

# Connections

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR GRAND TRAVERSE ACADEMY FAMILIES

## Dates to remember

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER**

**Tuesday-Thursday, January 16-18** – *Secondary Exams*  
(see details below)

**Wednesday, January 17** – *HALF DAY for Secondary Students Only (due to exams)*

**Thursday, January 18** – *HALF DAY for All Students; FREE Family Council Skating Party, 1:00-3:00 pm, Centre ICE Arena (see related story)*

**Friday, January 19** – *NO SCHOOL, Semester End*

**Monday, January 22** – *Spelling Bee, 6:00 pm, Silver 1*

**Thursday, January 25** – *International Exchange Night, 5:30-7:00 pm, Onyx 2 (see related story)*

## Enrollment Information Meetings planned

Grand Traverse Academy's Open Enrollment period for the 2024-25 school year has begun **and continues through Thursday, March 7**. Several enrollment information meetings are planned and listed below. Each includes a brief presentation in the Lecture Hall, time for Q & A and a tour of our facilities. If you have friends or family members with school-aged children, we encourage you to invite them to reserve their spot at one of these meetings by calling (231) 995-0665.

### Enrollment Information Meetings

Day	Date	Time
Tuesday	January 23	6:00-7:00 pm
Monday	January 29	6:00-7:00 pm
Tuesday	February 6	9:30-10:30 am
Monday	February 12	6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday	February 22	9:30-10:30 am
Wednesday	February 28	6:00-7:00 pm
Thursday	February 29	9:30-10:30 am
Monday	March 4	10:00-11:00 am
Tuesday	March 5	9:30-10:30 am

## Family Council events planned



The GTA Family Council has been busy planning some fun, family-friendly events you won't want to miss! Be sure to mark your calendars for the following:

**Thursday, January 18** – It's a half day for all students due to the semester end, so why not stop by Centre ICE Arena for a skating party from 1:00-3:00 pm? Centre ICE is located off Hammond Road on Chartwell Drive. Ice time and skate rentals are free of charge but donations to Family Council for future activities will be accepted.

## Snow Day procedures

Grand Traverse Academy follows the decisions of the



Traverse City Area Public Schools (TCAPS) for weather-related closings and will close school

(including Preschool and Quality Care) when TCAPS closes. If school is closed due to weather, elementary and junior high extracurricular activities will be cancelled and decisions about any scheduled high school events will be made and communicated by 12:00 noon. Parents will be notified via email and voicemail messages prior to 6:00 am when possible, and information will be posted on the GTA website and Facebook page. School closings are also announced on local television and radio stations.

## Secondary exams scheduled

First semester exams for junior high and high school students are scheduled for **Tuesday-Thursday, January 16-18**. Note that Wednesday will be a half day for Secondary students, Thursday is a half day for all students and there will be no school for any students on Friday, January 19. A complete exam schedule is attached.

## Mustang Robotics announces Monday Muffins

Secondary students are invited to purchase morning muffins on **Mondays, starting January 22**. A variety of fresh muffins will be available for \$2.00 each in the Multipurpose Room from 7:40-8:00 am. This fundraiser will support robotics travel and activities throughout the school year.



## Health Department screenings scheduled

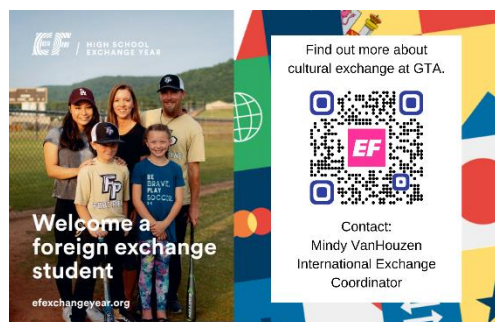
The Grand Traverse County Health Department will administer free, routine vision and hearing tests here at school according to the following schedule:

Grades	Hearing Tests	Vision Tests
Preschool	Week of January 22	
K, 2, 4	Week of January 22	
1, 3, 5, 7, 9		Week of January 22

If you would like to have your child screened and they are not in one of the grades listed, or if you prefer not to have your child's hearing or vision tested, please call the Elementary office at 995-0665.

## International Exchange Night planned

Are you interested in learning about a new country and



culture without having to leave the comfort of home? Or developing a relationship with a young person from

another country that will last a lifetime? Then hosting a foreign exchange student for the 2024-25 school year might be just the opportunity you've been waiting for! Join Mrs. VanHouzen on **Thursday, January 25, from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Onyx 2 classroom** to learn more. She'll have current host parents as well as a GTA exchange student on hand to describe the experience from their own perspectives. Contact Mrs. VanHouzen at [vanhouzenm@mygta.us](mailto:vanhouzenm@mygta.us) with questions or to reserve

your spot, or scan the QR code above to get started! Families do not need to have secondary-aged students to qualify as a host home, as younger students can enjoy the benefits too.

## GTA offers online reporting tool

If you or your child have a safety concern at school, the best and most effective way to address it is to contact a school official. If you are more comfortable sharing information anonymously, please remember that Grand Traverse Academy has joined forces with STOPit Solutions. This online reporting tool is designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse and other at-risk behaviors and actions before they escalate. STOPit provides students and parents access to the STOPit mobile app to make anonymous reports that alert school administrators to issues of concern. Privacy of student data is always a priority. We encourage all parents to read the attached flyer, view the [STOPit training video](#) and download the app with your family today from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#). Questions may be directed to [Mrs. VanHouzen](#), [Mrs. Patrzik](#) or [Mrs. Floering](#).



## Mustang Roundup

The following athletic events are scheduled for this weekend:



**All athletic events for tonight, January 12, have been cancelled due to weather.**

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. Our Mustangs love to have fans to support and cheer them on!

## Student absences and late arrivals

If your child will be absent from school or arriving late, please contact the appropriate office at your earliest convenience:

Secondary: [hsoffice@mygta.us](mailto:hsoffice@mygta.us) or (231) 932-6038  
Elementary: [elementaryoffice@mygta.us](mailto:elementaryoffice@mygta.us)  
or (231) 995-0665

## Easy ways to raise funds for GTA

**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.



**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.



## Interesting fact

If a child's entire circulatory system—we're talking veins, arteries, and capillaries—were laid out flat, it would stretch for more than 60,000 miles, according to the Franklin Institute. By the time we reach adulthood, our bodies have become home to approximately 100,000 miles of blood vessels. That's just one of the mind-blowing facts that sound made up but aren't.



Source: <https://www.rd.com/list/interesting-facts>

## Ongoing events

**Secondary Robotics Team Meetings** – Fridays from 12:15-3:00 pm, Copper 1

**Girls Who Code Club Meetings** – Tuesdays from 3:45-4:30 pm, Copper 1

**Secondary Muffin Sales** – Mondays from 7:40-8:00 am in the MPR; \$2.00 each starting January 22

**Secondary Bagel Sales** – Wednesdays from 7:30-8:00 am in the MPR; \$2.00 each

**Secondary Doughnut Sales** – Fridays from 7:40-8:00 am in MPR 1 & 2; \$2.00 each

**Secondary Bake Sales** – January 10 & 24, February 7, March 6, April 17, May 15

**Elementary Pizza Days** – Every other Wednesday, as follows: January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 6 & 20, April 10 & 24 and May 8 & 22 (order and pay by the preceding Monday using forms sent home on off weeks), \$2.00 per slice of pepperoni or cheese

**Secondary Pizza Days** – Every Thursday (order and pay by Tuesdays using forms provided in Advisory classrooms), \$1.50 per slice of cheese or pepperoni

GTA Family Council presents:

# ICE SKATING!

Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM – 3 PM

Centre Ice Arena

The event is free, includes skate rental, with donations being accepted at the door. Money raised will benefit GTA Family Council and will be used to help fund future school activities! Hope to see you there!

Please note: Limited number of rental skates available.  
Please bring your own skates if you have them.



Grand  
Traverse  
Academy



# **GTA Secondary School Exams**

## **January 16 -18, 2024**

### **First Semester Exams**

#### **Tuesday, January 16: Exam Review/Some Exams Begin**

Most classes will review, and some will begin their exam. Teachers have communicated the schedule with students.

#### **Wednesday, January 17: Half Day of Exams (secondary students only)**

##### *High School*

8:05-9:00	1st Hour
9:05-10:00	2nd Hour
10:05-11:00	3rd Hour
11:05-12:05	4th Hour

##### *Junior High*

8:05-9:05	1st Hour
9:10-10:10	2nd Hour
10:15-11:15	3rd Hour
11:20-12:10	Advisory/Exam Make-up

#### **Thursday, January 18: Half Day of Exams**

##### *High School*

8:05-8:35	Advisory
8:40-9:40	7th Hour
9:45-10:45	8th Hour
10:50-11:50	9th Hour

##### *Junior High*

8:05-8:40	Advisory
8:45-9:45	7th Hour
9:50-10:50	8th Hour
10:55-11:55	9th Hour

#### **January 19: No School for any students**

Semester Break- Enjoy and be safe!  
See you on Monday, January 22nd.

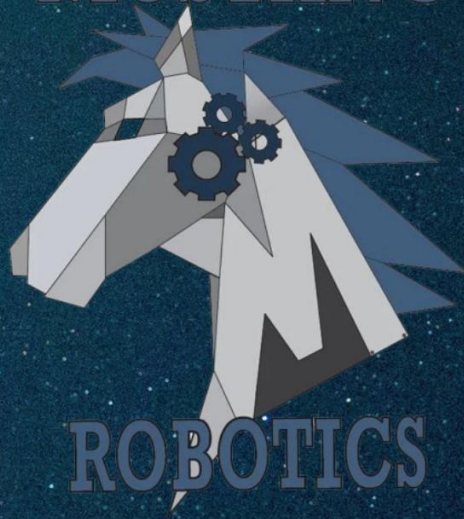
\*In the event of a snow day on Wednesday, Wednesday's exams will take place on Monday, January 22nd during regular class time.

\*\*In the event of a snow day on Thursday, Thursday's exams will take place on Monday during regular class time. In the unlikely event of a snow day on Wednesday *and* Thursday, Wednesday exams will be Monday and Thursday's exams will be Tuesday.

# MUFFINS!

On Mondays

## MUSTANG



## ROBOTICS



**\$2.00 in the MPR**



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to announce that our school has enrolled with STOPit, by STOPit Solutions

**STOPit** is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors, consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators.

Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features.

Specifically, the program educates students to:

- Recognize the signs of at-risk behaviors
- Take every sign and signal seriously
- Report it anonymously through STOPit App/Web or 24/7 Incident Response Center
- Submit photo or video evidence (App/Web Only)
- Alert designated administrators to issues and risks early, before they escalate

**No personal information is needed to use STOPit.** The only way personally identifiable information will be accessible through STOPit is if a requester voluntarily includes it within the content of a request or message.

Both our school and STOPit are committed to protecting the privacy of student data. STOPit is a signatory to the [Student Privacy Pledge](#), spearheaded by the Future of Privacy Forum and the Software & Information Industry Association. You may review STOPit's [Privacy Policy](#) for details, including more information on how anonymous reporting works.

Students have the power to help put an end to harmful and inappropriate behavior they see online through social media and other means. They can use STOPit to reach out for help if they or a peer are facing a personal crisis or experiencing bullying, abuse, or are otherwise in need of assistance. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

We encourage you to download the STOPit app and search for your students' school using the directory. You can privately ask for help for your student, family, others you care about, or even acquaintances who appear to need help. For a video on how to use STOPit, go to: [Student Training Video](#).

Together, we can make sure everyone in our community gets what they need to thrive. Thank you!

Mindy VanHouzen

Dean of Students

