

# Superintendent Updates

February 26, 2021



**Raph Rittenhouse**  
Superintendent

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Dear Gull Lake Community Schools Families,

I have been headed into new territory this week as I participate with our GLCS team in producing our online story library for March, the time we celebrate reading! I admit, I am a bit rusty with the mechanics of it all. The technology is great, but I still fumble with the page turns and trying to position the book so our kids will be able to see the wonderful illustrations. I could also use some extra pointers on how to represent the voice of each story character.

Promoting reading and literacy skills is the ticket to our kids' futures. If that means upping my game to make these stories as engaging as possible, I'm in! You see, the word is out about how deep engagement with a good book builds more than just your vocabulary and reading fluency. It makes you *think*. It helps develop critical thinking skills and helps you form questions and predictions. It also helps you empathize with others and see different perspectives than just your own.

When you read to your kids, it is simply magical. You help them form indispensable habits of mind that carry forward into their teen and adult years. No amount of technology can substitute for the practice of deep reading, even though technology can greatly enhance our collaboration around reading best practices. Check out the information on the GL website at:

<https://www.gulllakecs.org/departments/curriculum/new-reading-bill>

I know you want to give your kids the very best in life. It is hard to find an activity that gives a better return on investment than reading. It will also deepen the bonds between you and your child in ways that will last a lifetime. As an adult, I still look back on all the books I read with my parents even after they had finished their workday. My siblings and I had an established routine where we could toss a favorite book up onto the lap of one of our parents and climb after it for a reading session. It made for good memories and a legacy to go with them!

I can assure you that reading with your kids is as valuable now as it has ever been. Let's gear up and get ready to celebrate "March is Reading Month" together for the sake of all Gull Lake students!

The District Highlight for this week is the special recognition given to Gull Lake Virtual Partnership as a featured Program of Innovation by the Canopy Project. The Canopy Project is an organization devoted to examining K-12 Innovative Practices across the country. Congratulations to the GLVP team for their outstanding work on behalf of our kids and families!

Below is a picture of Lucas Fleming, GLVP student, proudly displaying the candy catapult he built in his GLVP Robotics course.



Have a great weekend and GO GULL LAKE READERS!

Raphael Rittenhouse/Lifelong Reader

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

Gull Lake Community Schools