

GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS ARE RECIPIENTS OF THE

Schools of Distinction

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The Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are proud to announce that each of its four schools received the Schools of Distinction honor in December of 2007: Holy Angels Elementary and Preschool, Immaculate Conception Elementary School, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School and St. Francis High School. Only two

other schools in the state have received this honor, and St. Francis High School is the first high school in Michigan to be recognized as a School of Distinction.

This prestigious honor was created by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS) to recognize exemplary schools in the state of Michigan. The MANS organization encompasses 500 schools and is comprised of Catholic schools, Christian Schools International and Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod schools.

“Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are trendsetters in Catholic education and the positive result of their hard work impacts the total community. They are truly models for other schools throughout the state.”

– Barbara Stork
MANS Accreditation Director

To compete for this honor, GTACS established the following four goals:

- **IMPROVE STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT** To help gauge academic progress, GTACS participated in the spring 2007 Michigan Merit Exam – a standardized test taken by juniors throughout the state. GTACS ranked among the top ten Catholic schools and was the leader in the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District.
- **INCREASE CHRISTIAN SERVICE** A comprehensive K-12 Christian service curriculum was designed to encourage a variety of ways in which our students can live the Gospel through service to others.
- **IMPLEMENT A CATHOLIC VALUES OF HUMAN SEXUALITY INITIATIVE** This K-12 initiative empowers parents to be teachers in this aspect of their children’s lives by providing them with age-appropriate resources.
- **CREATE A MODEL PROGRAM OF STAFF ORIENTATION AND FAITH FORMATION** Employees are encouraged to live the Four Pillars of the Catholic Faith (Creed, Prayer, Commandments and Sacraments) and reflect Character, Compassion and Commitment in the workplace.

Receiving the Schools of Distinction honor is a wonderful testament to the tireless dedication of the faculty, staff, parents and students. It also reflects the consistent support of the five area parishes, pastors and community at-large. The Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are proud to continue the 130-year tradition of providing high quality, Christ-centered education.

GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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The Difference is Prayer