

WHO WE ARE

Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools (GTACS) 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.

WHAT WE HOPE FOR

Through an intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, students freely accept the truth, goodness and beauty of Christian life.

WHAT WE OFFER

A Christ-centered school community that provides unrivaled education in both secular knowledge and the glories of the Catholic faith.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

**8:30-9:30 AM
ST. FRANCIS
HIGH SCHOOL**

Join us for a free, 1-hour presentation on the mission and methods of our Catholic schools.

Please register by calling 231 946-8147 or via email lschell@gtacs.org.

Thursday, October 1, 2015
Thursday, October 8, 2015
Thursday, November 19, 2015
Thursday, December 10, 2015
Thursday, January 21, 2016
Thursday, February 18, 2016
Thursday, March 17, 2016
Thursday, April 14, 2016
Thursday, May 5, 2016

RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE

Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools' (GTACS) St. Francis High School has earned Top 50 Honor Roll accolades for the past seven years running. The Acton Institute founded the Catholic High School Honor Roll in 2004. The Cardinal Newman Society assumed the program in 2012, consistent with its mission of helping Catholic families and promoting faithful Catholic education. The award puts St. Francis High School in a select group of less than 5% of Catholic schools in the United States.



SHARING WHAT WORKS

In Catholic educational circles, GTACS is recognized as a "system with a system" for continuous improvement. As recognized experts in Catholic education's effectiveness, GTACS is pleased to share its strategies with educators throughout the diocese, the state and the country.

A "MOST CHALLENGING SCHOOL"

In the Washington Post's list of America's Most Challenging High School, St. Francis ranks ninth in the state. The ranking is based on the number of college-level tests given at a school each year divided by the number of seniors who graduated. This year, only 11 percent of the approximately 22,000 U.S. public high schools earned placement on the list.

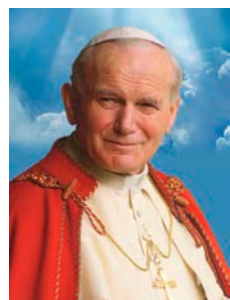


A "GOOD TO GREAT" INVESTMENT

GTACS uses the *Good to Great* model – based on the book by Jim Collins – in its strategic planning. The result is an organization that will prosper beyond this moment and beyond the current team of leaders. Positive results attract resources and commitment which enables even better results.

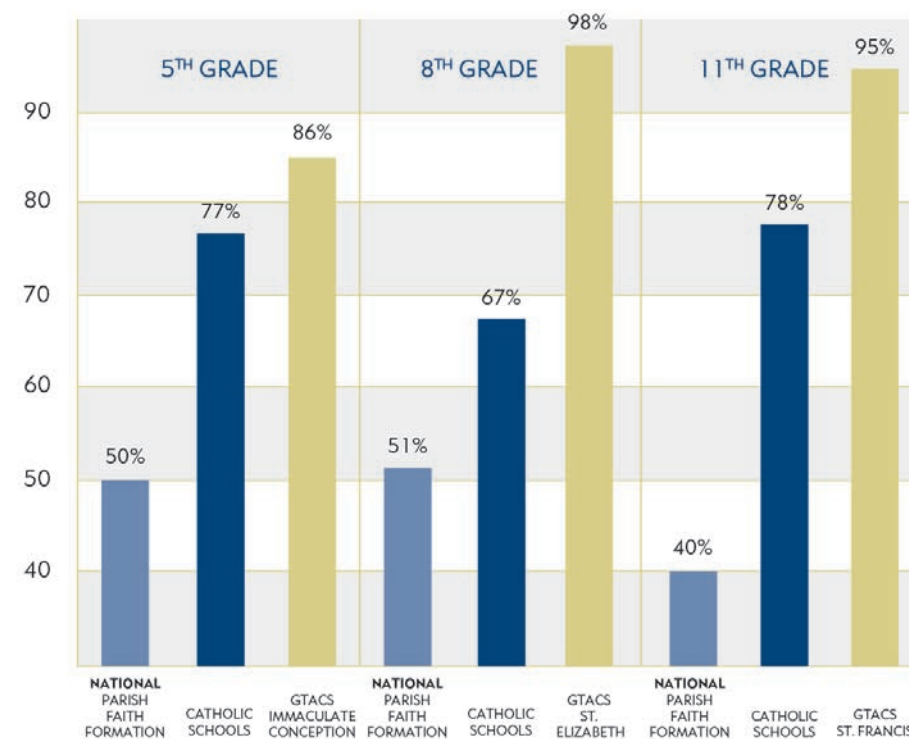
ACTON INSTITUTE RESOURCES IN ACTION

Over the past eight years, high school staff members have attended Acton University. These unique intellectual sessions increase staff knowledge of philosophy, theology and economics – helping shape classroom instruction in government, history, economics and religion classes.



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

Middle and high school teachers receive training in "Theology of the Body," a positive view of human sexuality based on the teachings of Saint John Paul II the Great. Students in grades 7-12 explore such questions as, "What is the purpose of life," and "What does the marital union say about God and his plan for our lives?"



FAITH FULL FORMATION

According to ACRE, an assessment tool that gauges knowledge of religious beliefs and practices, GTACS students are far more proficient than their peers in the Catholic faith.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Approximately 35% of GTACS students receive financial assistance at some level, impacting approximately 175 different families.

MAKING THE GRADE

St. Francis High School graduates have earned placements at many prestigious colleges and universities, including US military academies.

OPEN TO NON-CATHOLICS

In any given year, 5-10% of students enrolled at GTACS are from non-Catholic families.

MARCH FOR LIFE JUNIOR CLASS RETREAT

The entire junior class, along with some seniors and sophomores, now travels to Washington, DC each year to witness the *March for Life*.



CHAPEL MASS & ADORATION

Chapel Mass is held four days a week and prior to extracurricular events. Adoration is each Wednesday.



CATHOLIC TRADITIONS

From praying the Rosary and Angelus to May Crowning, Catholic traditions are alive and well at GTACS.



CHAPLAINS

In addition to parish pastors, spiritual needs are met by dedicated school chaplains.



MISSION WORK

Serving takes a variety of forms – from immersion trips afar to a local community meal each Saturday.

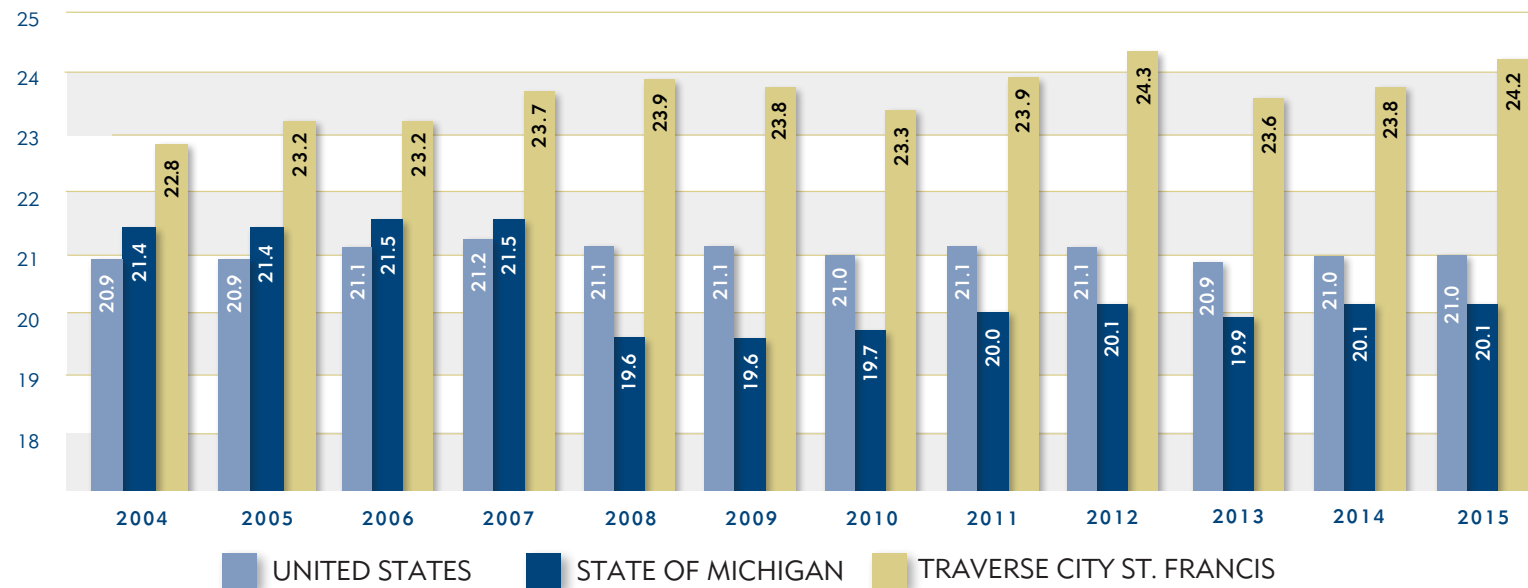
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

AT GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

RAISING THE BAR: ACT SCORES

GRADUATED PROFILES

Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools has developed a robust curriculum, drawing from the knowledge of gifted educators throughout the country. Academic rigor has resulted in consistently strong average ACT scores. Strong scores create a broader range of opportunities in the form of college acceptance and financial assistance.



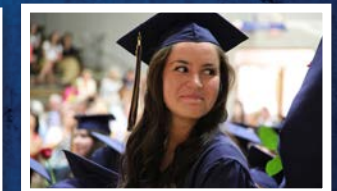
HOLY ANGELS
ELEMENTARY
Preschool-2nd Grade



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
3rd-5th Grade



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON
MIDDLE SCHOOL
6th-8th grade



ST. FRANCIS
HIGH SCHOOL
9th-12th Grade