

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

May the Month of Our Lady:

It is fitting that in the month when new life blossoms from the earth and in the month when we honor and celebrate all mothers, we should venerate Mary, the Mother of God. She has been known from the beginning of the Christian community as not only the mother of Jesus, but also the mother of all believers. As our Catechism declares, “her spiritual motherhood extends to all men whom indeed he came to save” (CCC 506). The great saints and modern Catholic scholars often write about her as the highest point of creation, due to the fact that she was chosen to be bearer of the Son of God. Through her he has his humanity and as part of the Trinity he has his divinity. It is true that the God-Man needed a perfect vessel to bring him into the world. Due to the graces of Christ that she received from her conception she was Immaculate, “preserved immune from all stain or original sin” (CCC 491). This purity granted and maintained by Christ is a beautiful part of our Catholic tradition.

This month in school we highlight Mary. We understand as it says in the book of James, “the prayers of a righteous man are powerful.” The most righteous, that is, the holiest of all humankind was and will remain our Blessed Mother. Her intercessions are heard by her Son who at the cross by giving her to John the Beloved symbolically gave her to all generations. We continue to declare her blessed as it says we are to do in the Gospel of Luke, and we ask for her prayers. It is as Peter Kreeft, a professor and theologian at Boston College, wrote “For the most beautiful thing in the universe is a saint; and Mary is the most perfect saint; Therefore, Mary it she most beautiful thing in the universe” (*Catholic Christianity*, 405).

Mary, Queen of all saints – Pray for us!

Festival of the Arts:

As always Festivals of the Arts left me with goose bumps and smiles. I enjoyed the choir, bands, and the wonderful art. This is an extremely important day for our school family as we celebrate the gifts of many of our students. Thank you to our teachers –

Mrs. Deb Colburn, Mrs. Cress Smith, and Mrs. Holly O, and thank you to our parents who cultivate and encourage these gifts at home.

Peace and Happy Mother's Day,

Mr. Erick Chittle

Christ – Above All Things

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

5/17 (Monday) Mass with Bishop Hebda @ 9:30 followed by speaker Jason Evert @ 11:00.

5/19 (Wednesday) Senior class trip to Empire after lunch

5/20 (Thursday) Sports Faith International Assembly and Awards @ 1:10

5/27 (Thursday) Senior Award Night and NHS Inductions 7:00-8:30 PM (cafeteria)

5/31 (Monday) No School Memorial Day

6/1 (Tuesday) Last day seniors

6/2 (Wednesday) Baccalaureate & Graduation Practice @ 10:00 AM

6/3 (Thursday) Baccalaureate Mass @ St. Francis Parish beginning with prelude music @ 6:30 PM

6/6 Graduation @ 3:00 in the SF Gym

6/7-6/10 EXAM WEEK for 9-11th

Happy Friday!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED – Aspect Foundation is looking to place two students in the fall to attend St. Francis High School. If you are interested in hosting a high school student for next school year, please contact Pam Woolcott at (231) 264-6105 or pam.woolcott@aspectfoundation.org.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Senior Plans/Baccalaureate Mass form (orange) has been handed out to all senior students. Very few of you have turned these forms in yet. These forms are used during the senior awards program and also during Baccalaureate Mass. PLEASE make sure they are returned to the guidance office NO LATER than **Friday, May 7th**.

The following is the AP testing schedule:

May 11, Tuesday, 12 p.m. – Psychology

May 12, Wednesday, 8 a.m. – English Language and Composition

NWEA Testing will continue for 9th and 10th grade students. This testing will continue for the next 4 weeks!

Some of the enrollment deadlines may have already passed, but take a look and see if any of these programs interest you...

MORE SUMMER PROGRAMS:

Penn State Pre-College Programs (sas.upenn.edu/summer/students/highschool)

Loyola Pre-Collegiate Summer Scholars (LUC.edu/summerscholars)

Operation Bentley (May 15 – May 21) ALBION COLLEGE. This is open to juniors and sophomores interested in policy development and local government.
(albion.edu/Bentley)

CMU's Leadership Camp – seniors who have been admitted for Fall 2010 can apply
(reslife.cmich.edu/leadership/leadershipcamp)

Alma College Leadership Academy (JUNIORS) – alma.edu/leadacademy

Lawrence Tech Summer Camps – ltu.edu and look under Summer Programs 2010

Lake Superior State University – Issu.edu/summercamps

Ferris State University Summer Academic Camp www.ferris.edu/summercamps

2010 Constitutional Academy - a six-week distance learning program that culminates in a week-long residential program in Washington, D.C. www.ConstAcademy.org/Guidance

Compass Film Academy – film and acting camps. www.compassfilmacademy.com

A new scholarship list is attached with some upcoming due dates. Take a look at the list and remember to meet the deadlines.

Congratulations to the following Band students who received awards at the Festival of Arts!!

John Phillip Sousa Award – Taylor Bartlette & Josh Kurtz

Director's Award – Amanda Ramirez & Sean Paquet

Esprit De Corps – Paul Britten

Micheal Dendrino's Plaque & Scholarship – David Gallagher

Outstanding Freshman – Brandon Acre

Outstanding Sophomores – Patrick Courson & Alex Quinlan

Outstanding Junior – Matt Kramer

Outstanding Senior – Spencer Schmerheim

Senior Recognitions:

Taylor Bartlette

Paul Britten

Ian English

David Gallagher

Josh Kurtz

Nico Marcantoni

Walter Meeker

Sean Paquet

Amanda Ramirez
Michael Russell
Spencer Schmerheim
Chris Skillman
Tyler Troppman

Outstanding Section – Clarinets – Amanda Ranierz, Kate DeYoung, Jenna Troppman & Brandon Acre

Rene Hoenscheid Recognition of Outstanding Parent Supporter – Gayle Bartlette – “our Band Uniform Mom”

Congratulations to all & Thank YOU!!

SPORTS FAITH INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Please join the SF High School students on Thursday, May 20th at 1:10 pm in the Kohler Auditorium for an exciting presentation.

Pat McCaskey, Co-Owner of the Chicago Bears and Chairman of Sports Faith International, will deliver a motivational talk and also honor Josh Kurtz, Greg Vaughan, and the SF Varsity Football Team.

Sports Faith International is a Chicago-based initiative dedicated to inspiring and transforming our culture through the world of sports. Sports Faith International produces programs for Catholic and mainstream media networks that will feature some of the biggest names in the world of sports. The vision of Sports Faith International is inspired by Pope John Paul II, who was known as “the athlete’s Pope” and also called for the aggressive use of the media to promote the faith and utilize sports as a powerful instrument to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Come O Holy Spirit; fill the hearts of your faithful!

The Faithful of St. Francis, Immaculate Conception, and St. Patrick’s parishes will join Bishop Hebda in the celebration Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 23 at 2:00p.m. in St. Francis Church. Though this is a culmination celebration to our GIFT (Generations in Faith Together) process, **all are welcome and encouraged to join us!** This will be followed by a potluck in the high school gym. May the Eucharistic presence of our Lord, and the coming of His Holy Spirit anew in our lives, cause our hearts to burn within us! Welcome, Bishop Hebda!