



April 13, 2018
Volume 19
Issue 31

A Weekly Newsletter
for Grand Traverse Academy
Families

Dates to remember

Friday, April 13 – 5th & 6th Grade Choir Rehearsal, 11:50 am-12:30 pm, Music Room

Secondary Friday School, 12:00-2:00 pm, Bronze 1 & 2

Saturday, April 14 – GTA Mother/Son Event at Incredible Mo's, 10:00 am-12:00 noon

Monday, April 16 – Outdoor Club Celebration, 4:00-5:00 pm, Orange 1

Friday, April 20 – Mustang Madness Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament, Immediately After School, Gyms

Saturday, April 21 – Mustang Derby Dinner & Silent Auction, 6:00-8:00 pm, Big Gym

Monday, April 23 – Family Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Onyx 1

Thursday, April 26 – Prom Resale, 4:00-6:00 pm, Silver 1



Secondary Office, and turn it in to Mrs. Van Houzen by the Wednesday before the event.

Prom dress resale event planned

Does your daughter have formal dresses that she doesn't plan to wear again? Is she going to the prom and would like to save some money on a dress? Here is a great opportunity: Our first ever Prom Resale is planned for **Thursday, April 26** from 4:00-6:00 pm in Silver 1. Dresses, either to sell or donate, should be brought to Ms. Snyder by Tuesday, April 24 to be organized, cataloged and tagged. Questions may be directed to her at snyderk@mygta.us or 932-6935.



Boys' basketball team receives honors

Grand Traverse Academy's varsity boys' basketball team made Class "C" Honorable Mention on the 2017-18 Academic All-State roster, just released by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. Teams must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher to qualify for the list. Way to go, Mustangs!

Junior-Senior Prom announced

This year's Junior-Senior Prom, an "Under the Sea" Gala, takes place on **Saturday, May 12** at Blue Bridge Event Center in Grawn (1950 Ellis Road) from 7:00-11:00 pm. Tickets will be available in the Secondary Office beginning Monday, April 16 for \$35 per person.

Students who wish to bring a guest from another school must complete a Dance Visitor's Form, available in the

Summer School offered

Secondary students who receive less than a "C" in a class have the opportunity to earn credit by attending GTA's Credit Recovery Summer School. Two two-week sessions are available at a cost of \$175 each. Due to the time constraints of Summer School, students will need special permission to be eligible to recover math or Spanish courses. On-line options are also available at parent expense. Details and a registration form, due back by May 18, are attached. Please contact Stephanie Patziks, guidance counselor, at 932-6024 or patziks@mygta.us with any questions.

Test-Out dates announced

High school students who are interested in testing out of a class are asked to turn in their application(s) to Mrs. Patrzik no later than **Friday, April 20**. Materials pick-up for Language Arts classes will be on Friday, May 4 from 12:15-1:00 pm in the Secondary Office. All work, including presentations, projects, papers, and/or testing, is scheduled to be turned in on Friday, May 18 at 1:00 pm. Test-Out sessions will be at Grand Traverse Academy on Friday, May 18 from 1:00-3:00 pm in Onyx 2. Important details are included in the attached application form.

Fourth graders participate in special program

On Friday, April 6, GTA 4th graders were invited to



attend the "Pathfinder" program with student volunteers from Lake Superior State University. They rotated through various hands-on activities, all related to geography and mapping. They learned about legends on a map, worked with compasses, drew their own maps, and even created different shapes using map directions. All students were given an official certificate of completion at the end of the program. Thank you, LSSU students, for such a fun and educational day!

Wanted: Three-on-three basketball teams

Our popular Mustang Madness athletic department fundraiser will take place both **Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21**. On Day 1, Secondary students are invited to form a three-person team for a Three-on-Three Tournament, set for Friday after school in the gyms. There will be both a junior high and a high school division, with a \$60 entry fee per team. Any combination of students and staff are welcome, and spectators are appreciated! Snacks and beverages will be available in the concessions area and a bounce house and obstacle course will be set up in the courtyard for a \$1 admission price.

Don't wait – get your tickets now for dinner/silent auction athletic fundraiser

Our first annual Mustang Derby Dinner & Silent Auction, set for **Saturday, April 21 from 6:00-8:00 pm**



(Day 2 of Mustang Madness), is shaping up to be a big hit! This event is sponsored by the GTA Athletic Boosters and the Mustang athletic

department. A delicious southern-style meal will be provided by El Dorado Catering and served from 6:00 - 7:15 pm, with the silent auction closing at 7:45. Some of the auction items contributed so far include a **Michigan necklace from Miner's North, a signed jersey from Carolina Panthers' Cam Newton, a one-hour massage from Spinal Solutions Chiropractic, two sessions with a trainer at TC Barbell, and a skating party with rentals for 50 at Centre ICE**. Come dressed in your Derby best for a chance to win a prize for best dressed, best Derby hat and more! **Tickets are \$25 each or \$45 per couple, and are on sale in the Athletic Office** (at the curved wall near the Big Gym). Why not invite your friends and fill a table? Sponsorships are available for \$250, which gets you or your organization a sign in our gym for a full year. Your support of Mustang Athletics and Boosters projects are greatly appreciated! If you have any questions about the event, please check the GTA Athletics Boosters website at mygtaab.weebly.com or send them a message at gtaathleticboosters@gmail.com.

Auction items needed

Part of the success of our first annual Mustang Derby Dinner & Auction is the number of donated auction items we receive. If your business or employer is interested in donating a gift basket, service, gift card or merchandise to help support Mustang athletics, contact Shelley Alejandro at 932-6977 or alejandros@mygta.us. Don't be afraid to get creative! Can you bake really good pies? How about a gift certificate for one homemade pie per month for a year? Are you great at Spanish? Offer some summer tutoring sessions for a student. The possibilities are endless!

2018 Spring Sing performances scheduled

Spring Sing 2018 is scheduled for next **Tuesday, April 17** for Lower Elementary, and **Thursday, April 19** for Middle Elementary. First and second graders will present "Sing across America!," a collection of songs that includes many childhood favorites and folk songs from all parts of the United States. Third and fourth graders will perform "Rock 'n' Roll Forever! How It All Began." This celebration of the history of rock 'n' roll includes music of the 1950's and 60's from musicians like Little Richard, Elvis and the Beach Boys.

Date	Classrooms	Time
Tuesday, April 17	Bohrer, Flores, Houston, Kessel	6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 17	Adams, Grant, Oster, Wood	7:00 pm
Thursday, April 19	Cherup, Dawkins, Kipke, Medford-Hoffman	6:00 pm
Thursday, April 19	Deegan, M. Lazar, Holfels, Wilson	7:00 pm

All performances will take place in the Small Gym and are free and open to the public. Please join us!

Spring assessments continue

Standardized testing for students in grades 3-11 continues as follows:

Date	Test
April 17	8 th Grade M-Step
April 18	8 th Grade M-Step (headphones needed)
April 30	Grades 3, 4 & 6 M-Step
May 1	7 th Grade M-Step
May 2	7 th Grade M-Step (headphones needed)

It is especially important during this time that students arrive at school promptly in the morning. Plenty of rest the night before and a high protein, low carbohydrate, low sugar breakfast will help them stay alert and focused. Other tips to help your child prepare and reduce any test anxiety are attached to this newsletter.



If your child will be late for school or absent for the day, please notify the office by 8:30 am. Parents will be

called to verify any unexcused absences after that time.

Elementary 995-0665 / Secondary 932-6038

Ongoing events

Secondary Pizza Sales – Tuesdays during Junior High & High School Lunches (\$1.50 per slice – tickets must be purchased in advance Tuesday mornings)

NHS Donut Sales – Fridays, 7:40 am, Outside Secondary Office (\$1.00 each)

Secondary Taco Sales – Thursdays during Junior High & High School Lunch (\$1.50 each – tickets must be purchased in advance Thursday mornings)

Med Club Muffin Mondays – Every Monday Morning outside the Secondary Office (\$1.50 each)

Tie-Dyed T-Shirt Sales – Daily, 8:00-8:25 am, Elementary Wing Entrance

Key Club Meetings – Every Thursday, 7:40-8:05 am, Silver 3 (high school students)

Builders Club Meetings – First & Third Thursdays of the Month, 3:45-4:15 pm, MPR 4 (junior high students)

NJHS Meetings – April 18, May 16

Student-Run Credit Union – May 11 in Elementary Lobby (no make-ups for snow days); 8:00-8:30 am, Elementary Lobby

Public invited to Career-Tech Center open house

Join in the fun and games while you explore all 24 CTC programs at the second annual CTC EXPO & Community Open House on **Wednesday, May 2 from 4:00-7:30 pm**. The event will include a pig roast, live music, a car raffle, a petting zoo, children's activities, a bake sale, and a silent auction, with proceeds benefitting student scholarships. The Career-Tech Center is located at 880 Parsons Road in Traverse City. For more information, call Kris Wendland at 922-6278.

**26TH OF
APRIL**

PROM RESALE

DO YOU HAVE ANY FORMAL
DRESSES IN YOUR CLOSET THAT
YOU HAVE ONLY WORN ONCE?
HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE
SOME MONEY JUST BY CLEANING
OUT YOUR CLOSET!

ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR A
PROM DRESS BUT DON'T WANT
TO SPEND A LOT OF MONEY?

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

**4-6 PM
SILVER 1**



**Grand Traverse Academy
2017-18 Test-Out Application Form**

Complete this application and return it to Mrs. Patrzik no later than Friday, April 20, 2018

Name of Student (please print clearly)

Course Name (please print clearly)

Credit Hours (circle one): ½ 1

Students are not eligible to “Test Out” of a course in which they are currently enrolled or have previously failed

Language Arts Classes require coursework which needs to be completed prior to the test-out date. Material pick-up for Language Arts classes will be on Friday, May 4 from 12:15-1:00 pm in the Secondary Office. All work, including presentations, projects, papers, and/or testing is scheduled to be turned in on Friday, May 18 at 1:00 pm.

Language Arts Material Pick-Up

Friday, May 4
12:15-1:00 pm
Secondary Office

Test-Out sessions will be at Grand Traverse Academy on the following day and time:

Friday, May 18
1:00-3:00 pm
Onyx 2

AGREEMENT

I understand that the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) administered in the spring of Grade 11 is mandated by the State of Michigan for every public school student. Testing out of a course may affect MME, and therefore SAT, results due to the lack of participation in classroom activities.

Student Name (please print clearly)

Grade

Home Phone Number

Student Home Address (please print)

City

ZIP Code

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Submit completed application to school counselor by **April 20, 2018**.
Each course Test-Out request requires a completed application – one per course.

Student Testing

What Parents Can Do to Help Students Prepare

As a parent and your child's first teacher, you can help your child understand and prepare for the assessments they will take in school. Here are some points that will help your child perform their best:

Find out the facts: To start, review the Michigan Department of Education's Parent/Student Information at: www.michigan.gov/mstep, which includes valuable information on state assessments and the Spring testing calendar.

Talk to your child about testing: Let them know that assessment is a regular part of learning. Make sure they understand why they are being tested and how it is important to their future.

Keep state tests in perspective: Reduce your child's anxiety about the test by reminding them that it is just one measure of learning, and another way to find out where their academic strengths and weaknesses are. Remind them of what they do well, and how they have improved with effort.

Take a look at the state practice opportunities and encourage your child to practice at home: Not only will this help you better understand the types of questions your child will be answering, it will help familiarize your child with the test format and features. If your child is struggling, let the teacher know so when your child takes the test, the focus can be more on test content and less on test navigation. Links to the below information can be found at www.michigan.gov/mstep in the parent/student section.

- Elementary and middle school M-STEP sample test items can be found at: www.michigan.gov/mstep/
- High School PSAT and SAT sample test items can be found at: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat> or the MDE assessment high school page: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>

Make sure that your child is well rested and eats a high protein, low sugar/carb breakfast: Children who are tired, hungry or have too much sugar and carbs are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.

Remember—Attending school matters: Tests reflect children's overall knowledge and achievement. Missing school means missing instruction.

Meet with your child's teacher as often as possible to discuss progress: Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to increase and reinforce student learning.

Learn what your child should be learning in English language arts, math, social studies, and science: Michigan learning standards can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/mistatestandards>. In addition, the PTA has developed the PTA Parents' Guide to Success, which gives descriptions of the skills and knowledge your child is expected to gain every year.



Testing Facts to Share with Your Child

- Tests are just one way teachers, schools, districts, and states use to measure what students know and how well they are learning what is taught.
- The purpose of a state assessment is to ensure our state's schools do the best job possible in preparing students to become successful, based on a set of agreed-upon standards.
- Because the state test is exactly aligned with Michigan's standards, test questions should be a natural extension of what students are learning every day in their classrooms.