

Back to School 2010

Special points of interest:

- Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors final schedules and locker combinations can be picked up on Tuesday, Sept. 7th, from 8:30—2:00. At this time we will collect the locker fee of \$7 and parking permit for any new drivers which is \$20. The parking fee is refunded at the time of graduation.
- All freshmen and transfer students will have an orientation beginning in the Kohler Auditorium on September 7th at 9 a.m.. They will receive their locker combinations, schedules and other helpful information.
- All 9-12 grade students will begin their first day of classes on Wednesday, Sept. 8th. Students may be in the hallways at 7:20 am. Classes begin at 7:50 am and end at 2:42 pm.

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Questions?
Call 946-8038

From the Desk of the SFHS Principal, Mr. Erick Chittle

Good Parents:

Summer Greetings and Peace be with you!

"The specific purpose of a Catholic education is the formation of young men and women who will be good citizens of this world, loving God and neighbor and enriching society with the leaven of the gospel, and who will also be citizens of the world to come, thus fulfilling their destiny to become saints." (*Gravissimum Educationis*, 8). The above quote powerfully sums up our mission at Saint Francis and GTACS. We are continually partnering with the parents to help create holy young men and women. It is our hope that our graduates will courageously fight for what is good, right, and true. They accept all that is beautiful in our world and reject all that is displeasing to God.

We go into this academic year with humility and hope. We are hopeful that our students and staff will grow in their love of God and love of wisdom, truth, and knowledge. We are hopeful that this year will be marked by a rich prayer and Sacramental life. We are hopeful that all success in our academics and extra-curriculars will be attributed to our Lord in humility. It is as Saint Francis declared: "...the greater the gifts and graces that God bestows on us the greater our humility ought to be; for without humility no virtue is acceptable to God" (*The Little Flowers of Saint Francis* 20).

As we start this year I want to recognize the excellent work of our teachers. Their faithfulness to delivering purposeful and standard-based lessons bore fruit last year. For example, our focus on ACT paid off as we raised our composite score over last year with significant jumps in math and science. Further, the religion department set goals for the yearly ACRE test which measures knowledge of the Catholic faith. The results showed increased achievement as our average was 10 points above the national average for Catholic schools. Their ability to set goals and achieve them is what will move our students toward ever higher levels. This type of detailed work will be a constant at Saint Francis as long as we employ great teachers.

In Saint Clare's Chapel, we will offer optional devotions, Mass, adoration, and confession weekly, along with our regular weekly Mass at Saint Francis Church. (Adoration will again be Wednesday; we need parent volunteers for hour or half hour time slots beginning at 8:15am until 2:15pm. If you can commit to this please call the office at 946-8038.)

We are blessed to have Father Bill Lipscomb as GTACS' full time Chaplain. Father Bill has a great love for our students and brings consistent, wise, and priestly presence to all of our schools. Thank you to Bishop Hebda and Father Bill for this blessing.

Schedule for the upcoming year:

There will be two changes for the upcoming school year. First, we have decided that in order to increase the amount of days that each teacher has contact with each student Saint Francis will have a seven period schedule five days a week. The new schedule will have 49 minute periods with a 40 minute lunch. Secondly, we will have **two late starts each month — the first and third Fridays**. This has been proven to be extremely valuable time for our Professional Learning Communities. I have no doubt that our increased achievement is directly correlated to our departments having time to set goals and monitor progress. School will start at 8:35 a.m. on late start Fridays; however, students may be in the building at 7:20 a.m. and a breakfast snack will be for sale in our cafeteria.

I will continue to pray for your children the rest of the summer and ask your prayers for the holiness of our school. Saint Francis, Saint Clare ... Pray for us.

Peace and All Good,

Mr. Erick Chittle
Saint Francis Principal

Say Cheese!
Picture Day is
September 30th.
—————
Homecoming and
Hall of Fame
Ceremony is
September 25th.

Our weekly Mass
will be on
Thursdays at
10:15 a.m. at
St. Francis Parish

Religion Department and English Department

Listed below are the teachers followed by courses taught:

Mrs. Susan Maasberg: 11th Grade (Religion Department Chair) Church History and Social Justice

Mr. Bill Strong: 9th Grade Introduction to Catholicism

Mrs. Trish Zamarron: 10th/12th Grade Old Testament and New Testament, Catholic Apologetics.

(Catholic Apologetics is now a year long course)

Mrs. Cheryl Schmuckal (English Department Chair): Honors Classical Literature and Composition, AP Language and Composition

Mr. Bill Strong: American Literature and Freshman English

Ms. Maria LaCross: Classical Literature and Com-

position (including Honors), Freshman English, (including Honors), and Yearbook.

Mrs. Meegan Feil: AP Literature and Composition

High School Support Staff

Mrs. Beth Maday, Counselor

Mrs. Kathy Hunt, Secretary

Mrs. Lynn Mead, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Tom Hardy, Athletic Director

Mr. Keith Haske, Dean of Students

Mr. Greg Vaughan, Academic Assistance Center



Math Department and Library

Mrs. Molly Klettner: (Math Department Head) Algebra 2, Honors Algebra 2, College Prep. Algebra and A.P. Calculus.

Mr. Tim Donahey: Pre-Calculus, Geometry, Honors Geometry, and Algebra 2.

Mr. Greg Vaughan: Mr. Vaughan will team teach both Algebra 1 and 2 .

We are in the process of hiring an Algebra 1 teacher. Mr. Andy MacTavish has accepted a position with a different school. We wish him God's blessings and thank him for his service to our school.

Mrs. Carol Niemi: (Librarian) Mrs. Niemi and friends have updated the library with some new desks, computers and paint. Thank you, Mrs. Niemi!

Science Department and Social Studies

Listed below are the teachers followed by courses taught:

Mr. Frank Paladino (Science Department Chair): Physical Science, Physics, Chemistry and Honors Chemistry

Mr. Steve Tavener: Anatomy

Mrs. Susan Maasberg: Biology and Honors Biology

Mr. David Peck (Social Studies Department Chair): United States History, Government, Economics, International Terrorism and Psychology.

Mr. Rodney Taplin: World History, United States History, Military History, and ACT Preparation.

Mr. Keith Haske: United States History, Current Events and Government

Mr. Fred Robb: Economics and Government

Mr. Aaron Biggar: A.P. Psychology

Point of interest:

All uniform shirts, sweaters, vests, and sweatshirts must have the approved logos and purchased from approved vendors.

Fine Arts and Foreign Language Department

Mrs. Cress Smith:
Band

Mr. Ben Ferris:
Spanish 1,2,3,4.

Mr. Jason Maday: Culinary Arts

Mrs. Debra Coburn:
Photography 1&2, Art 1 & 2
Sculpture, Television and Film.

Ms. Amy Colligan: Choir
Amy is a graduate of U of M and Western Michigan University. She has conducted choirs at both the high school and middle school level. Choir will be zero hour and will meet Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-7:45 a.m. If you are interested in joining choir now that it is zero hour, please contact Mrs. Maday. We look forward to growing the program that Mrs. Mawby began.

Special things to note...

All Systems Mass

Please join us on Friday, September 10th at 8:30 a.m. in the St. Francis Gym for Mass. This is a beautiful way to celebrate the starting of school by gathering together as one Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools.

Glad Meals

GTACS students and their families continue to serve meals to the homeless and poor in our community every Saturday throughout the year. Please consider getting involved this year!

Musical Announced

We are pleased to announce that our school musical will be "**Beauty and the Beast.**" Directors are Jenn Miles, Misha Blodgett, and Choral Director, Amy Colligan. Show dates are Feb. 11-13 and 18-20. Watch for audition information to come in September.

St. Clare Chapel

The Patroness of our school is the spiritual sister of Saint Francis, Saint Clare. Saint Clare (1194—1253) was surrounded by material wealth, but her deep prayer life and devotion to the Eucharist drew her to a life of prayer, simplicity, and silence. She became the foundress of the Poor Clares, an order dedicated to a life of complete poverty and sustained contemplation.

Our Chapel that was built during

the 2005-2006 school year demonstrates our commitment to prayer and our love of the Eucharist.

There will be many devotional activities at Saint Clare Chapel during the school week. Parents are encouraged to join their students. See the schedule below.

Monday: Confessions and Spiritual Direction available 12:55-1:15.

Tuesday: Holy Mass 11:50 am

Wednesday: Exposition/ Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist 8:15 am—2:15 p.m. (Please contact Mr. Chittle 946-8038 if you would be able to help on a weekly basis for an hour).

Thursday: Holy Mass 10:15 a.m. at Saint Francis Church

Friday: Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet for Life and Vocations at 12:45 p.m.

To report absences
please inform the
school before
8:00 a.m.
Call 946-8038
Leave a message if
no answer.

Retreat Information

Kairos, our senior retreat, is being held from September 18th-21st. Homecoming week overlaps with the Kairos retreat which begins on September 20th. (Homecoming is September 25th)

Underclassmen Retreats will be held on Tuesday October 5th.

9th Grade Retreat entitled "Oh Grow Up," is designed to help the youth recognize the importance of faith and trusting God through the transition from middle school into

high school. The day will end with Mass.

The Theme of the **10th grade retreat** is "Obstacles to Christ." Sophomores will come to see some of the obstacles placed in their path, recognize there is "road service" available (parents, friends, virtue, humility, the sacraments), and come to realize that Jesus is the road (the WAY), their compass (the Truth) and their ultimate destination (the Life). The students will examine obsta-

cles to faith. Confession will be the highlight of the retreat.

The **11th grade retreat** will focus on what a good relationship looks like culminating in an examination of their relationship with Christ. The day will end with adoration and Benediction.

Cost of underclassmen retreats are as follows:
-9th Grade: \$30
-10th/11th: \$20

Counseling Office News

Wednesday, September 15th will be our **Parent Orientation** for all grade levels in the Kohler Auditorium. **9th and 10th grade parents are invited to come from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.** to meet our teachers and tour the school. **11th and 12th grade parents are welcome to come from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** to meet our teachers and learn about upcoming tests and important deadlines you

won't want to miss!

PSAT REGISTRATION is in progress. Any sophomore or junior who is interested in taking this test should register by September 17th in the main office. (Testing date is October 16th). Please bring a check payable to GTACS in the amount of \$16 to the office; you will then receive a practice book to help in your preparation. More information about the PSAT can be found at www.collegeboard.com.

SCHEDULE CHANGES are underway! The counseling office is open Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Please stop by during office hours to make any necessary changes.

SENIORS...you are working on your college applications...right?