

# ***SUPERINTENDENT*** **NEWSLETTER**

October 21, 2022

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Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

When I was in elementary school, I remember my parents returning home from parent/teacher conferences and rolling up our rural driveway. I locked eyes with my mom, who was looking at me with one of her expressions that could mean only one thing...something was about to change! I was called inside and asked to take a seat at the table to hear the feedback my teacher had given my parents about my learning.

My mom started with the strengths first, letting me know that my teacher was impressed with my reading comprehension and artwork. As she told me this, her furrowed brow was a clue that I would soon be hearing about an area for improvement. Sure enough, it was...MATH! We had been doing a lot of math fact memory work on our times tables and I had been resistant to doing the repetitions needed to commit them to memory. As a result, my math fluency suffered when working through new math concepts because I was distracted by reconstructing math facts that should have already become automatic.

My mom's solution to this was to create a training regimen that included a lot of written repetitions of my times tables. Repetitions in the morning before the school bus arrived. Repetitions in the afternoon before I could go out and play. Repetitions before bedtime in the form of flashcards, and finally, random verbal quizzes to test my knowledge. Back then, before all the fun math apps and flash card generator programs existed, it was the simple fact my mom was monitoring my progress that mattered.

As we work to improve math literacy and fluency for our kids, monitoring progress and creating a regular feedback loop with your child matters most. Your child's teacher can help you identify a plan of action and resources that are a good fit. Rewards come with regular practice and your student will thrive on each new success. Applying knowledge to real world problems is the best way to retain it and discover new uses for it. I encourage you to check in with your child and develop a plan for supporting their math fluency at home. Perhaps you can find a more fun way to accomplish this goal than my old school version! Any path you choose will be the right one for your child because you will always be able to adapt and adjust it along the way with the help of their teacher. The real key is to enjoy the journey with your child.

Have a great weekend!



Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent  
Gull Lake Community Schools



## Updates

**Early Release on November 2nd.**

**GLHS Performing Arts Company (PAC)** will have their first performance of the 2022-2023 school year on November 11th - 14th. Please see the GL website for performance times.



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