November 18, 2022

Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

This week, we reached our donation goal to purchase a quality used grand piano for our new GL Fine Arts Center auditorium! This means we will be preparing a community performance after it arrives to commemorate the moment. The piano is a Steinway Model D 9-foot Grand Piano that can fill up our 900-seat auditorium without the need for amplification. The piano was built in 2006 and was the grand piano of choice for many famous pianists performing with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. Pierre van der Westhuizen, Director of the Gilmore Festival, helped Gull Lake Community Schools with the selection and performed on the 2006 Steinway to determine its suitability for our performance space. His expert assistance and advocacy for our Fine Arts programs will help us join the regional network of performing artists and groups that provide world class performances for local communities like ours.

I want to personally thank our GLCS Foundation, The James R. Ryan Family Foundation, the Gull Lake Fine Arts Foundation, and the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation for donating the necessary funds to secure this quality instrument that will grace our auditorium for decades to come. I must admit I am partial to those who carefully steward resources in the manner described above. The programming made possible by these generous donations and collaboration across organizations is a model to be emulated.

We look forward to announcing the inaugural performance on our Steinway Model D Grand Piano in the weeks to come and want you to have the opportunity to share in the celebration.

Have a wonderful (and snow-filled) weekend!

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools