

Superintendent NEWSLETTER

March 18

Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

Last week our Gull Lake Blue Devils First Robotics *Twisted* Team 4381 coached by Cheryl and Alan Thornton took first place honors at the district tournament! Approximately 40 teams descended on GLHS to set up their robots and claim their space in the pit area. Team coaches and students wearing brightly colored matching team tee shirts pushed their safety goggles up the bridges of their noses and went to work. *Twisted* Team 4381 won the day and earned an automatic berth at the state finals!

As our team prepares for the rest of the season, they continue to follow the First Robotics process. Each team member knows their role and can pose questions to their team members as they review the rules of the robot competition. Team captains study the merits of other teams to form three-team alliances for each stage of the contest.

The game for this season requires robots to collect basketball-sized foam balls and fire them upwards into a large basket to earn part of their point total. Each team also builds a special arm on their robot that can extend and carry the robot up a series of ascending cross bars before the final bell of the timed round. Teams work with mentors and professionals from various fields to manufacture their robots to specifications. They can use existing technologies to create unique robot features and advantages that set their robots apart. The sky is the limit when it comes to innovation.

Spectators coming to witness a competition might expect to see a sober demeanor and secretive approach to shielding key competitive robot advantages from other prying eyes. In fact, the opposite is true! Teams are allowed to send ambassadors to the pit areas of other teams to observe their robots and exchange team swag in the form of badges and buttons. Teams earn awards for displaying gracious professionalism and it is common to see teams lending each other a hand to make critical robot repairs and improvements between rounds. In the arena, a music soundtrack plays over the speaker system and contestants line the gym floor dancing in unison to classic rock hits. Judges observe teams interacting with members of their alliances and bestow awards from several categories to honor the values that lead First Robotics competitors to lifelong success.

We are proud of our Blue Devils *Twisted* Team 4381 and wish them the best of success as they prepare for state competition and beyond. We can all learn much from the way they compete and collaborate with integrity and excellence.

You can find additional news on district highlights in our [GLCS Good Things](#) and our County Health Data is linked here for your review.

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/datahub/covid19.php>

Have a great weekend and GO GULL LAKE!



Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools



Updates

Class of 2024 Early College Informational Meeting on March 22, 2022, 7 pm via zoom. See the website calendar for the link to register.

No School on March 25, 2022.

Spring Break is March 28 –April 1, 2022.

School Resumes Monday, April 4, 2022.

Class of 2026 - Freshman Orientation
Thursday, April 7, 2022, 7 pm at GLHS

GLVP Virtual Open House Thursday, April 7, 2022, 12 pm. Link to register is on the GL website calendar.

GLVP Virtual Registration Expo Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 12 pm. Link to register is on the GL website calendar.

GL Center for the Fine Arts Gala Thursday, April 21 – 24, 2022. See website for more information.

www.gulllakecs.org