August 12, 2022

Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

Some time ago, I wrote about a former student named Grant, who has spent a lifetime rehabilitating his body after a childhood car accident. His cheerful demeanor and strength of character are beacons that have attracted a large group of people who are known as "Team Grant". He is seen everywhere in his community and has become part of the glue that makes his town a special place. As we head into a new school year together, I want to draw attention to the values that drive Grant and how they set an example for all of us to consider when faced with daily life choices and challenges:

- The power to choose – We have all been a victim of life circumstances at one time or another in our lives. We may not be able to control all the variables that impact our lives, but we have the power to choose our response to them. Positive choices not only help us, but they inspire those around us. Choose well.
- The pursuit of excellence – We do not have to be the best at something to pursue excellence. Grant understands he is not likely to win the 1600-meter race at the Olympics, but his training regimen and dedication to making personal gains is just as compelling as watching a world class athlete compete in their event. Pursue excellence.
- Good teams enhance outcomes - If you have ever watched the Tour De France, riders employ a complicated strategy designed to propel their best rider to the front of the pack at just the right time. This ability to temper one’s own ambition in favor of the group produces incredible results and creates purpose and meaning for the entire team. Be part of a great team.

Proud to be a part of an excellent GLCS and Community Team,

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent

Gull Lake Community Schools