

Superintendent Updates

November 13, 2020



Raph Rittenhouse
Superintendent

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Dear Gull Lake Community Schools Families,

As we moved through this past week, it became clear our community had reached what is known as an “inflection point” with the number of positive COVID-19 results that are affecting our students, staff and families. As a result, the District made the decision to move to remote learning to build up our student and staff ranks to full strength so that we can return to the gold standard of in-person learning after the Thanksgiving break.

The District also approved a plan that will return grades 6-12 to full in-person learning on January 4th, 2021. We have developed remote virtual learning options for families who are seeking that option who want to keep their student connected with building teachers.

As we continue to navigate our Pandemic Learning environment, it has become evident how much we need each other and how important it is to leverage our community resources. Our GLCS Foundation has been working tirelessly to raise funds that support quality learning experiences for our students. We are grateful for the support and encouragement given by our Community Volunteers and other support organizations who shine brightly during challenging times.

We have reached a point in our journey together where an official invite is being extended to our community to step forward with one of our most critical resources...YOU!

We have heard our school community call on us to reach out and ask for help from our vast human resources talent pool. We are blessed with talent and time and are now in need of those who are willing to step up and qualify for staff positions that support the essential work of our teachers and the academic progress of our students.

We need several new staff members to round out our education team, including substitute teachers, activity supervisors, lunch volunteers, paraprofessionals, Special Education aides and bus drivers. A list of our open positions can be reviewed on the [Gull Lake website](#).

We are looking for a team of substitute teachers who can occupy classrooms when teachers are out on quarantine so that in-person learning can continue without disruption. Please visit the [EDUStaff website](#) to see if you have the qualifications to be a substitute teacher. We need you!

We have heard from our families how important it is for their students to have an option for in-person learning and have been moving steadily in this direction over the past several weeks. Help us help you bring this about by serving in one of our open roles. It is meaningful work and you will be blessed through your service to our kids!

Thank you in advance for exploring this opportunity to serve GLCS students and families.

District Highlights from this past week include:

- Girls Volleyball - brought home their sixth consecutive district championship title, showing the consistent excellence of the program and the dedication of the athletes and coaching staff. Well done!
- Boys Soccer - MHSAA 2020 State Champions! The match was decided in the first overtime period and was the culmination of an incredible investment made by the athletes, coaching staff and families. You did us proud and made history!
- Koby Fraaza earned All-State honors at the MHSAA Division 1 State Cross Country Finals.
- Mr. Tim Wester received this year's award for SHAPE Michigan Middle School Teacher of the Year for his outstanding work in Physical Education. Congratulations Mr. Wester!

Have a great weekend and GO GULL LAKE!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raphael Rittenhouse".

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools