

CHERUB CHAT

A PUBLICATION OF HOLY ANGELS PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY



***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.*

Back to School 2017

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/21-31 St. Joseph's Club Summer Camp open
- 8/21 Holy Angels Office opens (closed on Monday 8/28 in the morning for Staff Mass and 8/30 in the morning for Staff Retreat)
- 8/28 Back to School Night: 6:30-7:30 pm
- 8/28 Class lists posted on school doors **and emailed** (new this year!) 8:00 am
- 8/30-31 Preschool conferences
- 8/31 Kindergarten class visits 10:00 am-1:00 pm
- 9/1 Offices closed
- 9/4 No school
- 9/5 First day of classes for Preschool-3rd grade. Full day of school with dismissal at regular time of 2:40 pm. Busing is provided by TCAPS.
- 9/8 All School Mass 8:30 am in St. Francis High School Gym, no afternoon busing
- 9/29 No school: Professional Development Day

From the Principal

“Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths” – Psalm 25:4

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Holy Angels!

Within the Bible, there are many references about following God's direction or His paths. Our family is so humbled and blessed that God opened this new path for me. The GTACS community is near and dear to my heart and to be able to serve our teachers, parents, students, and our Lord in my new position is quite an honor.

My connection with GTACS began in high school. I graduated St. Francis in 1997. After obtaining my teaching degree from Grand Valley State University, I taught in the Kingsley Area Schools for 13 years. Two years ago, I transferred to Immaculate Conception Elementary and taught fifth grade. Our children were attending Holy Angels at that point so we knew what a special place this was, but to be able to teach here truly showed me the awesome community we are and how truly present Christ is in our schools. My husband, Mike, and I have five children; Aubrey and Braxton (4th), Adelyn (3rd), Ainsley (1st) and Broderick (2 years old).

As always, we start our school year with high expectations and a mission to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential. Our teachers and maintenance staff have been working hard to prepare our school for your little ones. We will do our best to ensure that each child finds him/herself comfortable, welcomed, respected, challenged appropriately, and loved. Enjoy the rest of your summer! If you have any questions as you prepare for the school year, please feel free to call our office or email me at jlesinski@gtacs.org!

May God bless you and keep you safe!
Love and prayers always ~ Mrs. Jessica Lesinski

Parent Notes

- **Mass celebration:** Our weekly Mass will be on Thursdays at 8:15 a.m. These Masses will be held at St. Francis Church. Please join us in celebration to praise and worship God!
- **Class lists** will be posted and emailed this year on August 28th.
- You can find the **supply lists** on our GTACS News emails. Please note that if you have a version that shows “class fees,” those fees have now been removed.
- Please remember to check for your name on **our lunchroom/playground calendar** when it is sent to you. We rely on your help during this time of the school day. Holly Schurg is working on this year’s schedule and if you have a special request she may be contacted at hschurg@gmail.com. Thank you for your continued support for the safety of our angels! Watch for the schedule to come.

What’s New at Holy Angels

We have some new faces and changes in our building this year:

- **Tammy Knudsen** will be moving from teaching first grade to teaching second! Mrs. Knudsen continues to bring her strong faith, upbeat attitude and awesome teaching skills to the children of our school.
 - We are excited to welcome **Brittany Roberts** to our first-grade team. Brittany received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Kalamazoo College, then worked for five years with children and families at the Department of Human Services. Her love for children led her to pursue a Graduate Teacher Certification from Grand Valley State University. She has been working at Kingsley Elementary School as a guest teacher and preschool teacher for the past school year. Brittany has a great enthusiasm for God, children, and the love of learning.
 - Joining the reading enrichment program will be **Mary Beth Myler**. Mary Beth will be part-time serving as our 3rd-5th grade reading enrichment teacher. She has her bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame and her master's degree from John Carroll University. Prior to having her four children, she taught in Colorado, London, and in the Talented and Gifted program at Central Grade School at TCAPS. Mary Beth is excited to return to the teaching profession and infuse her love of learning, along with her deep Catholic faith, to the reading portion of this program.
 - We are pleased to welcome **Charity Madion** to Holy Angels as our Reading Specialist. Charity has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from the University of Michigan. She also has a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on literacy from the University of Colorado. She is a familiar face in our school community, as she has been a Holy Angels reading aid for the past two years.
 - **Josh Sullivan** will be joining our staff as a part time preschool 3s teacher and the new St. Joseph’s Club Program Director. Josh has a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice and an Associate’s Degree in Early Childhood Education and Childhood Development. He is a familiar face in our building as he has been part of our staff over the course of the past six years. Josh has a strong passion for working with children and is very excited to enter his new role in our school system.
 - Another face you will see around our building for the first semester is **Brittany Gervais**. She will be completing her internship with our social worker, Nancy Brown. Brittany received her Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary education from Hope College. After spending time in classrooms, Brittany found a love for counseling and is now in the School Counseling and Clinical Mental Health Program at Western Michigan University. Brittany is looking forward to the hands-on experience of working with our GTACS children.
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FROG Time

We will continue to carry the FROG theme into our school year. FROG stands for “Fully Rely On God” and we will meet as a student body once a week. During this special time together we will hear Scripture, sing liturgical and praise music, learn about the Saints, and talk about what Jesus would do in different situations. The word FROG will also continue to be present in each of our classrooms, as it stands for the four virtues we expect our students to focus upon: F-Friendship, R-Respect, O-Open heart, and G-God-like. Along with our FROG theme, we continue to focus on our 3 C’s: Character (Do what is right), Commitment (Do your best) and Compassion (Treat others the way you want to be treated). Having a common theme/language provides our students with consistent expectations in all areas of our school and within GTACS.



Preschool and Pre-K Information

- Mrs. Brenda Lau: 3 year olds (Room 101) blau@gtacs.org
- Mr. Josh Sullivan: 3 year olds M,W,F (Room 108) jsullivan@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Rebecca Wright: 4 year olds (Room 106) rwright@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Kelly Daciuk: 4 year olds (Room 103) kdaciuk@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Missy Muzljakovich: Pre-K (Room 104) mmuzljakovich@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Sheila LaPan: Pre-K (Room 102) slapan@gtacs.org

Full day preschool childrens’ start time is 7:50 am and end time is 2:40 pm which aligns with all of GTACS. Half day student dismissal time is 11:00 am. There are options for full day for 3’s, 4’s and early 5’s (Pre-K). When dropping your child off in the morning and you arrive after carline ends, for your child’s safety, you must walk your child to their classroom.

Our day includes table time, large group time, prayer, story time and more. Teachers will present content in the morning, when kids are most receptive, but will continue to offer guided activities, story, and indoor/outdoor play for full day students.

Preschool packets were mailed and should be to your soon! It will contain a lot of important information for your family! If you do not receive a packet, please contact our office! Before school starts, we ask that you schedule a 15 minute classroom visit and conference with your child’s teacher. This will help your child feel more comfortable and give us insights to start the new school year. Please contact your child’s teacher by email (their email address is listed by their name) to set up a mutually convenient time during one of the following days (please plan to

attend with your child): Wednesday, August 30th (PM) and Thursday, August 31st (AM & PM). The green health forms can be turned dropped off at the school office or you can bring them to your conference. Your child’s conference is also a great time to bring in her/his supplies and get that checked off your list!

Tuition for September is due September 1st. Please remit before or on that date.

Please do not forget our Back to School Night on Monday, August 28th from 6:30-7:30 pm!

Holy Angels Preschool offers a unique educational atmosphere, one that will help your child achieve his or her full academic and spiritual potential. Your child will be loved and cared for by this wonderful team of educators!

Kindergarten Information

- Mrs. Sarah Rigan (Room 203) srigan@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Teresa Passinault (Room 205) tpassinault@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Pat Talbott (Room 206) ptalbott@gtacs.org

Kindergartners can visit their classrooms with their parents during the Back to School night or on Thursday, August 31st anytime between 10:00am -1:00pm. At this time we ask that you bring the children's school supplies and then we will have one item checked off the list. At this time they will meet their fellow classmates, enjoy cookies with lemonade and can play on the playground.

This will further prepare them for their first full day of school on Tuesday, September 5th beginning at 7:45am to 2:40pm. This week of school consists of four full days of school and will include learning routines, introduction of basic curriculum, socialization, rest time and additional recess. Kindergartners will enjoy having Physical Education twice a week and Music and Library once a week as their specials.

Yes, your little angel will come home tired, which is why we encourage early bedtimes which will help develop routines at home all year long.

It is a wonderful day in a child's life when they begin Kindergarten! Bring your cameras, and we will provide the Kleenex for the tears of the parents. It is truly a milestone and an exciting time for your children. We look forward to seeing our little Kindergarten angels in their school uniforms on Tuesday, September 5th.

First Grade Information

- Mrs. Karen Alpers (Room 201) kalpers@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Brittany Roberts (Room 202) broberts@gtacs.org
- Miss Jean Maslowski (Room 204) jmaslowski@gtacs.org

First grade is such an exciting time in the eyes of our students as they move upstairs and get a locker! They are assigned their own desk area at specific tables.

In 1st Grade, they continue to build and expand on their phonics and reading skills, as well as introducing additional comprehension skills that they began in Kindergarten, utilizing the same reading series. There is an increased focus on writing skills including written responses to the question of the week.

In Math, 1st Graders continue to build on their understanding of math concepts, including addition, subtraction, geometric shapes, measurement, time, basic fractions, and money.

First Grade Religion is so pure basic and true. We start the year teaching them about the Mass, which leads into our study of God our loving Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, which then flows right into our study of our Church as a community. It is during this year that 1st Graders will have their first opportunity to have a part in the Mass ministries. This is also the year that students begin using a daily planner to learn organization and also have nightly homework.

Our wonderful first grade team will lovingly guide your children through this year of academic learning and added responsibility. These teachers will greet their students outside the Cass Street doors on the first day of school, September 5.

Second Grade Information

- Mrs. Tammy Knudsen (Room 208) tknudsen@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Ayriel Parmer (Room 210) aparmer@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Janina Timmer (Room 212) jtimmer@gtacs.org

Second grade is truly a special year! This is the year that reading and math skills are enhanced to make them more independent learners. You will be amazed at their writing skills during the year!

Although in 2nd grade we continue to teach decoding skills for reading, we also teach valuable reading strategies and higher levels of comprehension skills that will help each student become lifelong readers in the different areas of literacy. These skills are vital as they progress to a higher level of learning where they are “reading” to learn.

In Math, 2nd Graders will learn higher levels of addition and subtraction skills along with beginning multiplication tables. They will also learn problem solving skills and will be brought to a higher level in measurement, time, fractions and money as they are taught to connect these concepts to everyday life.

At FROG Time they will lead the school in praise and worship hand motions and will be in skits to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This great team of teachers will be ready to greet their new students on the playground, Tuesday, September 5th. Students will line-up outside the 10th Street door every morning.

Third Grade Information

- Mrs. Heidi Stoudt (Room 209) hstoudt@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Lori Meddaugh (SF High School library room) lmeddaugh@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Stacey Alpers (SF High School library room) salpers@gtacs.org
- Mrs. Jessica Kerfoot: Third Grade Math Support Teacher
- Ms. Jennifer Newman: Third Grade Reading Support Teacher
- Mrs. Mary Beth Myler: Third Grade Reading Enrichment Teacher
- Mrs. Maria Elshaw: Third Grade Math Enrichment Teacher

Third grade is an amazing year of increased independence. Students will receive outstanding support as they become more self-sufficient learners and read across the curriculum. All throughout K-2, your students have been learning to read, so that in 3rd Grade and beyond, they can read to learn!

Math finds your student learning out of a text book for the first time! This is exciting and challenging all at once! Solid addition and subtraction skills will lead to greater advances in multiplication, division, problem solving, multi-step equations and more.

Reading/Spelling uses Reading Street as a guide to learning. Comprehension skills and strategies, along with grammar skills, will be highlighted each week. A spelling packet will also be given each week with a Spelling test on Friday. Your 3rd Grader will also have an accelerated reader reading requirement each quarter. This is a program in which students can read books and then take quizzes on them to earn points.

Writing follows the Six +1 Traits program. Daily writing lessons will teach individual parts of the writing process with a culminating writing assignment on Friday.

This year in the *We Believe* program, we will journey together towards a deeper understanding of our religious beliefs and traditions. The textbook will supplement mini units throughout the year as we follow the Church

calendar. Students will become more familiar with the Bible as they look up daily readings and verses during Morning Prayer time.

Social Studies and Science are taught through mini units each quarter. Map skills, the Scientific Method, Ecosystems and Weather are all covered.

The fantastic team of Third Grade teachers will be anxiously awaiting students on the playground, Tuesday, September 5th. 3rd Graders will be lining up outside the 10th Street doors every morning.

Additional Holy Angels Staff Members

- Mrs. Maria Elshaw: Math Support for grades K-2
- Mrs. Charity Madion: K-2 Reading Club Teacher
- Mrs. Kathy Hiatt and Mrs. Margaret Wilson: Librarians
- Mrs. Ann Kavanaugh & Mrs. Nikki Millward: Lunchroom Supervisors
- Ms. Nikki Kleinrichert: School Secretary
- Mrs. Shannon Robertson: Office Assistant
- Spanish & Music - After school enrichment for Kindergartners, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Graders with TCAPS instructors. Watch the sign-up sheets that will come home.

We are very blessed to have these outstanding staff members working with our students. Holy Angels Phys. Ed., Art and Music teachers are part of our Shared Services Program with TCAPS. They provide excellent teachers for our school in these subject areas and will have that information for us in the later part of August.

Uniforms

Be sure to review the Holy Angels and Immaculate Conception Uniform Code Reference Guide and the Dennis Uniform Visual Guides for boys and girls.

You may also refer to our GTACS uniform links that have been included in the GTACS News and are on our website. They are loaded with all of our new uniform information along with many questions and answers.

We cannot stress to you enough the importance of staying within the uniform code, as this emphasizes the uniformity within our school family. Thank you for your commitment to this detail.

Busing Information

Our busing is through TCAPS and each household that signed up for busing on their registration form will receive a letter one week before school starts. Be looking for the information to arrive near the end of August. Should you have questions regarding your child's route after you have received your letter or if you do not receive a letter but have signed up for neighborhood busing, please call TCAPS Transportation. If your child is riding the bus to or from school, please attach a tag or label to his/her backpack with the route numbers on the label.

Bus Hotlines

August 29-September 1: (231) 933-1956
School year: (231) 933-1933
Specific route information for routes running late
or updates: (231) 933-1955



Saint Joseph's Club

We will enter our 4th year offering the St. Joseph's Club before and after school care for Holy Angels students. This gives us the opportunity to extend our schools' beliefs throughout the school day. Our program is modeled on the outstanding example given us by Joseph, who loved Jesus as his own child.

Three year olds through 3rd Graders who are enrolled at Holy Angels are eligible to participate. Sign-up for all ages can be done on a week-by-week basis; however, we are asking parents to commit by Thursday at 8 am for the week ahead. Families will be billed weekly for St. Joseph Club usage. St. Joseph's Club will also cover "snow days," certain parts of Christmas and spring breaks, and select professional development days. Separate sign-up will be required.

The required paper work can be filled out when our School offices open on August 21st and during the Back to School information night on August 28th and any time after that.

"He (St. Joseph) was chosen by the eternal Father as the trustworthy guardian and protector of his greatest treasures, namely, his divine Son and Mary, Joseph's wife. He carried out this vocation with complete fidelity until at last God called him, saying: 'Good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Lord.'" – St. Bernardine of Siena

Back-to-School Information Night

The Holy Angels Preschool & Elementary School Back to School Night is scheduled for Monday, August 28th from 6:30-7:30. Preschool, Kindergarten parents/children, and any new families to the school system should stop in the school office to be given guidance on important information to obtain from the booths. Booths for all of the various programs offered by GTACS will be set up for all families to ask any questions and to gather information. There will be lemonade and cookies served compliments of our Parent Activity

Committee (PAC)! Enjoy a treat while you go booth to booth to gather information. Also during this time students can reconnect with friends, look over class placement lists, and visit their classroom and meet their Teacher. Classroom Placement lists will be posted on the Cass Street doors by 8:00 a.m. on the 28th. Our hope is that by meeting teachers and seeing friends before the first day of school, it will reduce the natural anxiety created by this exciting day. Please know that all are welcome for this fun social gathering!

Morning Drop-off Procedures

We will begin the school day at 7:50 a.m. and end at 2:40 p.m. Students may arrive on the playground as early as 7:30 a.m., as supervision begins at that time. Our staff will greet you in the parking lot every morning between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. to help children out of vehicles. Please do not drop off children before 7:30 a.m., as our staff is in Morning Prayer and there is no supervision until this time. (If you need childcare services before 7:30 a.m., please contact the St. Joseph's Club regarding early morning care that begins at 6:30 a.m.) Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st grade students are encouraged to be dropped off (in a single file car line) in the parking lot off 11th Street. 2nd grade and 3rd grade students may be dropped off by the fence on 10th Street. The drop off location has been moved down to the further playground fence openings towards Cass so there is more room to accommodate the two grade levels this year. If you have a 2nd or 3rd Grader who has K or 1st siblings, they may all be dropped off at the 10th St. drop-off. Preschool students must be picked up in the parking lot off 11th Street.

When dropping your child off in the AM and you arrive after carline ends, you must walk your child to their classroom for preschool children and for K-3rd to the office. This is for the safety of your child.

Please do not park on the residential side of 10th Street during drop off or dismissal as the busses and moving traffic cannot make it easily down the street. We truly appreciate your cooperation in making our morning routine safe and smooth. Please be reminded that the morning bell rings at 7:45 a.m. Students are considered tardy after 7:50 a.m. Another reminder: if you arrive after students have gone inside, please walk your child into the office to receive a tardy slip.

Afternoon Pick-up Procedures

Preschool, Kindergarten and 1st grade will be picked up in the 11th Street parking lot. Please enter the parking lot from 11th Street and exit right onto Cass. Please form two lines for pick up.

This traffic flow pattern should be followed at all times for the safety of our students. Our 2nd and 3rd graders along with siblings will be picked up on 10th Street in a car pool line by the fence with the exception of Preschool. All Preschool students must be picked up in the parking lot off 11th Street.

If you have two or more students in our school, please pick up at the designated area of the oldest student.

Please do not park on 10th Street and walk across the street to pick your child up, as this creates an unsafe environment. Please place a **bold print sign** in your car window with your child's name on it to help the line move efficiently.

*“A Catholic school must be founded on Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.
It is he who, through his Incarnation, is united with each student.
Christ is not an afterthought or an add-on to Catholic educational philosophy;
he is the center and fulcrum of the entire enterprise,
the light enlightening every boy and girl who comes into a Catholic school.”*

– The Holy See’s Teaching on Catholic Schools, Page 24