



# COMMUNICATOR



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# Superintendent Message



Dear Gull Lake Families and Community Members,

I want you to think about the last time you were surprised by the kindness of others in your life. Our daily life often presents obstacles and challenges that require grit and persistence to overcome in a competitive

environment. So, when someone extends a hand of support and friendship in a time of need, it can be an overwhelming and humbling experience in all the right ways. We are strengthened and inspired through the good works of others who show us grace and bestow the gift of their time and attention to better our lives.

They have a secret they want you to know. Their lives are enriched through reaching out and they want you to learn the rewards that come with getting involved. Be encouraged and pay it forward to someone you know who could use the support.

In this Holiday season, I want to draw your attention to the supporting service organizations featured on our District website under the "Community" tab on our landing page. ([www.gulllakecs.org/community](http://www.gulllakecs.org/community)) When you open the link, you will see groups such as Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers, Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation, Fine Arts Foundation, Sports Boosters, Band Boosters, Rotary, Richland Library and Richland Area Community Center. All of these groups have been raised up in our community by dedicated and caring individuals who have banded together to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Please look through these service organizations and see if your time and talents overlap with any special projects that are underway on behalf of our kids and community! We are entering a special time of year where we get a chance to count our blessings and give back to others. We have many things to celebrate in the midst of these temporary challenges that we are learning to navigate together.

Joy and Peace to you and yours during this special time,

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent  
Gull Lake Community Schools

## 2020 Board of Education Election Results



**Carole Mendez**



**Krystal Scott**

### Retiring soon? Let's talk.



**Lori A Nay**  
Financial Advisor

8599 N 32nd Street  
Richland, MI 49083  
269-629-4270  
269-303-0404

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING  
[edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)



# Assisting Students with Learning

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

Dr. Marcia Tate states that no matter what happened yesterday, today is a chance to make a better tomorrow. Make the most of the present and the future will be brighter. As we all look to focus on what we can control during ever-changing times, assisting our students with their current mode of instruction is more important than ever. There are several ways that this can be accomplished and there are three factors that continue to come up in many of the research articles that have been published around pandemic learning.

## 1. PLAN A ROUTINE TOGETHER

- Try to establish actionable steps that work for the age of your student and write them down.
- With differing schedules, make them visual so that all in the house know what is happening and when.

## 2. HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Encourage your students to ask questions and express their feelings.

- At younger grade levels, drawing pictures can assist in starting conversations.
- Everyday moments can open the door to ask questions on more in-depth topics.

## 3. REINFORCE INTERNET EXPECTATIONS

- Establish rules together about how, when, and where the internet can be used.
- Protectyouneyes.com presented great resources to our district in previous years and continues to be a source of up to date information regarding internet / social media safety.

No matter  
what happened  
yesterday, today is  
a chance to make a  
better tomorrow

— Dr. Marcia Tate

A HUGE thank you to all our families, staff, and school community for their support through the first trimester and as we continue learning throughout this school year.



## SHAPE Michigan Middle School Teacher of the Year

Mr. Tim Wester received this year's award for SHAPE Michigan Middle School Teacher of the Year for his outstanding work in the Physical Education realm. Thank you, Mr. Wester for your positive impact on students, colleagues, and community! We are lucky to have you at Gull Lake Middle School!

*The GLMS Physical Education department  
left to right: Mr. Wester and Mr. Curry*



# 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.

## MAINTENANCE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

➡ New Maintenance Building is completed.



Interior work bay

**COMPLETED**

## KELLOGG ELEMENTARY PROJECT UPDATE

Construction is progressing well with the building additions precast panels completed, structural steel, roof trusses, and metal decking installations are occurring. Concrete floor pours and finishing in progress with interior mechanical and electrical "rough in" work occurring. Steel Stud wall framing also in progress. Primary focus is getting the additions enclosed in before winter weather sets in.

➡ Project completion projected for October 2021.



Concrete Floors



Steel Stud Wall Framing

**UPDATE**  
**UPDATE**  
**UPDATE**

## RICHLAND ELEMENTARY PROJECT UPDATE

Construction progressing well with the building addition precast panels complete. For the additions the structural steel, roof joist, and metal decking is ongoing. Underground plumbing and prep work for the concrete floor slabs is also in progress within the additions. Primary focus is to get each of the additions enclosed in before winter weather sets in.

➔ Project completion projected for October 2021.



Structural steel, roof joist, metal decking



Underground plumbing and prep work for the concrete floors



## HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Project was bid in September 2020 with construction contracts awarded in October 2020. Construction staging areas are now getting set up and construction is beginning.

➔ Project completion projected for January 2022.



For more information on the Performing Arts Center, view the Bond Updates on the Gull Lake District website.

# Supporting the Arts in Gull Lake Community Schools

Laura Zervic – FAF President – [GLCSFineArtsFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:GLCSFineArtsFoundation@gmail.com)

## Hello Gull Lake Community.

We hope you are well, staying healthy, and enjoying much family time. Despite all the uncertainty, we continue to find ways to support the Arts in Gull Lake Community Schools. We were pleased to provide funding to the elementary schools for the purchase of Bluetooth speakers to aid in the delivery of music curriculum to our elementary students. Thank you to Mr. Hoover and Mrs. Alvey for finding fun and creative ways to engage with students.



During this season, we'd love for you to consider a donation to the GLCS Fine Arts Foundation.

Our programs would not be possible without contributions from our community. Donations may be made via PayPal on our website, or by mail to GLCS Fine Arts Foundation, P.O. Box 611, Richland, MI 49083. Thank you for your continued support of the Arts in the Gull Lake Community Schools.

<https://glcsfineartsfounda.wixsite.com/glcsfaf>  
[GLCSFineArtsFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:GLCSFineArtsFoundation@gmail.com)



The GLCS Fine Arts Foundation wishes to extend congratulations and thanks to **Mr. Randy Walbridge**, on his retirement. Randy was the Visual Arts Educator at the high school. Throughout his career, he also served as the GLEA President, a wrestling coach, and occasionally performed in the Teacher Band during Glitter. Mr. Walbridge was a driving force behind the annual Festival of the Senses at GLHS, providing opportunities for all student artists to showcase their work in a weekend-long celebration. We thank you for your support of the Arts, and the FAF, and we wish you the best in your retirement.

## FAF to Award Two Scholarships

We are thrilled to announce that we will once again be awarding two scholarships to graduating GLHS students. The Robin Nott Performing Arts Company Scholarship and the GLCS Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship. Both scholarships are one-time awards of \$1,000. While the PAC scholarship is intended to honor those who have participated in the Performing Arts Company at GLHS, the FAF Scholarship is available to any student who has completed at least four (4) fine arts courses at GLHS and who intends to pursue a fine arts education in college. Applications are available in the high school guidance office, by emailing the FAF at [glcsfineartsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:glcsfineartsfoundation@gmail.com), or at our website, <https://glcsfineartsfounda.wixsite.com/glcsfaf>.



Your generous donations are helping GL educators be more flexible in response to changing needs during this unpredictable school year.

So far this year, the GLCS Foundation has granted **over \$3,000** to provide needed online teaching resources and supplies.

**17 GL educators** have received funding and a **THIRD** round of grants is underway.

**YOU CAN HELP!**

Go to [glcsf.org](http://glcsf.org) and make your tax-free gift today!

**Thank you!**



Find out more at [glcsf.org](http://glcsf.org)

And follow us on:



Photo courtesy of @BrittonASmith Twitter feed  
GLMS Spanish year-end fiesta. Gracias!

**Support the Foundation that supports your schools!**





## Fall Sports Recap

The 2020 fall sports season began just like everything else in 2020; with a lot of uncertainty, then hope, then heartbreak and finally closure. It was a roller coaster ride for all our student-athletes, coaches and fans. For our Blue Devils, the fall was yet again another successful season for our teams. The girls golf team advanced to the state finals for the first time in school history. The girls' volleyball team won their sixth consecutive district championship. The cross country team had five runners advance to regionals and two advance to the state finals. And finally, our boys' soccer team won the Division 2 State Championship! While we are extremely proud of all of these accomplishments, we are the proudest of the way our student-athletes and coaches handled the adversity of the season. We didn't do things perfectly all the time, but we never let the challenges defeat us! Congratulations to all of our teams on an outstanding fall season!



## College Signings

Congratulations to our Blue Devils that signed their National Letter of Intent this fall and will continue their athletic careers in college!



**Sonia Markucki**  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
*Volleyball*



**Savannah Disbrow**  
Bemidje State University  
*Softball*



**Zach Alday**  
Culver-Stockton College  
*Football*



**Korbin Griffin**  
Auburn University  
*Baseball*



**Roni Sylejmani**  
Western Michigan University  
*Soccer*



**Taryn DeShane**  
Western Michigan University  
*Soccer*



**Koby Fraaza**  
Grand Valley State University  
*Cross Country/Track*

# Post Season Individual Accolades

## Boys Soccer

### All Conference Honors:

AJ Boucher  
Roni Sylejmani  
Tyler Corstange  
Riley Folk  
Avery Zeigler  
Isaac Lapekas  
Jasek Zielaskowski

### All District Honors:

AJ Boucher  
Roni Sylejmani  
Tyler Corstange  
Ryker Corstange  
Riley Folk  
Isaac Lapekas  
Dominic Roudabush  
Avery Zeigler  
Jasek Zielaskowski

### All Region Honors:

AJ Boucher  
Roni Sylejmani  
Tyler Corstange

### All State Honors:

AJ Boucher  
Roni Sylejmani  
Tyler Corstange

### Division 2 Coach of the Year:

Matt Streitel



## Girls Golf

### All Conference:

Annie Betts  
Lauryn Jerke  
Allie Hirzel  
Kiley King  
Ashley Miller

### All State:

Annie Betts

### Academic All State:

Allie Hirzel

## Football

### All Conference:

Silas VanWormer  
Andrew Foster  
Jeremy Hunt  
Parker Ray  
Braden Stanton  
Riley Eastman  
Eric White  
Greg Jung  
Colton Hicks

## Tennis

### All Conference:

Zach Collard  
Kiley Chrisman  
Jon McFee

### Academic All State:

Zach Collard  
Jacob Avery  
Jon McFee

## Cross Country

### All Conference:

Koby Fraaza  
Hannah Funkhauser

### Regional Qualifiers:

Koby Fraaza  
Hannah Funkhauser  
Rachel Grimes  
Alyssa Blackburn

### Regional Champion:

Koby Fraaza

### State Qualifiers:

Koby Fraaza  
Hannah Funkhauser

### All State:

Koby Fraaza

### Academic All State:

Koby Fraaza  
Hannah Funkhauser

## Volleyball

### All Conference:

Ireland Watts  
Sonia Markucki  
Savannah Disbrow  
Maddie Bellinger  
Mia Green

*\* No all region  
all state available  
at time of printing*

**"THE EVENT"**  
**50's/60's**  
**SOCK HOP**  
**MARCH 6, 2021 6:30 PM**  
**Gilmore Car Museum**

\$125 per ticket for 2 people  
Purchase your ticket online at [gulllakesportsboosters.org](http://gulllakesportsboosters.org)

hor d'oeuvres buffet  
Live DJ & Dancing  
Raffles  
Live & Silent Auctions

Multiple chances to win \$125,  
\$250, \$500, \$1,000 or  
even \$4,000!

\*Due to COVID-19 all dates, prizes and raffle items are subject to change.

## Gull Lake All Sports Boosters 2020-2021 Membership Information



- New for 2020-2021, when you join at the Platinum, Gold or Silver Membership levels you will receive a \$100 gift card for a local Richland business.
- Please consider helping our Gull Lake student athletes and the local businesses that support them.
- Sign-up online or download our membership flyer at: [www.gulllakesportsboosters.org/join](http://www.gulllakesportsboosters.org/join)

**THANK YOU!**  
**Gull Lake All Sports Boosters**



# Gateway News

Lynnette Walker - Gateway Academy Supervisor - lwalker@gulllakecs.org

Gateway students continue to thrive in 2020. They are persevering in their classes along with learning new life skills and giving back to others.

While students have been attending in person classes, some elective classes have been offered virtually. With help from KRESA Education for the Arts teachers, Angie Melvin, Paddy Aiden and Mary Whalen students at Gateway have been able to participate in Art class. Each week students receive a box of supplies that they use to complete their projects while participating in virtual lessons.

Students at Gateway also take part in Community service projects throughout the year. Thanks to the generosity of Lisa Burchett and Amy DeYoung and their donation of new sewing machines, our students have been making facemasks to send to Haiti.

If you are interested in learning more about the programs and classes at Gateway, please contact Lynnette Walker.



## W.K. KELLOGG BIRD SANCTUARY

**ONLINE BIRDS & COFFEE CHATS**  
SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH • 10 A.M.



### DECEMBER 9 FEEDER BIRDS

Northern Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch, White-breasted Nuthatch

### FEBRUARY 10 EUROPEAN BIRDS

Great Tit, Eurasian Blackbird and Blackcap, European Robin, House Sparrow

### JANUARY 13 YEAR-ROUND WATERFOWL

Trumpeter, Tundra and Mute Swans; Canada Goose, Mallard Duck

### MARCH 10 WOODPECKERS

Hairy, Pileated, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers; Northern Flicker

**THE KELLOGG BIRD SANCTUARY IS OPEN  
WEDNESDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.!**

**MORE INFO:** [kbs.msu.edu/events](https://kbs.msu.edu/events)

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# Early College and Gull Lake Virtual Partnership News

Bobbi Jo Stoner - Principal of Early College and Innovative Programs - bstoner@gulllakecs.org

## Early College

### "Who Isn't Early College For?"

Amber Shumaker shares her EC parent perspective in a letter to the Gull Lake Administration. Here is an excerpt...

"...I am a parent with a graduate from the Gull Lake Early College Program. I am grateful and thankful for the program that Mr. Rundle implemented and brought to Gull Lake! My question is "Why isn't the whole school enrolled in this program?" I realize it is a lot for a student to decide to step into college their sophomore year of high school, but who wouldn't want FREE college classes to help them get ahead on their extended education? For everything my son has received from this program, it is a no brainer! The Gull Lake Early College Program has taught him responsibility, time management, how to prioritize, how to step out of his comfort zone, has allowed him to further his education, and still be a kid and have fun. From a parent's view, he has grown into a young man, learning how to stand up for himself, driving to college and navigating the campus on his own, learning to manage a busy schedule with college classes and high school activities, and prioritize his time a little bit more to still be able to get his friend-time in. As my son heads off to Grand Valley State University, it is amazing how much money this program saves you, allows you to get ahead, and helps you to pursue and explore your interests. As our second son enters his second year of the program, I would love to be an advocate and promoter of the Gull Lake Early College Program! My husband and I have appreciated Gull Lake for giving us this opportunity, to better our children..."



Micheal Shumaker,  
EC Completer Class of 2019/Cohort 6

Isaac Shumaker,  
EC Class of 2021/Cohort 8



## Gull Lake Virtual Partnership

**Congratulations to Elijah Herrera:** 2020-21 Hispanic Scholar Award for Excellence in Academic Achievement by the College Board National Recognition Program.

Elijah has been home schooled by his parents, Mike and Christine Herrera, and participates with the Gull Lake Virtual Partnership.



## MORE THAN JUST REAL ESTATE.

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY**  
HomeServices  
Michigan Real Estate

For You For Life

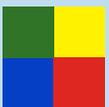
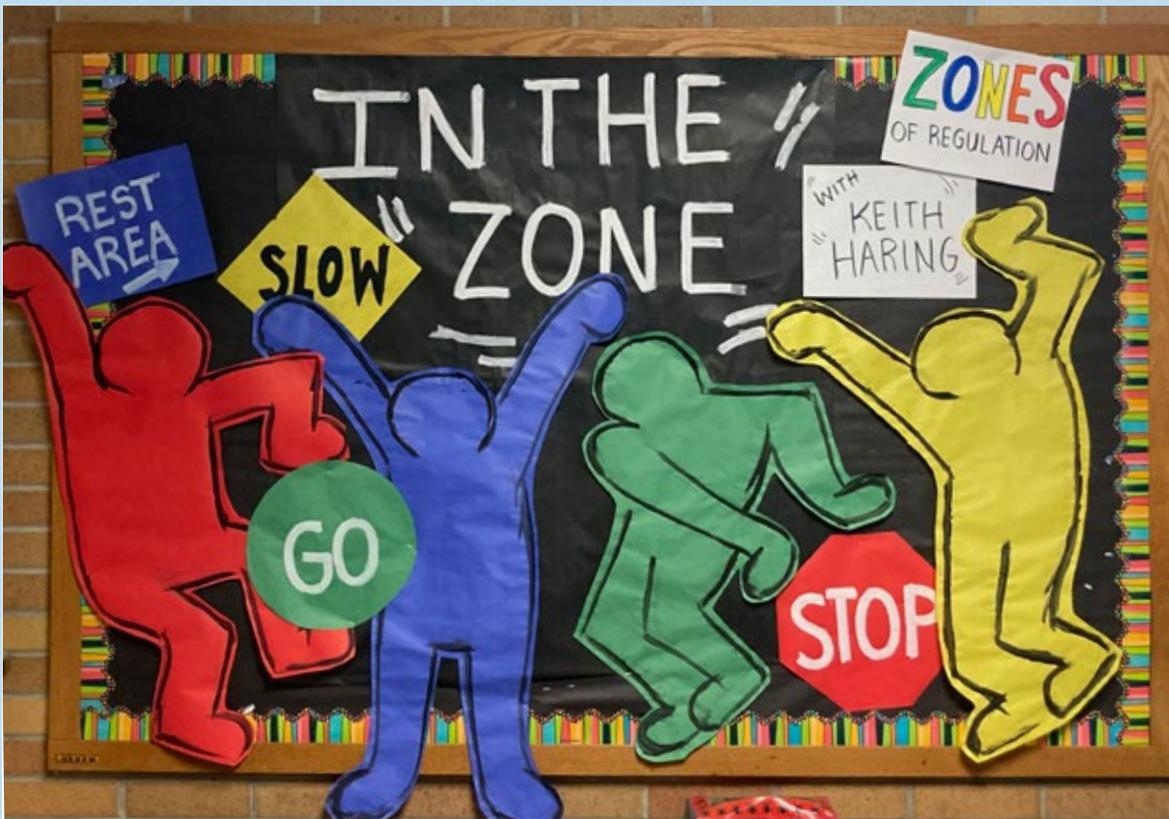
 Scott Kellogg	 Chuck Clancy	 Bill Clancy	 Tom Clancy	 Julie Hribar	 Bill & Nora Sikkema
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 Emily Anglin	 John Wright	 Rachel Cunningham	 Kathy Fosmoe	 Joy Watts	 Casey Alger
 Matt Watts	 Nate Bedecs	 Jami Hale			

Contact an office near you to receive a free home valuation!

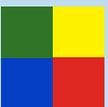
Richland | (269) 629-7653  
 Gull Lake | (269) 203-7315  
 Gull Road | (269) 488-1530

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# Checking in with *Zones of Regulation* at Kellogg Elementary



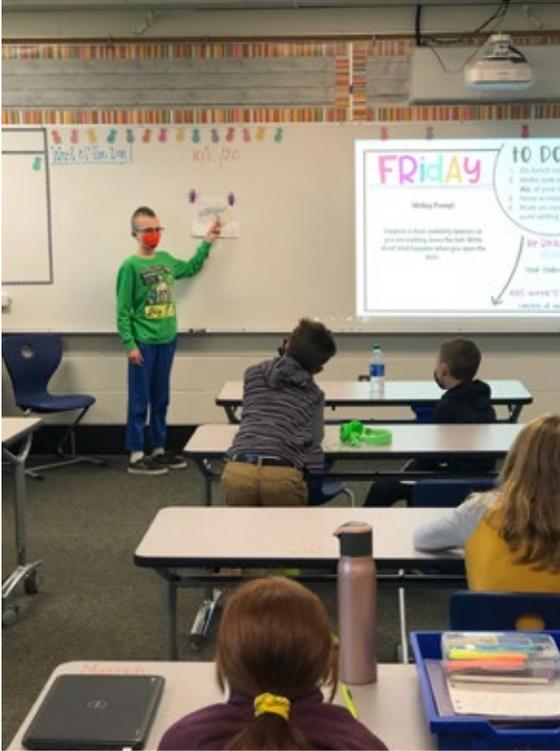
Students and staff have been practicing how to self-regulate needs and emotions by identifying which Zone they are in throughout the day. Students may do this by moving a magnetic picture of themselves on a chart if they are in-person or use an online chart if they are remote. They may even share an object which matches the color of the Zone they are in if doing an online lesson. Art lessons have connected with The Zones as well!



# Ryan Intermediate News

Ryan Intermediate teachers have welcomed the challenge of remote learning and embraced the new technology in our classrooms to deliver instruction.

▼ A 5th grade student leader shares with his class.

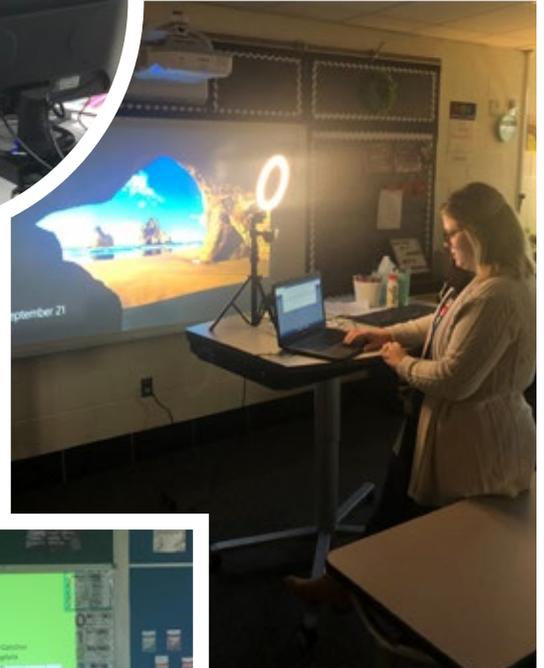


▼ The Ryan Staff worked hard to make the building colorful and welcoming for our first days of in person learning.



▼ **Lynndsay Dickerson**  
- 4th grade teacher  
teaching remotely using her  
Chromebook & LCD projector.

▲ **Shelly Henderson** -  
5th Grade Remote  
Teacher getting  
into character  
while teaching a  
virtual lesson.



◀ Social & Emotional  
learning continues to  
remain a high priority  
at Ryan.

**Leah Howard**  
facilitated a Zones of  
Regulation lesson to  
help students identify  
tools for regulating  
their emotions.  
Lessons were  
facilitated in person  
and remotely.

# GLMS 7th Grade Access to Free Online Reading Materials



Peggy Witteveen – GLMS ELA Teacher  
pwitteveen@gulllakecs.org

At Gull Lake Middle School, things are hopping with a new look to the year. As we continue the year the seventh grade ELA classes are completing a wide variety of helpful activities to finish up remote learning and move into hybrid style. One of the most exciting things is having given students access to free online books to read at home. Through a foundation called Firstbook Marketplace, students can see and choose up to 10 ebooks at a time to be reading from home on a mobile device. In addition, students have also been given the opportunity to read free eBooks through Epic which gives students access to reading material via their school Chromebooks since it is website based. Either method is sure to get students excited about reading!

#glsread20



## Social-distanced, hands-on learning in science classes

Artistic responses to a key scene for *Of Mice and Men* by fabulous 8th graders in Mrs. Copp's class





# Many Thanks!

Lori Drogosh – drogoshlori@gmail.com

*Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers and National Honor's Society students shop for Bright Holiday items at Kohl's*



*Cassidy Neff and Carli Brooks helping shop for items for Bright Holidays.*



*Maddie Carr assists the GLACV with shopping for families.*

The Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers -Women's Group would like to thank the Parker Hannifin Company, Zoetis, and the Richland Area Community Center for their assistance in helping us sponsor gift cards and educational toys for the many children on our Bright Holidays list. Thank you, too, to the dozens of generous individuals in our community who helped sponsor many of our 112 families this year. We appreciate your kindness and support for our program during this time of need. In November, the GLACVs were joined by 18 students from the GLHS National Honor's Society, who helped us shop for clothing for 276 kids on our Bright Holidays list this year. They also provided us with a monetary donation for our cause. Thank you, students! Thanks also to the West Main Kohl's store for assisting us with our clothing shopping efforts and to the Gull Road Meijer store for helping to provide some personal care items and for a very generous donation to our group. Thanks, too, to Costco, Sam's Club, and Blains Farm and Fleet for their assistance in providing coats and snow pants for some of our families in need. Although it is too late to sponsor a child or family for our Bright Holidays program this year, you can still make a charitable donation to the GLACVs so we can continue to help families throughout the year.

As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we assist families for educational, medical, dental, and emergency needs as they arise. If you are interested in making a donation to support the Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers, please visit our website [GLACV.org](http://GLACV.org). At the top of the page, click on "Donations- How You Can Help." We extend our gratitude to the wonderful Gull Lake Community for your continued support!



# Board of Education



Gull Lake Community Schools  
10100 East D Ave.  
Richland, MI 49083

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## 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](http://www.gulllakecs.org).

### MEETING DATES

December 21, 2020  
January 18, 2021  
February 15, 2021  
March 15, 2021

## Winter Transportation

It is that time of year again. Those snowy, blustery days that may affect school bus schedules will be here soon.

Your help can assist in preventing buses from arriving to school late. Bus drivers may leave up to 10-minutes earlier than their normal departure time to help ensure all students arrive to school on time. It is very important students are at the bus stop 10-minutes prior to the established pick-up time.

REMEMBER...have your student dressed accordingly.



The decision to delay or cancel school is a cooperative effort by the superintendent, the transportation supervisor and the supervisor of building and grounds. This decision is usually made by 5:00am.



School closings or delays will be announced via the following communication avenues:

- School Messenger Alert System will call families who provide contact information.
- GL District Website
- GL Social Media (Facebook & Twitter)
- Television stations: WWMT, WOOD-TV, WOTV, WZZM