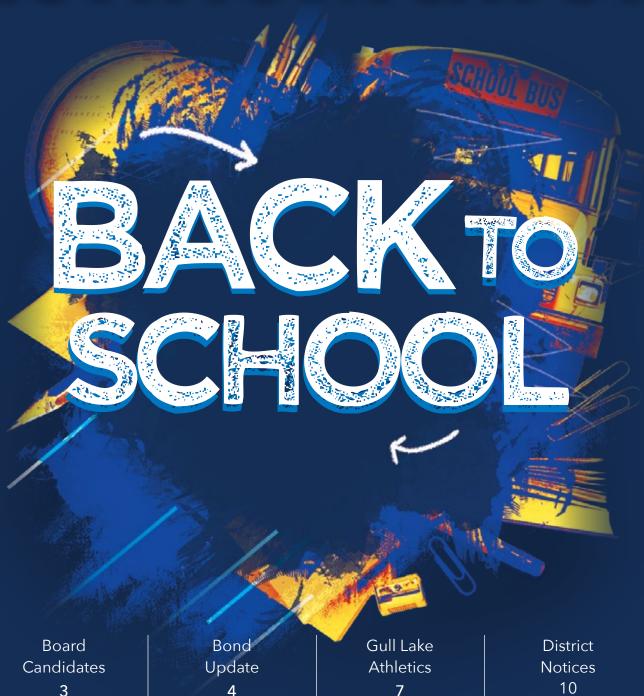


Gull Lake Community Schools

September 2020

COMMUNICATOR



7

10

Superintendent Message



As soon to be parents expecting our first child, I could see my wife was getting exhausted. She had been in labor for over 24 hours and the baby's vital signs were beginning to register some concerns for the doctor in attendance. The doctor drew me aside and informed me they would soon have to decide about

how best to deliver our child. The delivery team explained the risks of each possible procedure and we made the best choice we could under the circumstances. Our baby came into the world with a team of doctors and nurses converging upon the scene to make sure everything was okay and that no additional procedures would be required. The team administered the APGAR test based on key vital statistics and we were reassured that our child was safe and healthy! As new parents, we had to rely on the team of medical experts to create the best possible conditions for the health and safety of our newborn child.

As we begin the new school year, the Gull Lake team is here to support you and your child with a healthy routine of both academic and social-emotional learning opportunities. Much like the team my wife and I relied on during a challenging delivery, we are here as a team to deliver engaging and inspiring learning experiences to your child as we prepare for our physical return to the classroom at the start of October. As part of our tool kit for support, we will be administering our version of the APGAR test to each student to see where they stand with essential learning and academic progress. Staff will be assessing your child, communicating results and offering supports for you in the home environment so that your child remains on track and confident in their ability to be a successful learner.

We are fortunate to have an experienced team of educators who can deliver real results for kids and families during this time of great change. Along with you, we will partner our efforts to take advantage of new opportunities and innovations that are beginning to take shape. Let us know what is working and what ideas you have for improvement as we make progress together. Gull Lake Community Schools staff are here to serve you and make a positive difference in the lives of students and families. Like you, we are greatly anticipating the moment when we will be together in our improved learning spaces.

Wishing you the very best this year! Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent



Drew Bordner
Director of Curriculum & Instructional Technology dbordner@qulllakecs.org

In a school year unlike any other, we would like to thank families for their patience,

understanding, and collaborative spirit as we enter new models of teaching and learning. Our district staff has prepared for multiple scenarios with an acute focus on caring for students and building relationships, regardless of the model of instruction. Although starting remotely, we still encourage families to work with us to complete our district goals, especially in literacy. Regardless of the model, we ask all district families to find time to read with your students every night minimally for twenty minutes #GLCSread20.

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTED DEVICES

This fall the Gull Lake Technology Department distributed over 1,400 devices to families of Young 5 - 8th-graders throughout the district to launch remote learning on August 31st. This number is on top of the nearly 950 Gull Lake High School devices that our students use with their current 1:1 device rich learning environment. Many thanks to all the district staff members that assisted in getting devices out in a timely fashion.

DEVICE SUPPORT HOURS

The district understands that technology at times can break, need a fix, or have general issues, which has the potential to frustrate learners. The Gull Lake Technology Department has established help desk hours to assist students and families in need.

Device support hours are scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at Gull Lake Middle School Athletic Entrance to drop off devices that need repair. Families can also reach out via email gltechhelp@gulllakecs.org to schedule a time for drop off/pick up outside of the listed hours.

Retiring soon? Let's talk.



Lori A Nay Financial Advisor 8599 N 32nd Street Richland,MI 49083 269-629-4270 269-303-0404

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MKT-5894K-A

Meet Your Board of Education Candidates

GULL LAKE SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION - Two Seats Open for Election



Eddie Keene and his wife Sue have lived in the district since 2010, and their three children have graduated and benefited from the diverse educational opportunities offered by Gull Lake Community Schools. Eddie is a mechanical engineer who began his career as an energy management consultant for military bases. He is now a senior director at Kellogg, and during his years with the company has worked at its manufacturing facilities in Memphis and Omaha. Eddie has managed Kellogg's Louisville, Cincinnati, and Battle Creek manufacturing facilities. Eddie and his family enjoy many outdoor activities. He is a dedicated blood donor and has lent his expertise to volunteer activities such as noise reduction within hearing-impaired classrooms, youth sports coaching, Grad Bash fund raising, Robotics, and Scouting.



Carole Mendez

Carole Mendez is an experienced corporate attorney working in a global legal organization and has lived in the District since 2006. Carole holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor degree from Southern Methodist University School of Law. serves on the MSU Kellogg Biological Station Director's Advisory Board and previously served on the Board of Directors for the Hospital Hospitality House of Southwest Michigan. Carole is also affiliated the Junior League of Kalamazoo, past president of the Junior League of Annapolis, and a native of Battle Creek. She and her husband, Juan, have three children. Carole has served on the Board since 2009 and is currently the Board's President.



Paul Riker

Paul Riker has been a Richland resident for over 10 years. He works for SAS Institute as a Senior Technical Consultant in the healthcare industry. He has over 20 years of experience working in Information Technology, including the last five years working with Health Information Exchanges on national healthcare interoperability. He was raised in Illinois where he earned a bachelors degree in finance from Illinois State University. His wife, Amy, currently homeschools their two children and teaches classes through the Gull Lake Virtual Partnership. His wife was previously the chair of the Health and Wellness committee and managed the Ryan Intermediate School garden.



Krystal Scott is an entrepreneur who has served in the Air National Guard since 2009, first as an F-16 Crew Chief and now as a Financial Manager. She also works as the Accounting & Financial Manager at Gracespring Bible Church in Richland, MI. Krystal Scott has earned her Bachelor of Business Administration (Management), Associate of Arts, Associate of Aviation Maintenance Technology, and her Associate of Financial Management. During her professional career, she has volunteered at least 5 years as a Steward, Delegate and then as the SC State Representative for LIUNA, representing federal employees. Her dedication to serving God, her country, state and community has led her to Michigan in 2018. Her two daughters attend Gull Lake High School and Gull Lake Middle School. She cheerfully dedicates her time to volunteering within the Richland community, Gull Lake Community Schools, with military teens from around the world with Military Teen Leadership Summits, and wherever there is a need and an opportunity.

Bond Update

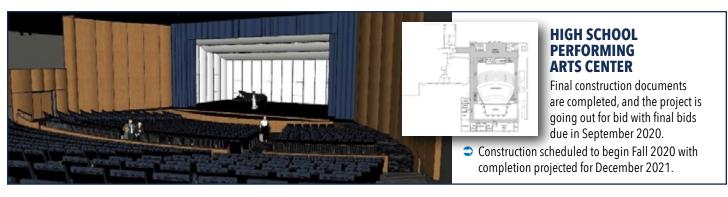
Provided below is a summary of the status of the bond projects in construction and for the Performing Arts Center that will be going to bid very soon.













GLCS Foundation Awards Ryan Family, Gateway, and **Ladies of the Lake Scholarships!**

We are thrilled to announce the final group of scholarship recipients, bringing our 2020 awarded scholarships to an impressive total of 50 scholarships = \$106,300! The Foundation could not provide these scholarships without the incredible generosity of our scholarship donors and our dedicated scholarship committee. Thank you!

GLHS Scholarships



Nolan Fraaza Ladies of the Lake \$2,000



Victoria LaBara Ladies of the Lake \$2,000



Avery McQueen Ladies of the Lake Esther James \$3,500

Gateway Scholarships



Aaron Bohn Beth Palmatier Gateway Scholarship \$1,000



Hali Newcomb Blair Holden Gateway Scholarship \$1,000



\$40,000 Ryan Scholarship

The James R. Ryan Family Foundation Middle School Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding 8th-grade student who has demonstrated academic success (3.5 GPA or higher) and financial need in addition to meeting other selection criteria.

This annual \$10,000 college scholarship is renewable over a four-year period, for a maximum of \$40,000!

Our warm congratulations to Stephanie Tenorio-Lares!





Online Registration for Athletics

Beginning with this school year we are moving to an online registration system for athletics. This is where you will complete all necessary paperwork such as your health guestionnaire, consent to treat and health history. This registration system is also where you will sign up to participate in each sport.

The sooner you sign up, the sooner you will begin to receive information about that sport including start dates, tryout information, pre-season trainings. Any Gull Lake student in grades 6-12 that would like to participate in a school sponsored sport should register online.

To access the registration and instructions please visit www.GoGLBlueDevils.com. Select the link to the right under announcements for online registration.

Welcome **NEW COACHES!**



We would like to welcome a few new coaches to the Blue Devil coaching family this year:



KELSEY ADAMSKI Varsity Girls Basketball Coach

Kelsey is a 2012 Gull Lake graduate and one of the best point guards in Gull Lake Girls Basketball history. She spent the last two seasons as our girl's freshman basketball coach. Kelsey played basketball at KVCC and Kalamazoo College.

Spectator Limitations at Athletic Events

It was a bumpy ride but as of September 8 all fall sports at the high school level are in FULL SWING!

We are grateful the athletes have an opportunity to compete. There are very strict spectator limitations at events. For cross country, tennis and golf all spectators must wear masks and remain socially distanced from the athletes.

For football, soccer and volleyball there is NO public admission to events. Only those people with pre-assigned tickets are permitted to enter. Pre-assigned tickets are going to family members only of the athletes. The general public will NOT be able to walk up, purchase

tickets and attend any of these events. All spectators will be required to wear masks during the event and must sit socially distanced from other families.



AARON BOONE **Varsity Wrestling Coach**

Aaron has been a part of our wrestling program for a number of years as our Junior Varsity coach. This year he takes over the reigns as our varsity coach. Aaron wrestled for Otsego High School and was an MHSAA State Champion! Aaron and

his wife Heather have two children both attending Gull Lake Community Schools.



TREY JUNKINS Freshman Baseball Coach

Trey is another Gull Lake alum, graduating in 2008 and playing baseball for the Blue Devils. He has been very active the past few years in travel baseball in the area and will be joining our Blue Devil

baseball staff. He and his wife Karlie reside in the Gull Lake School District and have two little ones.

Gull Lake Community Schools





The original phrase, "Keep Calm and Carry On" came from the British Ministry of Information in 1939 as they tried to encourage their citizens to not be discouraged during a difficult time (think to the beginning of World War II). When WWII began, the British citizens did not know that it was going to last approximately six years and they were already feeling the changes in their lives.

If you're like the Gateway staff, you feel like your life has been dramatically changed over the last few months and you do not know when (or if) life will return to the way you remember it. Be reminded that nothing lasts forever although it may feel like it.

As we look forward to the 2020-2021 school year, the Gateway staff is going to "Keep Calm and Educate" our students, knowing that there will be unforeseen events that we cannot anticipate.



We encourage our students to "Keep Calm and Endure", knowing that your education today will impact your futures. School looks different right now, there's no doubt about it, but we know that you can handle it. Your learning at Gateway will be measured in more than assessing assignments, but in viewing what you are creating and understanding that knowledge is measured in multiple ways.

We challenge our parents to "Keep Calm and be Engaged" as you try to navigate the challenges you and your family face this year. Know that your Gateway staff is here to support you in traditional and nontraditional ways. Contact us. Reach out. We are here.

Learning & Leading Academy

Matt Hawkins - GLMS Teacher - mhawkins@gulllakecs.org

Gull Lake Middle School will be represented this coming school year in the Learning & Leading Academy.

The opportunity will connect team members with innovative education leaders and focus on goals that include expanding student leadership & developing cross-discipline teams.

Participating members are Matt Hawkins, Beth Keller,

Carmen Maring, & Drew Bordner

THANK YOU to the Gull Lake Community Foundation and the Chris Rundle Innovation Grant for funding this experience.



GLCS Food Distribution

Gull Lake Community Schools handed out over 135,280 meals and over 50,000 pounds of produce from the USDA produce program from April - August 2020. Thank you to all the staff who helped make this program possible!

Starting the week of September 7th through December 31st, ALL kids will now eat for free so please come pick up meals on **Tuesdays and Fridays!**

Meal pickup is on Tuesdays and Fridays, at the following times and locations:

Gull Lake Middle School: 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Kellogg Elementary: 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Haven Church: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Gull Lake High School: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

(You may pick up all your student's meals at the most convenient location of your choice)

NOTE: On Jan 1st, 2021 lunch prices will move back to full pay, free, and reduced status.

















A Note from the Community Volunteers

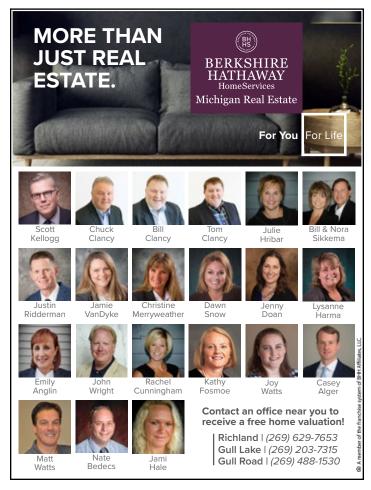


Lori Drogosh - drogoshlori@gmail.com

As we begin a new and challenging school year, The Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers - Women's Group is hoping that we can still provide assistance to families in need in our Gull Lake Community. We anticipate many additional requests for emergency and educational needs this year, due to the pandemic. Two of our annual fundraisers were cancelled this year: the Father-Daughter Dance and the Richland Art Fair. Previously, we provided new winter coats and snow pants to students in need through our Fall warm-up program and we provided food, clothing, personal care items, and educational toys for families in need during the holiday season. We are uncertain how these programs will operate this year, due to the schools being closed and our reduced funding. If you are interested in helping our organization, please consider making a charitable donation to the GLACVs, so that we may assist those in need. We are a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Please visit our website: GLACV.org. At the top of the page, click on "Donations- How You Can Help." If you would like to sponsor

a family for our Bright Holidays program, please contact Marsha Drouin at Masha@gulllakecv.com or 269-303-2817. We appreciate your assistance during this trying time. Thank you!





Gull Lake Community Schools District Notices

NON-DISCRIMATION IN EDUCATION The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, ancestry, genetic information or any other legally protected category, (collectively, "Protected Classes"), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, please contact Lisa Anderson, Assistant Superintendent at 269.548.3400, Gull Lake Community Schools, 10100 East D. Avenue, Richland, MI 49083

NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

The Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, please contact Lisa Anderson, Assistant Superintendent at 269.548.3400.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICERS The

Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum & Instructional Technology are the District's Compliance officers and may be reached at 269.548.3400.

HOMELESS LIAISON

The Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology is the District's Homeless Liaison and may be reached at 269.548.3400.

ACCESS PROCEDURES

Parents of eligible students who wish to review the student's educational records shall request at the attending building. A review shall be scheduled within a reasonable time not to exceed 30 days.

DISCLOSURE TO THIRD PARTIES

Personally identifiable information from the educational record of the student shall not be released without prior consent of the parent or eligible student. Information may be released to certain individuals or agencies as permitted by law.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

The school district has compiled records on all students for use in the provision of appropriate education programs and services. Federal and state legislation provide parents and eligible students (18 years and older) with certain rights regarding the confidentiality of school records.

PARENTAL and STUDENT RIGHTS

Parents of a student or an eligible student have the right to:

- 1. Inspect and review the educational records of the student.
- 2. Request information contained in such records be amended if it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of the student.
- 3. Request a hearing to challenge the content of the student's record.

STUDENT RECORDS consist of:

- a. Personal and family data
- b. Health and immunization records
- c. Test data, including aptitude, interest, intelligence, and achievement testing
- d. Achievement and attendance records
- e. Anecdotal records
- f. Records of conferences
- g. Copies of correspondence concerning student
- h. Student questionnaires
- i. Other records which may contribute to the understanding of the student
- j. Past school records
- k. Individualized Educational Plans for handicapped children

PROCEDURES RELATING TO RETENTION, DESTRUCTION and DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS

Records are maintained at the building in which the student is enrolled or last attended. Each record is kept in an individual file open only to those personnel that have a need to know. Information on grades, attendance, and courses completed are kept forever unless transferred to another school district. Portions of a record may be destroyed when it is no longer appropriate to retain them.

SPECIAL EDUCATION and SECTION 504 NOTIFICATIONS

It is the policy of the District to actively find and provide services to students with disabilities. The District will provide appropriate evaluations, identification and services for full eligible students under Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or current Special Education Laws.

CHILD FIND SYSTEM

The individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all states to have a "comprehensive Child Find system" to assure all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are located, identified, and referred. Part C of early intervention focuses on children aged birth to three. If you suspect your child has a disability, please contact the District's Special Education Supervisor at 269.548.3400.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES and COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The District does not discriminate on the basis of disability, sex, age, or race with regard to admission, access to services, treatment, or employment in programs and activities. The District Special Education Supervisor is the coordinator responsible for Section 504, the American Disabilities Act and Special Education. Contact Molly Rabe, at 269.548.3400.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES and COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

The District Policies and Procedures are on file in the Superintendent's Office, as well as on the District web site www.gulllakecs.org where they may be reviewed. You may file a complaint regarding a District policy or procedure by contacting the Superintendent of Gull Lake Community Schools, 10100 East D. Avenue, Richland, MI 49083; telephone

contact number is 269.548.3400. You will receive the specific process for the legislation for which you believe is noncompliant.

PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As part of the Gull Lake Community Schools' Integrated Pest Management Program, pesticides are occasionally used. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. For information on how to be informed of pesticide application dates, contact Brad Glessner, Building & Grounds Supervisor at 269.548.3400.

DRUG PREVENTION

In accordance with federal and state law, the Gull Lake Community Schools Board of Education hereby establishes a "Drug-Free School Zone" that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The Board prohibits the use, possession, concealment, delivery, or property within the Drug-Free School Zone or at any district-related event.

Furthermore, the superintendent shall take the necessary steps to ensure that an individual, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who knowingly delivers or distributes controlled substances on designated and prohibited by Michigan statute with the Drug-Free School Zone to another person is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL ZONE

Gull Lake Community Schools is a Weapons-Free School Zone. Violators may face expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

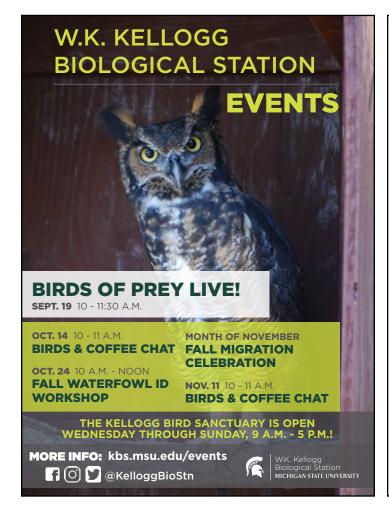
ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the District to provide a safe educational environment for all students. Bullying, or harassment of a student at school is strictly prohibited. This policy shall be interpreted and enforced to protect all students and to equally prohibit bullying/harassment with regard to its subject matter or motivating animus. For inquiries or concerns about the Anti-Bullying/ Anti-Harassment policies. You may

contact, the Superintendent of Gull Lake Community Schools at 269.548.3400.

NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE

The Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of his/her genetic information is also prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity is prohibited.



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Occasional special issues published as needed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Parents and all other community members are encouraged to attend school board meetings on a regular basis. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at the Thomas M. Ryan Intermediate School Media Center at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise indicated. Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in the meetings. Official minutes of each school board meeting are available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office, 10100 East D Avenue, Richland, MI 49083, or may be accessed on the school website: www.gulllakecs.org.

MEETING DATES
September 21, 2020
October 19, 2020
November 16, 2020

December 21, 2020



