

***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 Counselor

Happy Friday SF families,

Lots happening in the counseling office as I am counting down and praying that baby Maday does NOT make an early entrance! ☺

Next week begins course selection for all 9th 10th and 11th grade students. I will be in Mrs. Schmuckal's classes next Wednesday, February 24th and then Mrs. Tull's class on Monday, March 1st, Mr. Strong's class on Tuesday, March 2nd and Miss LaCross's class on Wednesday, March 3rd. You will have one week to complete the course selection sheet and get both teacher recommendations/signatures as well as a signature from Mom or Dad. The curriculum book has been updated with many new classes and we hope to offer some new and exciting electives next year. Remember, rising seniors, you must have 7 classes...no free periods! Colleges DO want to see a senior schedule that is full of challenging classes, so choose wisely! REMEMBER, this is just the first step...I would be happy to sit with you and discuss any questions you have but we will probably have to schedule this after MME testing on March 9-11.

Wednesday, February 24th is our 8th Grade Parent Orientation in Kohler and Friday, February 26th we will be hosting our visiting 8th grade students. This is the time for them to get comfortable in our halls and learn a little more about the school. REMEMBER YOU TOO were once in 8th grade, so please greet them with a welcoming smile. For many students this transition can be a difficult one and we would like them to feel our welcoming school spirit. 8th grade students are invited to stay after school to attend the basketball game that evening.

March 4th and March 5th I will be in the classroom registering JUNIORS for the following week's Michigan Merit Exam...aka...MME. We need to complete the registration form prior to test day and this will take the entire class period. You will have the opportunity to have your ACT scores sent to colleges/universities of your choice and I

recommend you do this so start thinking about which schools you want to receive your scores.

MME...March 9, 10 and 11 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. JUNIORS, you will be transported to the testing site on all three days. On Tuesday, March 9th we will be taking the ACT + Writing. At the conclusion of the test, you will be transported back to SF and then you are dismissed for the rest of the day. On Wednesday and Thursday, March 10th and 11th we will arrive back at SF approximately 11:45 and you will remain at school for the rest of the day. Some snacks will be provided, but if you wish to bring something to eat and drink you are welcome to do this, but remember you cannot eat in the testing room, only during specified breaks.

- Dress in layers so you can adjust your temperature.
- Bring a calculator, a back up calculator and/or extra batteries. We will not provide calculators on that day. You must also make sure you will be using an approved calculator on test day.
- You can bring #2 pencils (no mechanical pencils) but we will also have some available to you.
- Get plenty of rest and eat breakfast before each test.
- **YOU MUST WEAR YOUR UNIFORM.** ☺

The make up dates for the MME are March 23rd, 24th and 25th. If you miss any of the previous test dates, you will be scheduled for the make up tests.

MORE SUMMER PROGRAMS:

Notre Dame Summer Programs (precollege.nd.edu)

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)

Please take a look at the updated scholarship list. Deadlines are fast approaching and new ones have been added again this week. Take a look at the attached list pick up an application in the guidance office!

Know I am here to help any way I can and will be very busy for the next few weeks. I will be out of my office and in classrooms the majority of the day and may be hard to find, but the office can always track me down! Know when I am not in my office, I am still “here” for you.

I am continually praying for you as we begin our Lenten journey. Continue to keep me and the rest of your SF family in your prayers.

Prayerfully,
Beth Maday

Tennis Sign Up

All girl's (and at least one parent) needs to plan on attending our tennis sign up meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 28th from 12:15-1:00 pm in the SF cafeteria. You will need to use the corner doors off the parking of Holy Angels and the Gym—no other doors will be open. We will hand out all necessary paper work that must be completed before any student can begin the tryout period starting on March 15th. We will go over the tryout formats for Varsity and JV as well as the schedules for both teams. The Varsity tennis tryouts last only 5 days, so if you or your daughter has any questions regarding expectations or the overall format we can't stress enough the importance of attending this meeting. I will also look forward to introducing our new JV coach---Coach Andrea Domres. If you have questions you can reach me at 883-1389. Coach Hughes

St. Francis High School Stewards of Creation Spring Break Prayer Retreat

The Stewards of Creation provide opportunities for St. Francis' young men and women to explore, experience, and preserve God's creation in nature. As a school sponsored, Christ-centered group, all activities include scripture study, prayer, and reflection on the purpose and stewardship of God's great blessings in our natural world. Activities include camping, hiking, backpacking, canoeing, adopt-a-park, outdoor service projects, and other interactions with nature.

The Stewards are preparing for their second annual Spring Break Prayer Retreat to the Great Smokey Mountain National Park. The group is having difficulty raising the necessary funding for their trip, and are asking for assistance in raising the last \$1000 dollars. Please consider donating by writing a check to "GTACS" and sending it to Mr. Strong or the Development Office. You may contact Mr. Strong for more information at bstron@gtacs.org or 231-995-8442. And thank you.

Snowcoming

Tickets will be sold all next week at lunch for snowcoming. The cost is \$10.00 each in advance or \$15.00 at the door. Remember the date is Saturday, February 27th. Come join us for a good time!

Get your act together!

Do you have a special talent? Are you looking for a great night of entertainment? If so, be a part of or come to the annual St. Francis High School NHS Variety Show. Auditions will be held Monday, Feb. 22nd and Tuesday, Feb. 23rd from 2:45-3:30 in the auditorium. You must audition to be a part of the show. If you are just looking for great entertainment, plan on coming, Saturday, March 6th at 7pm in Kohler Auditorium. Tickets are \$4.00 and sold at the door.

Attention all AP Students: It's time to register for the Advanced Placement tests. Students taking multiple tests may submit a single check payable to: GTACS. The cost is \$86 per test and checks may be given to any AP teacher. **If a student qualifies for free**

or reduced lunch, the test fee will be waived. Deadline for submitting payment is Friday, Feb. 26.

Crystal Mountain News

Only 2 Friday's are left to purchase single trip tickets to Crystal Mountain. Next Friday February 26 and the following Friday March 5th are the last opportunities to ski Crystal Mountain at our reduced school program rate with lessons included. Forms are located at school offices or contact Mark or Jerri Gabriel with any questions. 929-3911 or Jerri cell 492-9695 email works well too! skigtacs@charter.net
School program season pass holders can still enjoy the month of March on Fridays!

Honors Biology students attended the Michigan Mosquito Conference in early February, Thirteen students now have the opportunity to participate in a mosquito survey during the summer for MSU. Interested attending students may contact Dr. Mike Kaufman at kaufman15@msu.edu for more information. Dr. Kaufman and Dr. Novak spoke with us before we went to the Conference. (See attached pictures in e-mail)



Saint Francis High School Yearbook Staff is asking for community support. Our advertisement campaign has not been as successful as in past years – due to our economy. The entire design and contents of the yearbook are based on the success or lack of success with our ad campaign. We are extending our timeline with the ad sales, since the economy has bounced back since the fall. Again, we ask if you know of a business owner, who could benefit from advertising in our *Community* section of the **VERITAS**, to please mention our opportunity and to contact us (or let us know and we'll contact them) and we will happily assist them! Also, the yearbook staff will be sending out ad campaign requests since many budgets are more successful now and businesses may be able to partake in our opportunity. Once again, thank you very much – The **VERITAS** Yearbook Staff & Mrs. Tull/ttull@gtacs.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

2/19, 20 & 21st HS Musical Bye Bye Birdie
2/23 (Monday) Open House for new perspective parents
2/24 (Wednesday) Parent Meeting for Incoming 9th graders (Kohler) 6:00 PM
2/26 (Friday) Incoming 9th graders come to visit
2/24 (Wednesday) 8th Grade Orientation
2/26 (Friday) 8th Grade Visitation
2/27 (Saturday) Snowcoming Dance @ IC 8-11 PM Tickets: \$15.00
3/3 (Wednesday) Open House perspective students
3/9 11th MME Testing for all Juniors at K of C Hall
3/26 Spring Break Begins

