

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

AT GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

NEW SCHOOL MOVES FORWARD

GROUNDBREAKING AND DEMOLITION TAKE PLACE

The June 1, 2017 groundbreaking ceremony began with a very special Mass celebrating the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother and Teacher in the Spirit. A box of campaign blessings, sacrifices and prayers was brought to Mass and then carried by students to the groundbreaking site. Bishop Steven Raica performed the Order of Blessing, and sprinkled the site of our new school with holy water. The Bishop, surrounded by pastors representing our five supporting parishes, turned the first spade of dirt. Later, members of the campaign cabinet and other supporters joined in this momentous occasion and many photos were taken!



**WORK
ON OUR
NEW
SCHOOL
HAS
BEGUN!**

\$13+ million raised

Thanks to our many supporters, our campaign momentum is strong and construction has already begun. However, we are still actively seeking financial commitments to make our new building worthy of its purpose and our schools' mission.



Between August 18-21, the "old school" portion of the building was demolished. St. Francis High School students Jon Boehmer, Ryan Lynts, Tyler Pritchard and Dylan McCardel helped carry the cornerstone out for safekeeping until it is installed in a place of honor at the new building.



On June 13, 2017, a final Mass was celebrated in the upper level of Immaculate Conception Elementary School (formerly the church). Back row: Fr. Jarvis, Deacon Krupka, Fr. Citro, Deacon Younker, Fr. Hayden; Front row: Britt Sanford, Dave Milliron, Eric Mulvany, and Jack Williams.

SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN

www.gtacs.org/giving or call (231) 995-8428

FAITH IN OUR FUTURE BREAKFAST

ANNUAL DONOR APPRECIATION / FUNDRAISING EVENT GROWS IN POPULARITY

More than 250 guests joined us for our annual Faith in our Future Breakfast in May where they enjoyed a presentation by Sister John Mary Fleming, OP. Sister John Mary is a member of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education, and provides guidance for the educational mission of the Church. Her talk titled "A Light in the Darkness" conveyed the impact of Catholic education at the elementary, secondary, and university levels nationwide. This 2018 Breakfast will take place on May 18. There is no charge to attend, but reservations are required. Call (231) 941-4523.



Photo by Gerald Martineau ('64)

WE GIVE THANKS

GLADHANDER 2017 RAISES MORE THAN \$400K!

Our community has once again been incredibly generous with its support of Gladhandler. The net amount raised was \$401,953! This was the 35th anniversary of the gala event which is credited with contributing more than \$11 million to our schools' operating budget since its inception.

THE 35TH TIME IS THE TICKET!

Our grand prize raffle ticket purchaser had been buying Gladhandler tickets from Jim Beckett for 35 years – since the very first one! Congratulations to Jay Hooper of Traverse City who chose the raffle grand prize of \$32,000 in cash.



GTACS MAKES ITS MARK

CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION NAMES GTACS TO ITS HALL OF FAME

At a September 2017 awards ceremony in Manhattan, the Catholic Education Foundation – a national, non-profit association dedicated to the advancement of Catholic education in the United States – GTACS was one of two schools entered into the organization's Hall of Fame; the other school was The Atonement Academy of San Antonio. The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecelia were also named to the Hall of Fame. Also at the ceremony, the Catholic Education Foundation bestowed Lifetime Achievement Awards on Rev. Msgr. Sabato Pilato of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Dr. William Thierfelder, president of Belmont Abbey College in Charlotte, North Carolina.

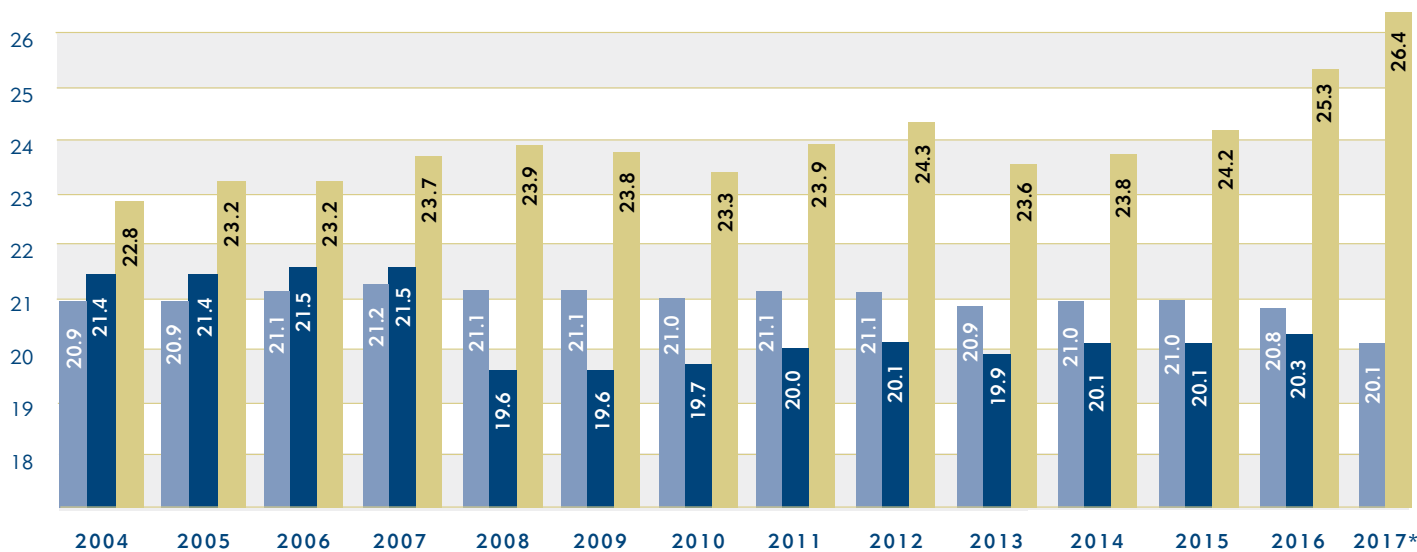
The Catholic Education Foundation is guided by distinguished Catholic education leaders of our day including: Cardinal Séan Patrick O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston; and Frank J. Hanna, CEO, Hanna Capital, LTD; Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap, Archbishop of Philadelphia; and Most Reverend Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington.



Diocesan Superintendent Frank Sander and GTACS Superintendent Michael Buell pause for a photo with the Catholic Education Foundation Award.

REPORT ON AVERAGE ACT SCORE

ST. FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017 – TAKEN DURING YEAR OF GRADUATION



*For 2017, the State of Michigan migrated to the SAT test so no comparative date is available

The Class of 2017 set another record with their average ACT score: Their composite of 26.4 is 6+ points above the national average (state scores are no longer valid as many schools in Michigan now take the SAT instead of the ACT). Since the ACT is based on a 36-point scale, incremental improvements mean greater likelihood of admission to the college of one's choice, and access to more scholarship dollars. The Class of 2017 received \$3.2 million in scholarship offers.

TO LOVE AND TO SERVE

St. Francis High School students are now required to complete at least one Christian mission trip immersion experience prior to graduation. The students' response to this opportunity has been amazing, and most mission trips have had waiting lists! Students and their families must pay for the trips themselves, and costs range from \$250 to \$2,000 for international experiences.

The Keegan Mission Project offers scholarships to help students for whom the expense of travel is a financial hardship. Donations to the fund are accepted year-round at www.thekeeganmissionproject.com or on the GTACS website at <https://gtacs.org/donations/keeganmission/>.



The Keegan Mission Project was established in honor of Keegan ('13) Tarrant who had a particular passion for mission work. Additional information is available at www.thekeeganmissionproject.com.



OTHER MISSION TRIPS THIS YEAR: HAITI | DETROIT | JAMAICA

GLADIATOR ATHLETICS EVERYDAY EXCELLENCE



THERE'S NEVER AN OFF-SEASON FOR OUR GLADIATORS

Thanks to dedicated coaches in all sports and in every grade level, our sports teams enjoy a phenomenal level of success! Our downhill boys ski team finished 2nd in the State, and the girls, 5th. In the spring, it was a thrill to watch the boys baseball team make it all the way to MSU for the State finals. Meanwhile, girls track won the conference AND regionals, and girls tennis won the conference. This fall, the Gladiator girls cross country team won the conference and regionals, finishing 9th overall in the State. For the first time maybe ever, the boys cross country team also made it to States – and with a very young team, too! Girls volleyball had a terrific year, taking conference and district titles. The equestrian team won their regionals and quarterfinals. Boys tennis broke nearly every school record imaginable, with three individual State champions and the highest overall team score in Gladiator history. Another highlight of the year was having the “Defenders of the Faith,” Father Jarvis and Father Rexroat, at some of our events!



SIGNS OF DEDICATION

“Signing ceremonies” are held when an athlete makes their commitment to collegiate athletics, especially to a Division I school where athletic scholarships are offered. The Class of 2017 celebrated signing days with **Brady Buell** (Central Michigan University football); **Gabe Gallery** (Sienna Heights football); **Dominic Hathaway** (Colorado School of Mines football); **Michael Hegewald** (University of Dayton football); **Josh Hetfield** (Cornerstone basketball); **Marek Laucky** (Aquinas basketball); **Sam Ludka** (Grand Valley State University track and field); **Taylor Lundberg** (Colby hockey); **Connor McGee** (Aquinas track); and **Juliana Phillips** (shown with her parents, John and Lori, in photo at left, St. Louis University volleyball). Congratulations!

PERFORMING ARTS



A NOTEWORTHY YEAR

Last year was the first time in decades, if not ever, that a mixed ensemble (boys and girls) choir received a score of 1 at the state Michigan School Vocal Music Association (MSVMA) festival. Many of our soloists also received a top score at the state solo and ensemble festival. Congratulations to Daniel Simaz, Ally Taylor, Grace Zucco, Miriam Peck and Olivia Donahue.

Congratulations to the St. Francis Wind Ensemble for earning highest ratings at the March 2017 Band & Orchestra Festival. This marks the third year in a row that the band has earned straight A's at the District Festival, a goal that was achieved for the first time in the history of the band program three years ago. This year also marked another first for the band: This year, for the first time, the band earned straight A's in all 15 categories (five categories/three judges). This year's musical selections were nearly two full levels of difficulty above the band's current classification. Past festival records would verify that this was the finest festival showing in the history of the band program. Congratulations to the students for their hard work, dedication and attention to detail.

SHADOW DAYS OPEN HOUSES INFO NIGHTS

Pre-registration required
Contact Admissions
at (231) 995-8425



GODSPELL DELIGHTS AUDIENCES OF ALL AGES

St. Francis High School cast and crew members thoroughly enjoyed their roles in *Godspell*, which was a feast for the eyes and the ears. One of the great things about this play is that the students were able to adapt the script and incorporate favorite moments from past productions. It was poignant and powerful! We're looking forward to this year's musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, which runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday (matinee) on February 9-11 and February 16-18, 2018.



Our musical performance of *Godspell* was entered into and received recognition at the Wharton Center Sutton Foster Awards at which Daniel Simaz (far right) was a nominee for *Best Actor in a High School Musical*.

The talented Oliver Boomer (8th grade) is performing in *Elf the Musical* as Michael Hobbs (Buddy's brother). He will be performing in over 50 shows at the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, Illinois.

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Alumni, grandparents, prospective families and others are invited to get an inside look at what makes our schools unique.

8:30 - 9:30 am
Holy Angels/St. Francis

Event is held approximately once a month during the school year

To register, contact
Lori Phillips at (231) 995-8425
or lphillips@gtacs.org
or Linda Schell at
(231) 946-8147 or
lschell@gtacs.org

ALUMNI NEWS

Casey ('09) Droste has accepted a 5th grade teaching position at Immaculate Conception Elementary School and loving it!

Jamie ('10) Bott is moving to Phoenix, AZ to begin her career as a doctor of physical therapy. Jamie is busy planning her wedding in August 2018!

Vince ('03) Prusick, MD graduated from Orthopaedic Surgery Residency in June 2017. He is currently doing Fellowship in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN. Vince and his wife Kate ('03 Potthoff) are new parents to Everett Cole, born on February 8, 2017.

Brian ('99) and Bridgett ('00) Beckwith recently launched Current Consulting (www.currentconsultingtc.com), a full-service consulting firm, with the goal of helping business owners navigate all the challenges and opportunities involved with starting or growing a business. Brian brings his experience as a CPA, attorney, and former CFO of the 3rd largest brewing company in Michigan when providing guidance to his clients. Through her latest role as the Director of Marketing at the same company, Bridgett has first-hand experience in marketing and communications that she uses to help her clients succeed. Services include legal, accounting, bookkeeping, marketing, PR, social media management, graphic and web design, and IT. They are located in the Tru Fit Trouser building on Woodmere Ave. Bridgett and Brian's two children currently attend St. Francis High School, Jack ('21) and Isabelle ('20).

Erin ('14) McDonnell, Navy women's cross country sophomore was placed on the Academic All-Patriot League squad. Erin is majoring in oceanography and has been named to the Superintendent's List and the Commandant's List. McDonnell became the fifth Mid in program history to be placed on the academic all-league squad. Erin also had a strong campaign on the cross country course finishing first in four meets among Navy runners, which included the Army-Navy Star Meet, Patriot League Championship and NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional. She finished runner-up at the Army-Navy meet, while placing 20th out of 109 runners and 54th out of 198 runners at the league championship and regional meet, respectively.

Mariano ('70) Cadiz retired from Chrysler (now FCA) in 2007 after working there for 25 years as a product design Engineer. Mariano is an ESL tutor for the Oakland Literacy Council. Mariano is also a volunteer English tutor for the Library's ELL (English Language Learner) Conversation group. He truly enjoys the work and at the same time learning a lot about other cultures. Being a former exchange student, Mariano can really relate to

his students about their challenges learning the English language, particularly the "casual or everyday" American English.

Zachary ('02) Juett and his wife recently moved back to Traverse City with Zachary accepting a position with Munson Medical Center. Zachary and his wife Alexis are new parents to Victoria Stotler, born on February 20, 2016.

Julie ('94) Hartl MSN, FNP-C, CPPA is a family and palliative care nurse practitioner living in Traverse City. She started Chronic Care Management, LLC in 2014, a locally based Home Care Medicine & Palliative Care service providing nurse practitioners, podiatry, dietitians, nurses, and social workers to patients in Northern Michigan with chronic illnesses. With a staff of 23, their goal is to personalize care, bring medical services into the home (labs, xrays, diagnosis/treatments) and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations.

Luke ('14) O'Brien graduated from the Traverse City Police Reserve Academy on May 4, 2017. Luke is now serving the City of Traverse City as a Reserve Police Officer.

Katelyn ('17) O'Brien on August 28, 2017, entered as a postulant with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Sister Katelyn is scheduled to enter the novitiate and receive her new religious name in July 2018.

David Gallagher ('10) is engaged to be married this summer to Lauren Frances of Chicago. David currently lives and works in Chicago.

Lyndsay ('10) LaCourse married Shane Totten on September 16, 2017. They reside in Traverse City where Lyndsay is a clinical therapist on the crisis team at Northern Lakes Community Mental Health.

Jessica ('06 LaCourse) Thorne and her husband, Joe, along with their 3 children, Everly, Axton, Adelia, (all under the age of 4) moved back to Traverse City where they are building their new home. Jessica sells Scentsy products along with writing a blog titled, "Her Homemaking Haven" (www.herhomemaking-haven.com), which concentrates on time management and organization for busy moms.

The **St. Francis High School class of 1966** held their 50th class reunion on Saturday September 3, 2016 at the Circuit on 14th Street. Between 40-50 classmates attended including spouses for a most enjoyable reunion.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR
ALUMNI UPDATES**

Ischell@gtacs.org or (231) 946-8147



Dreams do come true. **Tyler ('16) Picardat** has completed his first year at West Point military academy. While it is a privilege and honor to attend West Point, it is also a lot of hard work. While most college students are home for the summer, Tyler only had about five weeks off. The rest of the time he was off training. Tyler attended Air Assault school for two weeks. Then he spent the month of July at Cadet Field Training. Surviving your Plebe (freshman) year is a big milestone. Congratulations, Tyler!

Congratulations to **Tyler ('12) Hansen** who was recently accepted into the United States Air Force fighter pilot program. Tyler is currently stationed at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. Way to go, Tyler!

Christian ('17) Stellan is mid-way through his first year at the United States Air Force Academy where he is pursuing studies in aeronautical engineering. Christian "enjoyed" basic training and loves his studies but is looking forward to the day when he can wear civilian clothes again, at least occasionally! An outstanding skier during his days at TCSF, Christian was selected to the academy's competitive club ski team.



Following her Plebe Summer, **Camille ('17) Madion** (center) has begun her studies as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. She has met many amazing people and is very happy at USNA. In addition to a heavy course load, she made the off-shore sailing team this fall. She is considering majoring in political science and minoring in Spanish or Arabic.

BIRTHS

Jacob Revett | August 2, 2013 – a son born to Keri and James ('95) Revett

Josephine Leora | February 15, 2016 - a daughter born to Melissa (Ardery '04) and Bryan Elkus

Victoria Stotler | February 20, 2016 – a daughter born to Alexis and Zachary ('02) Juett

Gwendolyn | September 12, 2016 – a daughter born to Colleen and Tim ('00) Wolf

Braylon Markus | September 22, 2016 - a son born to Robyn and Scott ('93) Doriot

Paisley | January 12, 2017 – a daughter born to Megan ('03 Hirtreiter) and B.J. ('99) Bossert

Everett Cole | February 8, 2017 - a son born to Kate ('03 Potthoff) and Vince ('03) Prusick

Mari Eliza | March 10, 2017 – a daughter born to Kelly ('04 Kuhlman) and Nick ('04) Hanophy

Leif Roger | April 28, 2017 – a son born to Erik and Amy '06 (Kendziorski) Olsen

Tenley Grace Artt | May 21, 2017 – a daughter born to Sarah and Patrick ('06) Rigan

Quin Rose | August 2, 2017 – a daughter born to Jenell ('98 Rokos) and Chris Gauthier

Francis Mawby | August 15, 2017 – a son born to Ayriel ('07 Mawby) and Nick Parmer

Lincoln Robert | August 30, 2017 – a son born to Jill ('07 Kuhlman) and Elias Fowler

Leo Francis | September 26, 2017 - a son born to Alicia ('97 Heintz) and Matt ('96) Classens

Sloan | September 21, 2017 - a daughter born to Layne ('04 Kiella) and Zach Wood

MARRIAGES

Leah ('09 Mawby) and Tommy Walbridge, May 27, 2017

Nicole and **Parker ('08) Prusick**, June 3, 2017

Lyndsay ('10 LaCourse) and Shane Totten, September 16, 2017

Alyssa and **Thomas ('08) Brick**, October 7, 2017

Kelly ('11 Zelinski) and **Keith ('11) Gingras**, October 14, 2017



HALL OF FAME

At an October 7, 2017 induction ceremony, the following people were welcomed into the GTACS Hall of Fame:

DR. KIERAN M'CNUITY
DR. LYNN SWAN
CARMEN REID
DR. VINCE PRUSICK

GTACS established the Hall of Fame to recognize those individuals who have: Made an exceptional contribution to Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools or to society; Achieved exceptional success; Demonstrated excellence and longevity in their field; Modeled outstanding integrity.

To nominate a person (living or deceased) please complete all the required information and submit it by the last Friday in June to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee, 123 East Eleventh Street, Traverse City, Michigan 49684. Nomination forms are due on the last Friday in June in the year preceding the proposed induction. For questions regarding the Hall of Fame nomination process, contact Kathy Britten at (231) 941-4523.

ANNIVERSARIES

Colette ('66 Greenlaw) and Dick Riffenburg celebrated 50 years of marriage on June 24, 2017

Kathy ('74 Kroetsch) and Denny Morio celebrated 40 years of marriage on October 8, 2017

DEATHS

John A. Zoulek '46
LaVern Andres '50
John Patrick "Pat" Delanty '54
Robert Valleau, Jr '58
Connie Manville '66
John Ashley '69
Stanley Kirt '69

Robert J. Lane '71
Michael P. Keating '77
Andrea Lather '80
Mary Avery '80
Matthew Echelberger '80
Stew McConaughy '80
Casey Rasmussen '09



GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
123 East Eleventh Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

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SAVE THE DATES

- 2/02 All School Mass (Catholic Schools Week)
- 2/09 High School Musical opening weekend
- 5/17 All School Mass (Grandparents Day)
- 5/17 Festival of Arts
- 5/18 Faith in our Future Fundraising Breakfast
- 5/30 Baccalaureate Mass
- 6/01 Golf Classic
- 6/03 Graduation

Each school celebrates Mary during the month of May. For a schedule of May Crownings and other activities, consult the individual school calendars or contact the Advancement office.



The junior class and the majority of the senior class traveled to Washington, DC, in February to participate in the March for Life.

Five Parishes, Four Schools, One Mission

Our schools would not be possible without the support of our five parishes.

CHRIST THE KING
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
ST. JOSEPH – MAPLETON
ST. PATRICK

