

# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY ON CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## AT GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

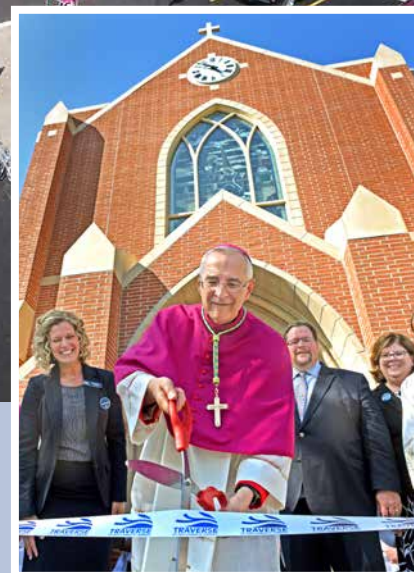


## A NEW ERA AT GTACS

**NEW SCHOOL OPENED ON AUGUST 15, 2019**

A new Immaculate Conception Elementary officially opened its doors in August. The celebration began with Mass on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At least 1,000 people were in attendance. Afterward, everyone gathered outside the new school as Bishop Steven J. Raica gave a blessing which was followed by a ribbon cutting and community-wide open house. The new school serves students in preschool through grade 5.

Above: After Mass, the crowd gathered outside the school while the Bishop gave a blessing.



This photo of Bishop Steven Raica with Principal Jessica Lesinski (left), Superintendent Mike Buell (right), and Assistant Principal Maureen DeYoung (far right) was featured on the cover of the National Catholic Education Association magazine, Momentum. Photo credit: Gerald Martineau, Class of '64





## LET PEOPLE SEE THE BEAUTY OF OUR FAITH

If, as Bishop Robert Barron says, “Beauty is the arrowhead of evangelization,” then Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools (GTACS) now has a full quiver aimed at attracting young families: A highly visible location near the base of Grand Traverse Bay, a colorful, “kid-magnet” playground, and a brand new 72,000 square foot elementary school laden with thoughtful and beautiful details. “This new building will let people see the Beauty of our faith,” says GTACS Superintendent Mike Buell.



A centerpiece of the Gothic-style architecture is the second floor Saint Gabriel the Archangel Chapel which features a massive stained glass window, “The Annunciation”, by Omnibus Studios of New Era, Michigan. The window draws the eyes of the people upward to where a crucifix, estimated to be more than 100 years old, is suspended above the altar.



In the school’s central gathering space, there is a floor-to-ceiling crucifix set against a slate backdrop. Nearby, a two-story stained glass window harvested from the old school depicts the Holy Family. In common spaces, French impressionist art by Pierre Bittar of Harbor Springs provides a child-friendly interpretation of favorite Gospel scenes. In the hallways, a series of niches provide space for statuary of angels and saints. A life-sized statue of Mary, Seat of Wisdom, will have a place of honor in the gathering space.

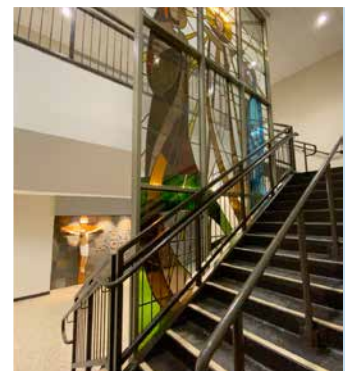




Another eye-catching feature of the new school is its playground, designed and manufactured by Sinclair Recreation of Holland, Michigan. An army of school volunteers worked shoulder-to-shoulder during one of the hottest weeks of the summer to install the swings and play structures.



On June 11, fifth graders placed a time capsule in the cornerstone of the new building. The time capsule contained items from the capital campaign along with letters from students to the citizens of the future.



On August 8, Bishop Steven J. Raica dedicated the school chapel and anointed the altar, depositing relics from Saints Fructuosus, Laetantius, and Maria Goretti. A first class relic of the crib in which Jesus lay was also donated to the school by the Zayaz family. (Most of the crib is at the Basilica of the Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.)

On August 15 – the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – the community was invited to Mass followed by a building blessing and ribbon cutting ceremony. An estimated 750 participated in the Mass and approximately 1,000 attended the open house festivities.



“Although a lot has changed, what happens inside the school will remain the same,” says Buell. “Teachers will still be helping individual souls reach their unique potential. Great teachers make a great school, and we have always had that. Finally though, we have a building that represents on the outside the exceptional education that is offered inside our Catholic schools.”





## HOMECOMING

Although the Alumni Tailgate was rained out due to high winds and periodic downpours, the weather did not dampen the crowd's enthusiasm for the Friday Night Lights at Homecoming. The Glads were victorious in the October 11 game against Cheboygan and went on to finish the regular season 6-3.

### HOMECOMING COURT

#### FRESHMEN

Seville Tarrant and Joey Donahue

#### SOPHOMORES

Michelle Xia and Harrison Franklin

#### JUNIORS

Olivia Ludka, Mason Litwiller,  
Haley Soto, Finn Ritchie

#### SENIORS

Cara Franke, Tyler Arntz, Lauren Julian,  
Evan Hartl, Karlee King, Noah Kadlec,

#### QUEEN AND KING

Stella Warnes and Jack Williams



## GREAT SHOW, CHARLIE BROWN

Performing arts fans were treated to an outstanding production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* as this year's high school musical. More than 50 students were involved in some aspect of this production. Olivia Donahue, who played the role of Lucy, was recruited to the University of Michigan as a vocal performance major.

## SAVE THE DATE

**JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 15, 16 AND 21, 22, 23**

## HEARING IS BELIEVING

### OUR BANDS AND CHOIRS PERFORM AT HIGH LEVELS

St. Francis Dei Cantanti and Select Ensemble Choirs performed various concerts throughout the year. The Select Ensemble received a Superior "1" rating at the State Festival.

The St. Francis Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Charles Taylor, is the largest it has been in 10 years with over 75 students participating. They are a hometown favorite every summer in the National Cherry Festival Parade.

The Symphonic Band received a "1" superior rating at band festival last year in both performance and sight reading. This is the 5th consecutive year for this designation. Participation levels in band remain high at the middle school level as well.



St. Francis Marching Band is much warmer and drier thanks to a very generous donor and the Wayne Schmidt family for these new waterproof, insulated jackets.



## ON A MISSION TO SERVE

In order to graduate from St. Francis High School, students must complete at least one immersion mission trip experience. For the 2019-2020 school year, students have the following options from which to choose:

**CHRIST THE LAMB  
RETREAT CENTER**  
PARADISE, MICHIGAN

**GOD'S KITCHEN/DEGAGE**  
GRAND RAPIDS

**SAFE HARBOR/  
CHERRY HILL/  
GLADMEALS**  
TRAVERSE CITY

**CAPUCHIN  
MISSIONS/  
GLEANERS FOOD  
BANK**  
DETROIT

**FREEDOM BUILDERS**  
NORTHERN MICHIGAN

**CATHOLIC HEART WORKCAMP**  
OIL CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Keegan Mission Project helps fund scholarships for students who wish to participate in mission trips but lack the financial means.

The Keegan Mission Project Scholarship Fund was created by the Tarrant family in honor of their daughter, Keegan ('13) who experienced joy in serving others in Africa, Jamaica, and Traverse City.

To donate to the Keegan Mission Project Scholarship Fund, visit <https://gtacs.org/donations/keeganmission/>



## GLAD GRADS AT-A-GLANCE

### SOME NUMBERS BEHIND THE CLASS OF 2019

NO. IN CLASS: 95

AVERAGE ACT: 25.1 versus State average of 20.7

ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS: 3 Offered, 1 Accepted

DUAL ENROLLMENT AT NMC: 40%

ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS:

Tyler Prichard; Henry Carroll

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY: 51%

ENROLLED AT 4-YEAR COLLEGE: 85%

ENROLLED AT 2-YEAR COLLEGE: 14%

ENROLLED AT COLLEGE OUT OF STATE: 25%

VALEDICTORIANS:

Jonathon Boehmer; A. J. Flannery;  
Madelyn Picardat; Christine Scerbak

SALUTATORIAN:

Wade Gerberding



## 100 FRESHMEN

Our incoming freshmen class is the largest one in recent history at more than 100 students.

That's a fact we love!

## MERITS MENTIONING

Congratulations to Anne Myler, Class of 2020, who was named a National Merit Semifinalist, placing her in the top 1% of students nationwide.

## THE SPORTS REPORT



**Basketball.** Boys basketball won the District and advanced to the Regional finals, falling to Iron Mountain.

**Downhill skiing.** After three years as runners-up, the Great North Alpine ski team won a State championship.

**Wrestling** had a State champion, Andy Simaz.

**Baseball** won conference and districts.

**Girls Golf** qualified for states for the fourth year in a row and made history by finishing in the top ten in the State.

**Girls track** took top honors in the conference.

**Boys tennis** - Brendan Chouinard and Ben Schmude finished first at States in #1 singles. Cody Richards brought home a state championship in #3 singles. Gladiators finished fourth overall.

**Cross Country.** Girls were Regional champs for the sixth year; and boys won Regionals for the first time ever. Both the boys and girls teams finished fourth at States – highest ranking ever for the boys. Libby Gorman, Sophia Rhein, Anna Nielson, and Thomas Richards earned All State honors.

**Volleyball** earned its eighth straight Lake Michigan Conference title and the District championship, continuing on in playoffs at press time.

**Football** brought home the District championship and the team is continuing on in playoffs at press time.



# HALL OF FAME

The 2019 Hall of Fame ceremony provided powerful inspiration for students and families alike as the following people were honored:

**ART AND MILLIE DORIOT**  
**MIKE DORIOT**

**JOAN CORWIN "CORKY" SCHOLTENS**  
**MARGARET SOPHIEA**

Nominations for the next Hall of Fame class are being accepted now. Please see the guidelines on our website: [www.gtacs.org/hall-of-fame](http://www.gtacs.org/hall-of-fame).



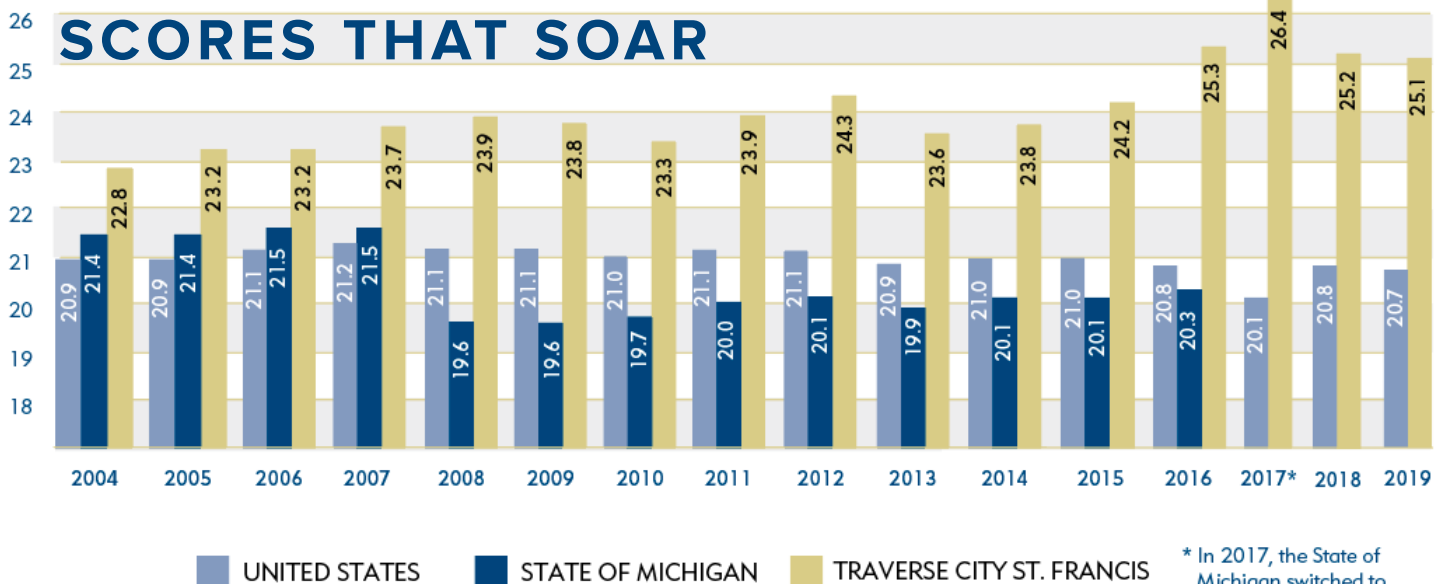
# MARCH FOR LIFE

Each winter, our junior class travels to Washington, DC, to witness the March for Life. Students say it is very uplifting to see so many other young people witnessing to their support for life at all phases.



# GLADHANDER 2019

Gladhandler 2019, "There's No Place Like Home," was amazing. Net proceeds from the event were \$367,081. The grand prize raffle was won by **Ray and Nancy Brzezinski** of Traverse City. Gladhandler is a significant source of funding for our teacher salaries and student scholarships. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event in some way.



\* In 2017, the State of Michigan switched to the SAT from the ACT

# ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

After 14 years in the government sector, **Denise ('83) Dell'Acqua** made the move to the Diocese of Lansing where she serves as an Executive Administrative Assistant to the Director of Vocations. Denise supports the Directors of Seminarians, Diaconate Formation, Permanent Diaconate and Consecrated Formation. Her primary responsibilities lie in the seminarian office where she assists the Director with all events leading to ordination.



**Diana ('12) Matuszak Hansen** celebrated the release of her new book, "To Kale and Back", on Amazon.com. The book quickly

soared to number one new release and best seller in the self help category. Diana followed up her best new release with a book signing at Horizon Books in August.



Diana Matuszak married **Tyler ('12) Hansen** on August 31, 2019 at St. Joseph Church in Traverse City. They currently live in Al-

amogordo, New Mexico where Tyler is a F-16 pilot stationed at Holloman Air Force Base. In December they will relocate to Aviano, Italy.



**Julie Anna Hartl ('94)** married **Jordan Kilcherman** in a ceremony at St Francis Catholic Church in Traverse City, on September 14, 2019 with

Deacon Kevin Endres officiating. Immediately following the ceremony, the wedding party attended the TCSF vs Benzie football game to watch their son, Evan Hartl ('20)!



**Kristen (Vaughan '88) Hennessy** was honored as the recipient of the School Nutrition Association of Michigan (SNAM) 2019 Director of the Year Award. SNAM provides training,

advocacy, and professional development while representing over 1700 school food service professionals throughout Michigan.



**Erin ('14) McDonnell** graduated from the United States Naval Academy on May 24, 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in Honors

Oceanography. She was commissioned on that day as an Ensign in the United States Navy. Erin became a Naval Flight Officer and began her training in Pensacola, FL. She was a recipient of the Burke Scholarship for graduate school at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Erin was captain of the Navy Women's Cross Country team her senior year

and won the Kerry O'Neill Memorial Cross Country Award.

**Ryan ('12) McDonnell** graduated from Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina with honors last fall. In March, 2019 Ryan finished Submarine Officer Basic Course in New London, Connecticut where he received the Admiral McKee Award for excellence in submarine design and operations. He is now stationed in San Diego, where his boat is the USS Hampton, a fast attack submarine.



**Katie Maxbauer ('93) McNulty**, her husband **Kieran ('91) McNulty** and her family were blessed to host

Archbishop Hebda for St. Patrick's Day meal this past March, 2019. Among other topics of lively conversation, they enjoyed speaking with the Archbishop about some of his favorite places in the Diocese of Gaylord, of which GTACS and Traverse City were fondly recalled.

**Matthew ('95) J. Tharpe, USN** was named commander of United States Navy Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 20. Commander Tharpe is a 1999 graduate of the United States Naval Academy. His wife, Diann (Endres) is a 1997 graduate of St. Francis High School.

## BIRTHS

Reese Watson, February 8, 2018 – a daughter born to Alexis and **Zachary ('02) Juett**

Vincent Leo, August 3, 2018 – a son born to **DeLynne (Montroy '07)** and **Cory ('07) Murphy**

Georgina Scott Loewe, August 8, 2018 – a daughter born to **Leslie (Hunt '00)** and Scott Loewe

Lucas Michael, April 26, 2019 – a son born to Andrea and **Sean ('04) Currie**

Isabelle Marie, June 24, 2019 – a daughter born to **Jillian (Swan '05)** and Matthew LaCross

Warren Kendrick, July 17, 2019 – a son born to **Lillian (Wiley '09)** and **Ben ('10) Swan**

Whittaker Allen, July 18, 2019 – a son born to Megan and **Dan ('07) Swan**

Anneliese, August 29, 2019 - a daughter born to **Rachel (Aboudib '06)** and Joshua Schleenbaker

Bella Rose, October 21, 2019 – a daughter born to Alyssa and **Tommy ('08) Brick**

Elara May, October 17, 2018 - a daughter born to **Jessica (LaCourse '06)** and Joseph Thorne

## MARRIAGES

**Diana (Matuszak '12)** and **Tyler ('12) Hansen**, August 31, 2019

**Julie Anna (Hartl '94)** and Jordan Kilcherman, September 14, 2019

Marina and **Michael ('12) Jenkins**, October 19, 2019

## DEATHS

**Nellie Mae Pitcher '40**  
**Cleo B. Cavitch '44**  
**James R. McNabb '47**  
**Bernice A. Ghastin '48**  
**Patricia Morse '52**  
**Ronald A. Lints '56**  
**William "Jim" Youker '59**  
**Larry Lawson '64**  
**Michael Schmuckal '69**  
**Linda S. Hendrickson '78**  
**John J. Plamondon '80**  
**Jeffrey J. Breithaupt '82**

## REUNIONS

**Class of 1980** will celebrate its 40th reunion on June 27, 2020 at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club. Please RSVP. Even if you cannot attend, please update your address, cell phone and email by contacting **tscfclassof1980@gmail.com**.



**Williams James (Jim '59) Youker** enjoyed an impromptu get together with friends at Sleder's this summer. Sadly, about a week later,

Jim passed away in Kalamazoo. Jim's wife, Carolyn, said that Jim greatly treasured the fun he had with some of his closest lifelong friends and former classmates in Traverse City.

## GIVE YOUR GLAD GRAD THE GIFT OF MAIL!

Is your child grown and flown?  
Please send us their new mailing address and email address.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR NEWS!**  
Submissions will be edited for space and style.

Linda Schell lschell@gtacs.org or  
(231) 946-8147





**GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

123 East Eleventh Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

# SAVE THE DATE

**1/31**

All School Mass

**2/14-16, 2/21-23**

High School Musical

**5/21**

Faith in our Future  
Fundraising Breakfast

**5/21**

Festival of the Arts

**5/22**

All School Mass  
and  
Grandparents Day

**5/27**

Baccalaureate Mass

**5/29**

Golf Classic

**5/31**

Graduation



**The Our Faith,  
Our Future, Our Time  
Capital Campaign  
will conclude on  
December 31, 2019.  
All gifts received by that  
date will be gratefully  
acknowledged on the donor  
recognition wall in our  
beautiful new school.  
If you would still like to be  
part of this historic effort,  
please make your gift now.**



OUR FAITH  
OUR FUTURE  
OUR TIME

## TOURS AVAILABLE

If you have not yet had an opportunity to tour the new Immaculate Conception Elementary School, please contact Wayne Mueller at (231) 995-8428.