

***MISSION STATEMENT:** Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.*

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Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.

Please email information for the SF newsletter to Kathy Hunt at khunt@gtacs.org

Please email information for system-wide distribution to Maureen DeYoung at mdeyou@gtacs.org

Christ – Above All Things

From the Principal:

New Schedule Effective March 15th:

The addition of 15 minutes to each school day is both a blessing and a challenge to our schedule. Due to the many factors – short notice, shared facilities for lunch, Mass times, block days, students leaving for TBA – it is difficult to distribute the minutes perfectly. However, our new schedule allows increased instructional time, PLC time (Professional Learning Communities) and intervention time.

The biggest adjustment for our students will be that school will start at 8:20 am every Thursday. (The Thursday block has only three classes which allow this flexibility without losing instructional time. The Friday block has four classes.) We will use this time for PLC work and intervention strategies. Research has shown that student achievement increases dramatically in schools that have highly functioning PLCs. In each department, the teachers discuss units and lessons, create common assessments, review data from both school and national assessment, and share best teaching practices. Excellence in PLCs is one of our three major school goals for this year. Therefore, we are pleased to have the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month to meet in PLCs. Similarly, schools that have intervention time built into the schedule show higher levels of student performance. We will use the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month to provide extra help for our students. A teacher can require a student to be in at 7:50 for re-teaching a concept, finishing class work, or taking a missed test or quiz.

It is our belief that we have made the best use of the time given to us, and we are confident that increases in time where it is needed most will be a boon.

Peace and All Good,

Mr. Erick Chittle

From the Counselor

Happy Friday SF families!

It has been a crazy time here in the guidance office as we have been completing course selection sheets as well as finishing with the MME this week!

All course selections sheets for students in **grades 9-11** should have been returned this week. I hope you had discussions at home regarding classes for next year. Remember I need signatures from mom/dad to give approval for classes next year....we want to keep them included in these big decisions! J If you have not turned in your course selection sheet yet, please get this to the office soon. We would like to begin the scheduling process for next year and we need your input.

JUNIORS....you did a GREAT job testing this week. The MME consisted of three long days of testing and you were just amazing! Thank you all for taking the test seriously, taking your time and adhering to the standardized testing rules. As tiring as this week was, you helped to make it great. Thank you for cleaning up the room upon the completion of each test and for hanging in there even though there were many coughs and sniffles. YOU DID IT!!!!

Next week I will be more available to talk/meet if you have questions about classes for next year, the college application process, or...you just need to talk. Thank you for your patience as I was away from my office in classes and at the testing site. I know I have been away a lot and it feels good to be back. Stop by or set up an appointment if you have questions/concerns.

I updated the scholarship list. Please take a look at the new ones and review some of the old ones too. Deadlines are fast approaching and please remember to give me plenty of time to print a transcript or attach a letter if one is required. Sometimes I cannot get this to you on the same day...but I do try! J

Know I continue to pray for you as we look forward to the Easter celebration. Continue seeking HIS will for your life! It is amazing what can happen when we ask HIM for directions. "Let Jesus Take the Wheel!"

Kiwanis Student of the Month

Congratulations to Taylor Bartlette (12) for being chosen Kiwanis Student of the Month for the month of March.

NHS

All Sophomore's interested in applying to NHS and have a 3.6 GPA should attend a meeting in Mrs. Schmuckals' room on Wednesday, March 16th at lunch.

Downhill Ski News

Girls 6th place in the state academically and the boys 2nd in the state in Division 2

All State selections

3rd team All-State SI Hattie Christie

1st Team All-State GS Stephan Siddall

2nd Team All State SI Stephan Siddall

First time to the All-State Team

3rd team All-State GS Tyler Hanson

Hon Mention All-State Katy Jenkins and Krissie Dressler

Found – Nokia AT & T flip phone silver and black. Call the office at 96-8038 to identify.

YEARBOOKS

Yearbooks will be sold outside the high school office at lunch time. The price is \$60.00. You must preorder your book. This offer at \$60.00 is available only until March 25th!

Jean Day!! March 19th

The Fifth Grade Signature Service trip to Second Harvest Gleaners Food Bank of West Michigan will take place on Saturday May 1st. Next Friday the 19th we will collect money to donate to the Food Bank. Friday March 19th is also the Feast Day of St. Joseph so as part of this Grub Day we encourage students to wear something red

Some Information about Gleaners:

- Gleaners is a regional nonprofit clearinghouse for saved, donated food on its way from the food industry to churches and charity agencies that assist needy people.
- The food they distribute comes from the surpluses of local and national food and grocery products companies.
- Through their seven warehouses, they serve 1,200+ food pantries, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, domestic violence shelters, rescue missions, and other charity agencies across 40 Michigan counties (the western third of the Lower Peninsula and entire Upper Peninsula) who in turn provide that food aid to approximately 400,000 needy residents of West Michigan each year.
- In 2006, they distributed 19.28 million pounds of food and other goods, that's almost a million pounds every 19 days!

The 5th grade will donate their time and energy in working at the Food Bank and will also donate **ALL THE MONEY COLLECTED FROM OUR GRUB DAY** directly to Gleaners. Every \$430 we raise will be used to distribute food to 100 needy families. Last year, we raised approximately \$1000.

Grand Traverse Area Students for Life

Grand Traverse Right to Life is having an oratory contest to be held March 18, 2010 at 6:30 in Kohler auditorium. Students are invited to present a 5-7 minute speech on various life issues. Prizes will be awarded!

Deadline is March 15, 2010. Rules for the contest as well as entry forms are available in the high school office. Help build a culture of life!

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

3/19(Friday) Jean Day for Gleaners

3/22-3/25 (Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Thursday schedule this week)

3/25 (Thursday) Reconciliation at SF Church 10:30

3/26 – 4/5 Spring Break Begins

4/9 (Friday) End of 3rd Quarter

