

Superintendent NEWSLETTER

May 20



Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

The imagination is a powerful thing. Of all the tools we have been given, the imagination is perhaps the most impactful engine for human growth and development. When my kids were younger, I could observe their imaginations in action. One child would pin on a makeshift cape and become a superhero conquering every pretend obstacle in their way. That same child, without their cape, would try to jump into bed after flipping the light switch off before the room got dark...their imagination filled with images of all the scary creatures that might be lying in wait for them just beyond the shadows. This aspect of the imagination is developmentally appropriate for children but can pose challenges for us when we are dealing with new situations as older students or adults.

Our minds inspired by hope and anticipation are forces for good and excellence in all our endeavors. Our imaginations driven by fear and suspicion can be corrosive and limiting to ourselves and others. As parents and educators, we observe our children and try to determine if they are progressing with confidence or holding themselves back in their response to new challenges. Perhaps this is the reason why we respond with elation to them when they master a new skill even in the face of fear, like when they first master their bike without training wheels or when they reach out to pet the neighbor's dog even though they are unsure of the outcome.

One of the most important lessons we want our children to absorb is how their reaction to a situation can determine whether they "own" the results of their efforts, or if they attribute a negative result to others. We sense the importance of this life lesson and want to see our children gain the skills and confidence to be masters of their own destiny. The good news is that this is a built-in sensibility. It serves as a guide and compass as we raise our kids and mentor them through their formative years. We reap the rewards of doing this job well for the sake of our kids and community.

Here are some examples of those rewards in the form of our [GLCS Good Things](#). Enjoy the role you play as parents and mentors. It is one of the most fulfilling experiences we can share with each other.

Have a wonderful weekend,

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

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools



Updates

GLMS Band Spring Concert

May 24, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
GL Center for the Fine Arts

Gateway Academy Graduation

June 1, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Richland Area Community Center (RACC)

GLMS/GLHS Choral Concert

June 2, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
GL Center for the Fine Arts