

Immaculate Conception Dress Down and Popcorn Days 2022-2023

(Please keep this sheet for reference)



Dress Down Days are opportunities for our students and staff to raise funds for local/state/national charities that aid people in need and are aligned with Catholic social justice teachings. They usually occur on the third Friday of the month. Please see below for a list of dates and the organizations we will be supporting. For a donation of a dollar or more, students are allowed to be out of uniform, dressed appropriately for the weather, and in accordance with school handbook policy. Preschool families are welcome to donate to the monthly charity.

Popcorn Fridays are on our Dress Down Day Fridays. Students are invited to bring \$1 to purchase a bag of popcorn. Donations go to support PAC activities and classroom resources. Parents who wish to volunteer to help with popcorn can find sign-up information in future school newsletters.

Please separate the Dress Down Day donations and popcorn donations in two separate labeled envelopes. All monetary donations can be sent to school in an envelope or zip lock bag with your student's name, teacher's name, and purpose on the outside.

September 16	Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
October 7	FREE Spirit Wear-Homecoming Week!
October 21	Glad Meals/Beauty of Life
November 18	Boots for Kids
December 9	Traverse City Fire Department
January 20	GTACS Vocation Fund
February 17	Saint Francis High School Missions
March 17	8 th grade Mission Trip-Armed Forces Retirement Home
April 21	5 th Grade Mission Trip-Feeding America Food Bank
May 12	Grand Traverse Area Right to Life
June 2	McNulty Academy in Kenya

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Proceeds will benefit the local Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic non-profit that helps with employment retention, preventing homelessness, and providing warmth for people in our area.

Glad Meals

Every Saturday throughout the year, you can find families and students from GTACS working together at the St. Francis High School to make lunch for those who are homeless and in need of a meal as part of a program called Glad Meals. Glad Meals is part of the region's community meals program and was established in 2003 by two St. Francis High School students. For just under \$3 a person, we can serve a well-balanced and nutritious lunch to approximately 40-50 guests each week. Glad Meals is funded completely through donations. If you are interested in getting involved or learning more about Glad Meals, please contact Maureen DeYoung mdeyoung@gtacs.org.

Beauty of Life

The Beauty of Life is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing healthy, home-cooked meals to families in need in our Traverse City community. This group was started by Saint Francis High school students in 2019 and is now run by a rotating student board and advised by adult coordinators. For more information or to become a volunteer, please visit thebeautyoflife.org

Boots for Kids

We collect donations of new hats, mittens, and socks to keep children warm from head to toe. Boots for Kids is a wonderful Christian service opportunity for our students to help other children. Boots for Kids began approximately 40 years ago at Blondie's restaurant near Chum's Corner and is now an effort that's supported by many organizations, individuals, businesses, and civic clubs. Boots for Kids works directly with school officials and social agencies to identify children to receive boots, mittens, a hat, socks, and dental supplies.

Traverse City Fire Department Toy Drive

Students are invited to bring in an unwrapped toy. The Fire Department gathers the donations and shares them with families in need in our community during the Christmas season.

GTACS Vocations Fund

The Vocations Fund provides financial assistance for students who are exploring a vocation to the religious life. For example, if a young man or woman is considering becoming a priest or religious sister and wishes to visit a seminary or religious community as part of their discernment, they can apply for travel assistance from this fund.

Saint Francis High School Missions

Proceeds will help defray costs not covered by participant fees such as transportation, chaperones, and financial assistance for students.

8th grade Mission Trip - Armed Forces Retirement Home

As part of their trip to Washington, DC, to learn more about our nation and its founding principles, 8th graders make an outreach visit and monetary donation to the Armed Forces Retirement Home (www.afrh.gov).

5th grade Service Trip - Feeding America Food Bank

Our 5th graders travel every spring to Grand Rapids to Feeding America of West Michigan Food Bank and volunteer by packing food to distribute to 40 counties. This is a national non-profit clearing house that provides food to more than 400,000 people every year. The donations go to offset the cost of the travel expenses, along with a donation to the food bank. We are thankful to fulfill Jesus' mission of feeding the hungry.

Grand Traverse Area Right to Life

This is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the peaceful protection of human life from conception to natural death. We are pleased to be able to support their efforts to educate and advocate on behalf of all of God's children.

McNulty Academy in Kenya

Funds collected are used to support Alumni-founded KMMA-CAITHS in Kenya. Kieran McNulty, PhD (SF '91) and Katie Maxbauer McNulty (SF'93) co-founded in 2016 the Kathy & Mike McNulty Academy on Rusinga Island, Lake Victoria in Western Kenya. They partner with another local group, CAITHS, to improve education, health, and sanitation for the vulnerable inhabitants.

Thank you in advance for your generous support of these various charities!