecutive year in the *Traverse City Record-Eagle* “Simply the Best of Northern Michigan” awards! What's more, GTA was voted **Best Workplace** and **Best Teachers Runner-Up**, winning 21 spots in that category, led by Elementary Art Teacher **Jennie Wildner** in the #2 spot. We humbly thank our community for your show of support.

Family Council kick-off meeting planned

Parents and caregivers with students at GTA are invited to come to the GTA Family Council's first meeting of the year, planned for **Thursday, October 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Onyx 2 classroom** (in the first hallway to the right, inside the Secondary entrance). This is a great way to get to know other GTA parents and see the events and volunteer opportunities that the Family Council has in store this school year! [RSVP by following this link](#) or contact Kristin Boogaard at (616) 328-4646 or kristinboogaard@gmail.com.

Scholastic Book Fair planned, shopping made easier than ever!

No more crumpled bills and loose change at this year's



Scholastic Book Fair, scheduled for **the week of October 16!** Say “hello” to eWallet, a convenient and secure digital payment account. Setting up an eWallet for your child enables them to shop effortlessly

during this fun event. It's simple: just visit our [Scholastic website](#), create an account and add funds. The account can even be shared with family and friends who may want to contribute to your child's reading experience. Any leftover funds may be saved for the next book fair if you like. Parent volunteers are needed at the book fair; see below for details and sign-up information.

Book fair volunteers needed

GTA will host a [Scholastic Book Fair](#) the week of October 16 and we need your help in making it a success. Fair hours for students/parents are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday during the school day (plus after hours on Thursday) and Friday until 1:00 pm. Help is also needed on Monday morning for setup. If you can help, please sign up on our [Fall Book Fair volunteer sheet](#). If you have not helped at a book fair in the past, it is a fun and rewarding experience! We look forward to seeing you.

Veterans Day celebration t-shirts for sale

The GTA National Junior Honor Society will be sponsoring our annual Veterans Day celebration **on Friday, November 10**. New this year is a t-shirt sale, with the proceeds going to a local veterans' non-profit organization. The shirts come in short- or long-sleeved styles and youth or adult sizes.



Purchases are made directly through [Custom Ink](#) and orders for GTA students and their families will be delivered to the school for distribution. Those who do not have a GTA student may have their order delivered directly to their home. We hope that everyone will wear their shirt for the event to show our American pride and gratitude to our veterans. These shirts may be worn as spirit wear for the rest of the school year. Watch for details about our Veterans Day celebration coming soon!

Attention, parents of college-bound students

Ten of Michigan's 15 public universities have announced an initiative to streamline the college admissions process, boost enrollment and help students to realize their educational potential. The Michigan Assured Admission Pact (MAAP) will admit high school graduates who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale. Participating schools for Fall 2024 admission are Central Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University, Oakland University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, University of Michigan-Flint, and Wayne State University. To learn more about the Michigan Assured Admission Program, visit MAAP.org.

Absences and late arrivals

If your child will be absent from school or coming in late, please contact the appropriate office at your earliest convenience: For Secondary, hsoffice@mygta.us or (231) 932-6038; for Elementary, elementaryoffice@mygta.us or (231) 995-0665.

Get to know the GTA website

Grand Traverse Academy's [website](#) is full of important and helpful information for parents and students alike! We'll highlight a different section or page from time to time to help you become familiar with it.

Uniforms. Find the current dress code for school uniforms by grade level, as well as contact information and online ordering websites for our two uniform suppliers conveniently located on the [Uniforms page](#) (under the Parents heading on the site menu).

Choir spirit wear shirts available now

GTA choir members are invited to show their Mustang



spirit with a shirt designed just for them! T-shirts and hooded sweatshirts are available and may be worn on spirit days throughout the school year. An order form is attached to this newsletter and is due back, with payment, by

Wednesday, October 11. Cash or checks are accepted and checks should be payable to Grand Traverse Academy.

Mustang Roundup

The following athletic events are scheduled for this weekend:

Friday, September 29 – Junior High Volleyball, 4:30-6:30 pm, Traverse City Christian School



Saturday, September 30 – GTA Cross Country Muddy Relays, 9:30 Junior High/10:45 Varsity, GTA Campus

For a full schedule of athletic events by season and sport, visit the [Practice & Event Schedules webpage](#) and click on the sport and grade level of your choice. Calendars may be printed or viewed by week, month or as a list by clicking on the appropriate option at the upper right corner. Events are listed by opponent, and details (including a location map) are available by clicking on the calendar item. Our Mustangs love to have fans to support and cheer them on!

Save the date

The GTA Travel Club is hosting a fall harvest-themed "Trunk or Treat" fundraiser on **Friday, October 27 from 5:00-7:00 pm in the south parking lot**. Start thinking of your family-friendly trunk decorations and [register to participate here](#)! If you want to participate but not with your vehicle, candy donations are also welcome. Watch for more details coming soon!

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
Central Michigan University	October 6	9:20 am
Grand Valley State University	October 9	8:00 am
Calvin University	October 12	9:50 am
University of Michigan	October 13	8:00 am
Aquinas College	October 13	8:30 am
Lake Superior State University	October 19	9:00 am
Northern Michigan University	October 26	9:00 am

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 tees 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.

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!

French Toast School Box announces sale

Now is a great time to stock up on school uniform



pieces at French Toast. They're offering 30 percent off everything from October 6-12! To place your order, [visit our school store here](#) and use offer code FTDEALDAYS. Offer

expires October 13 at 3:00 am EST.

Fire Department plans open house

The Grand Traverse Metro Fire Station #9 (110 High



Lake Road) is holding an open house on **Saturday, October 7 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm**. There will be fun and food for adults and kids alike, including first responder

truck tours, an obstacle course and a visit from Sparky the Fire Dog. Take your turn at dunking a fire chief in the dunk tank for \$5 – proceeds benefit the Safe Neighborhood Smoke Alarm Program. For details, see the attached flyer.

Have a question?

No question is too silly or trivial to ask! Here's where to go for fast answers 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

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.

Choir Spirit Wear Order Form



t-shirts and sweatshirts are navy with silver and white writing
(as pictured above)

Pricing

T-shirts: \$12

Hooded Sweatshirts: \$26

Both can be worn on any spirit wear days throughout the school year.

Please fill your quantity in on the appropriate size line.

If you are ordering both, make sure to fill out **both** size lines..

Orders and payment may be turned in to Mrs. Diephouse

Orders are due Wednesday October 11, 2023

Cash or Check. Please make checks payable to GTA

FULL NAME _____

Youth T-Shirt Sizes

Write in quantity on size> M _____ L _____

Youth Hooded Sweatshirt Sizes

Write in quantity on size> M _____ L _____

Adult T-Shirt Sizes

Write in quantity> S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

Adult Hooded Sweatshirt Sizes

Write in quantity> S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____ 3XL _____

TOTAL \$ _____

A festive autumn-themed poster for a 'Trunk or Treat' event. The background features a stylized sun with yellow and orange rays emanating from behind a large orange pumpkin. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with orange, blue, and yellow segments. Scattered around are various autumn leaves in shades of orange, red, and brown. A small red squirrel is perched on the right side of the pumpkin. The text 'Trunk' is written in a large, elegant cursive font, while 'OR TREAT' is in a bold, blocky font. The event details are listed in a dark brown banner at the bottom.

Trunk

OR

TREAT

OCTOBER 27, 2023

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY

SOUTH PARKING LOT