

Superintendent Updates

December 4, 2020



Raph Rittenhouse
Superintendent

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Dear Gull Lake Families,

As a District, we are committed to maintaining standards for mitigating the spread of COVID, and to fielding a team to be able to deliver a variety of programs and options during this extended period of uncertainty brought about by the Pandemic. We continue to offer in-person learning and remote virtual instruction options for Y5-12th grade students under the supervision of our local Health team led by Nurse Megan and our Kalamazoo Health and Community Services team.

Lyndi K. Warner, Administration & Operations Supervisor for the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services department, issued a statement this week in support of all modes of instruction that local districts are offering. She also supports recommendations that any families who have travelled over the Thanksgiving Holiday outside of their normal social bubble to consider self-quarantining until they have had more time to observe for potential COVID-19 symptoms. If you fall into this category, remaining symptom free for ten days following outside social contact is the recommendation before returning to work or school according to CDC guidelines.

On Monday, we return to the classroom for in-person learning for those who have chosen this option grades Y5-8th. This follows a three-week pause while our team monitored, and contact traced a local surge in positive cases within the community that impacted several students and staff. In the course of delivering all of our learning options, the daily sacrifices made by the GLCS team have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated by everyone who has a stake in maintaining and growing a quality comprehensive educational program within our District. Please follow the guidance listed above in order to fully support the health, safety and well-being of *all* members of our school family.

District Highlight:

The District Highlight for this week is the collaborative project spearheaded by Andrea Hudson, our GLHS DECA advisor and our Sports Boosters as they and our DECA students further develop our Spirit Shop. The mission of DECA is as follows:

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The four components of the organization's Comprehensive Learning Program are that DECA integrates into classroom instruction, applies learning, connects to business, and promotes competition. DECA prepares the next generation to be academically prepared, community-oriented, professionally responsible, experienced leaders.

Our Gull Lake Sports Boosters are unique in that they are one of a select few booster organizations that work together to support *all* District sports that are offered.

DECA and the GL Sports Boosters are offering a NEW online Spirit Shop. You can now visit the online store at gulllakespiritshop.org to shop for great gear and show your Gull Lake pride!

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