



Freshmen orientation begins in the Kohler Auditorium on **September 5 at 9:00 am**. Students will receive their locker combinations, schedules and other helpful information. Modest attire is required. Orientation will last approximately 2.5 hours. **Transfer students** should plan to attend this session beginning at 11:00 am.

All students (including seniors) should plan to stop by school to have your picture taken sometime between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. We will be sending out an order form prior to the start of school. Seniors should also stop by, even if you are having a portrait taken elsewhere.

Parents of incoming freshmen and transfer students should plan to attend orientation with their students on the evening of September 5 from 6:30 -7:30 pm in the Kohler Auditorium. Student **iPads will be distributed**.

Locker **combinations and schedules** for 10th-12th graders can be picked up on Tuesday, September 5, from 8:30 am-2:00 pm. A \$10 parking permit/fee may be paid for student drivers.

All high school students begin classes on **Wednesday, September 6**. Students may be in the halls at 7:20 am. Classes begin at 7:50 am end at 2:42 pm. Zero hour begins at 7:00 am.

Christ ~ Above All Things

From the Desk of the Principal, Dr. Erick Chittle

All new school years begin with a great sense of hope; however, it is particularly strong this year. With construction beginning on our new elementary school, enrollment at the high school at a 30-year high, and our new record average ACT score of 26.4, we have reasons to be grateful and hopeful. This gratitude draws my mind back to the scores of faithful who have sacrificed for our Catholic schools in the Grand Traverse region.

Our great tradition traces back to October 1877 when Father Ziegler and Mother Aquinata Fiegler (along with six of her sisters) established Holy Angels School, and in 1906 when Father Sheehan and Mother Mary Austin Theil opened Immaculate Conception Church and School. In each generation, supporting the religious were scores of parishioners who wanted a Catholic education for their children, grandchildren, and all children in the parishes.

Monsignor Passeno of Immaculate Conception and Father Kohler of Saint Francis led their generation during the 1960s as did Monsignor Thome during the 1990s, all building new schools that would impart the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Catholic faith. Today, the priests and parishioners sacrifice as we are in a monumental campaign to secure an education focused and founded on the person of Christ for the next 75 years. This education produces graduates whose relationship with Christ necessarily brings truth, goodness, and beauty into the world.

I have had a large number of admission interviews with prospective students and their families this summer. I love explaining how the mission of the school never changes, it is the mission that Father Ziegler, Mother Fiegler, Monsignor Passeno, Monsignor Thome (and the list could go on and on) and now we sacrifice for: We are here for students to learn how to know, love, and serve God. I take time to explain that the prospective student in front of me is eternal and although we are very concerned about he or she becoming a good citizen of this world, we are even more focused on he or she becoming an eternal citizen of heaven. This mission has been and is now worth the effort! Thank you for your sacrifice and your decision to send your son or daughter to St. Francis High School.

Peace and all good,

Dr. Erick Chittle

ALL SCHOOL

MASS

September 8, 8:30 am

**NEW STUDENT
ORIENTATION**

September 5

Freshmen, 9 am

Transfers, 11 am

**NEW PARENT/
STUDENT
ORIENTATION**

September 5, 6:30 pm

HOMECOMING

October 6

(Dance Oct. 7)

KAIROS RETREAT

September 23-25

GLADHANDER

Free Preview Night,

October 27

Main Event,

October 28

NO SCHOOL

September 29,

October 27, November

9 (half day) and 10

ACT Prep Class Update

Two years ago, we changed our approach to our ACT prep class. Dr. Mary Gribbin, a well-known test preparation expert, designed our ACT prep course and helped train Ms. Block. The new course proved to be part of our success and the data shows that the students who took the course showed significantly greater improvement than the student who did not.

Further, an ACT math course and now an ACT science course were developed and implemented by Dr. Gribbin at the end of last year. Both of these courses will be available this year.

It is important to remember that the reason that we have the highest ACT scores in northern Michigan and one of the best scores in the state – a composite of over 26 – is due to our excellent instruction and a carefully designed, rigorous curriculum. If you would like your young adult to take advantage of either course please e-mail Mrs. Block at mblock@gtacs.org. **Every junior who plans to go to college should plan on taking the ACT at least twice with the exception of students who will attend NMC.** NMC has its own test; the ACT is not necessary. Additionally, sophomores who have completed Algebra II are encouraged to take the ACT.

Register at <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/> with the test date, registration deadline and late fee zone (late registration deadline) as follows:

Test date September 9	Registration August 4	Late registration August 5-18
Test date October 28	Registration September 22	Late registration Sept. 23-October 6
Test date December 9	Registration November 3	Late registration November 4-17
Test date February 10	Registration January 12	Late registration January 13-19
Test date April 14	Registration March 9	Late registration March 10-23
Test date June 9	Registration May 5	Late registration May 5-18

Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my mind, give me right faith, a firm hope and perfect charity, so that I may always and in all things act according to Your Holy Will. Amen.

Saint Francis' prayer before the San Damiano Crucifix

Faculty and Staff Listing

Religion Department and English Department

Mrs. Trish Zamarron
Religion Department Chair
Sacred Scripture
Catholic Apologetics

Ms. Catherine Babbitt
Catholic Apologetics

**Mr. John LaCross/
Fr. Elias Chinzara**
Introduction to Catholicism

Mr. Bill Strong
Freshman English,
Senior English

Mrs. Cheryl Schmuckal
English Department Chair
World Literature
AP Language and
Composition
American Literature

Mr. David Peck
Major World Religions

Mr. Greg Vaughan
Church History, Introduction to
Catholicism

Dr. Walter Scott
American Literature
Honors American Literature

Mr. Will Jurkiewicz
Honors British Literature
British Literature
AP Literature

Science Department and Social Studies

Ms. Catherine Babbitt
Science Department Chair
Anatomy
AP Biology

Mr. Frank Paladino
Physics

Honors Chemistry
Chemistry

Mr. John LaCross
Physical Science
Chemistry
AP Chemistry

Ms. Briana Conklin
Biology
Honors Biology
Forensic Science
Environmental Science

Mr. Tim Shrift
Physical Science

Mr. David Peck
Social Studies Department Chair
Government
World History
International Terrorism

Mr. Tyler Sanborn
Economics

Mr. Will Jurkiewicz
AP Psychology

Mr. Rodney Taplin
United States History
Military History
AP Government

Mrs. Megan Block
ACT Prep

Math Department

Mrs. Molly Klettner
Math Department Chair
Algebra II,
Honors Algebra II
AP Statistics

Mr. Jim Hornyak
Algebra 1
Geometry
Honors Geometry

Mr. Greg Vaughan
College Prep Algebra

Mr. Tyler Sanborn
Pre-Calculus
Honors Algebra
AP Calculus

Phys Ed., Business, Fine Arts, Foreign Language

Mr. Tyler Sanborn
Weights & Conditioning

Mr. Aaron Biggar
Weights & Conditioning

Mr. Charles Taylor
Director of Fine Arts, Band

Mr. Scott Carter
Director of Choirs

Mr. Ben Ferris
Spanish

Mrs. Carol Brinks
Spanish

Dr. Walter Scott
Latin

Mrs. Alexia Ruelas
Photography
Sculpture
Metals
2D Art

Mrs. Amy Lee
Culinary Arts

Support Staff

Rev. Bill Lipscomb, Chaplain Emeritus
Rev. Elias Chinzara, Chaplain
Mr. Matt Bauman, Dean of Students
Mrs. Beth Maday, Counselor
Mrs. Nicole Devol, Counselor
Mrs. Kathy Hunt, Secretary
Mrs. MaryLou Middleton, Attendance
Mr. Aaron Biggar Athletic Director

Reporting an Absence?

Please notify school by calling
before 8:00 am
231 946-8038
Leave a message if there is
no answer

PEACE PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood
as to understand; to be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

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 contemplation.

Our Chapel, 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 us.

WEEKLY MASS

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

St. Francis Church

St. Clare's Chapel

MONDAY, Mass, 6:55 am

TUESDAY, Mass, 11:50 am

WEDNESDAY, Mass, 6:55 am

WEDNESDAY, Adoration,

8:15-noon, 1:00-2:30 pm

THURSDAY, Reconciliation, 9:00 am

Some schedule adjustments may occur during the year.

All are welcome

ONLINE BOOKSTORE

Our online EdTech bookstore will be open soon. Please look for detailed instructions to be emailed soon. Prior to ordering books, students will want to have their schedules finalized, so please make an appointment with one of the counselors soon if you are considering a schedule change. The appointment book is outside the high school office.

NEW/TRANSFER STUDENT ORIENTATION

Orientation for Students - Morning of [September 5](#)

Incoming Freshmen and transfer students should plan to attend orientation during the morning of [September 5](#). Other high school students do not attend until the following day. Uniforms are not required, but as always, appropriately modest and respectful attire is expected. The agenda is as follows (transfer students may arrive at 11:00 instead of 9:00 am):

9:00-9:45 am

Welcome/orientation messages from the principal, counselor and dean of students

9:50-11:00

Abbreviated rotation to get familiar with class locations

11:00-11:45

iPad configuration of settings, etc.; iPads will be collected/retained at the end of this session

11:45-noon

Locker combination practice session

NEW/TRANSFER PARENT & STUDENT MEETING

Orientation for Parents & Students - Evening of [September 5](#)

- Parents of incoming freshmen and transfer students should plan to attend orientation on the evening of [September 5](#) from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Kohler Auditorium. During this session, there will be presentations by the principal, counselor and dean of students. **Student iPads will be distributed.**
- The iPad Acceptable Use policies are now found in the student handbook which can be found on the [gtacs.org](#) website under the Parents > Handbooks/Forms/Calendars section.

Gladhander is our Schools' largest fundraiser, and Gladhander raffle ticket sales are a significant source of funding. Please do everything possible to sell at least two raffle tickets this year. The early bird drawing of \$500 will be drawn on September 30. Tickets are \$125 each or two for \$200 and three for \$250!

Many hands make light work. Please consider volunteering in some capacity for Gladhander this year. To find an area that fits with your unique talents, contact the Gladhander office at (231) 941-GLAD.

Eagle Scout candidate **Lucas Tull** organized a work bee to clean up the bell tower courtyard this summer, and it's never looked better. Thank you to everyone who participated in this effort to beautify our school grounds.

On January 18, members of the junior class will depart for the March for Life in Washington, DC. This trip, which was initiated by students, has become a cherished tradition at our school. Details will be emailed later in the school year.

FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE

What a beautiful summer in Traverse City! Our prayers have remained with you during these last couple of months and we are excited about the 2017-2018 school year.

PSAT TEST

The PSAT/NMSQT is a national test that will once again be administered to all students in the JUNIOR class on Wednesday, October 18. The PSAT provides excellent practice for the SAT college entrance examination and also gives students the opportunity to enter the National Merit Foundation Scholarship Competition. If your son or daughter receives a qualifying score on the PSAT test, they will then have the opportunity to apply to be a National Merit Scholarship winner. More information can be found on the collegeboard website, www.collegeboard.com.

SCHEDULE CHANGES/APPOINTMENTS

Schedule changes have been ongoing throughout the month of August. If you would like to make a change to your schedule or you would like to make an appointment with your counselor, simply stop by and select a date/time that works best for you. An appointment book is located in the hallway outside the main office. Please know, as always, we do our best to give you a schedule that best meets your needs.

SAVE THE DATE

FAFSA is scheduled to open in October!

OCTOBER 1st is the opening date for the FAFSA. (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Any senior family who will be applying for federal aid for the 2018-2019 post-secondary school year,

can begin as early as October 1. You can get more information about the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

SENIORS...CLASS OF 2018!

Great job working on your college applications! The Common Application officially opened on August 1st! Get busy writing/tweaking/re-writing your essays! I encourage you all to FINISH, yes I did say FINISH your college applications prior to school starting in September. You will have a huge weight lifted off your shoulders if you finish them before the school year begins. After the college applications are finished, it will be time for you to begin working on scholarships. Take a deep breath, get working and know we are here to help!

Remember your senior year is important in the college admissions process. You can take the ACT or SAT again (yes I said again), choose a rigorous class schedule, and you will need to keep your grades up. Colleges/universities have the right to rescind a positive admissions decisions if your grades drop. Keep your eye on the goal and don't fall victim to senioritis! AS ALWAYS, be sure to take God with you on this journey. He knows you, He loves you, and He has plans for you. Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope for the future."

Know, as always, we are praying for you.

Mrs. DeVol and Mrs. Maday

STUDENT

ATHLETE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Please visit the Athletics Page on our website, www.gtacs.org, to download required forms including Sports Physical, and Emergency Contact information.

SUMMER READING

Just a reminder that all high school students have a summer reading assignment. The assignments vary depending on which English class a student is taking this coming school year. Please go to the GTACS website to find the information. It can be found under the Parents tab and then under "resources". Books should be read before the first day of school. [This information was emailed in July.]

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

This year's high school musical will be *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and performance dates are February 9, 10 and 11 and February 16, 17 and 18. Watch for information about rehearsals and tryouts in the SF News later this fall.

SPORTS PASSES

Annual or season sports passes can be purchased through the Athletics Department at (231) 946-1180.

FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

I would like to take a moment to pass along some uniform and handbook reminders. Below you will find some brief highlights; please be sure to reference the St. Francis Handbook and Mr. Buell's June uniform letter for more detailed information. Both resources can be found on our website under the Parents tab.

The largest change for the upcoming school year is that pants **MUST** be either Dennis or Lands' End. It is important that either brand choice must fit modestly.

Many of you have already placed and received your uniform orders. **Be sure to get items out and try them on.**

When returning for a refund or an exchange, you may use the Dennis online return label for \$6.50 or you can choose your own method such as UPS or USPS. If you haven't ordered yet, now is a good time to start that process.

Girls, when trying on your items please make sure that skirts and pants meet handbook policy, which is to say that skirts hit "at or below the knee" and pants are worn modestly.

We ask that you purchase a "cold weather"

top for your student to wear in the fall and winter months. With plenty of choices in the Dennis online store, we are confident there is something for every student. As a reminder, other items like sweatshirts and jackets are not allowed in school during school hours.

Boys, we ask that you come to school with your hair cut in compliance with our handbook which states that hair must be neat and clean (out of the eyes and off the collar).

Again, you will find greater detail in the handbook, in Mr. Buell's letter, and in our uniform FAQs, but also keep in mind that all previously approved polo shirts and previously allowed Lands' End uniform chinos may be worn. Lands' End skirts may be worn for the next three years if worn modestly (at or below the knee).

We ask that you send your students to school in modest clothing that is in line with our uniform policy. In turn, we will monitor and enforce the policies at school. With your help, corrective action and discipline by the school should be the exception, not the norm.