

# Superintendent NEWSLETTER

February 11



Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

When I was in elementary school, our teachers used a resource for reading comprehension known as the *SRA* series. *SRA* stands for *Science Research Associates* and the company was based out of Chicago. *SRA* materials were distributed to nearly every elementary school and, for those of us who can remember back that far, the system used an elaborate color-coding scheme for students as they built their reading comprehension skills over time. Each student was given time during their morning Language Arts time to progress at their own speed through each reading level. Each color represented a specific Lexile reading score band with reading samples and questions for comprehension. Students would read through a passage and answer questions at the end using a dry erase marker. After checking the answers, the student could get the next sample and continue the exercise. The *SRA* materials were so effective that they survived in various forms right up to the present.

The purpose of the *SRA* process was to help teachers match appropriate materials with each student so they could grow their literacy skills working in a zone where they could be optimally challenged by the activity. Most of us learn best when we work within this proximal zone of learning. Reading experts often remind educators that students should know about 94% of the words in any given text to be fluent readers. Choosing the right reading samples for our kids helps them grow their skills in an optimal way.

As we focus on our Literacy skills through District reading initiatives, you can assist your student by reading with them and identifying what words they already know and what words are new to them. You can introduce your child to new words using a variety of strategies such as sounding out new words and talking through the definitions. Once you feel that your child knows most of the words in a passage, you can encourage them to read that passage aloud to you. Our READ 20 initiative is a great way to make reading a regular part of your daily literacy routine with your student. The more you read with your student, the more you will be able to target the right materials for them based on your observations. You can become your own *SRA* expert over time as you develop strong literacy habits with your kids.

As we continue our *One District One Book* initiative, there are many opportunities to grow reading skills while bonding with your child. The time and attention you give to your student through reading activities will pay great dividends down the road and will develop the kind of confidence they need to be a happy and motivated lifelong learner.

Have a great weekend!

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

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent  
Gull Lake Community Schools



## Updates

**Early Release** on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

**½ Day of School** on March 10 and 11, 2022 for 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester exams.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tri** begins March 14, 2022.

**No School** on March 25, 2022.

**Spring Break** is March 28 –April 1, 2022.

[GLCS Good Things](#)

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