

Gull Lake Community Schools **COMMUNICATOR**

December 2022



Photo Credits: Yearbook Staff

The Mission of Gull Lake Community Schools is to educate every child to achieve his/her full potential.

Superintendent Message



Dear Gull Lake Families and School Community,

As we round out our current year and prepare to enter the Holiday season that ushers in a new one, we have much for which we can be thankful. We are expanding into our beautiful new facilities and learning spaces. Our sports, co-curriculars and Fine Arts programs continue to excel. We are blessed with excellent teachers, support staff, administrators and Board members who care for our students and families and provide engaging experiences that grow learning and build community. Our families are deeply invested and value what the school team provides.

With all these good things happening, we can best appreciate them by staying healthy in body and mind. Exercise, good nutrition, and positive social engagement help us for the long haul and restore us when we need it most. These activities also help us recognize the difference between real and imagined risks, reduce anxiety and help us focus when making important decisions. But, most of all, they help us enjoy each other's company and help us create lasting positive relationships.

A toast to your good health and a Happy Holiday Season with friends and family!

Best regards,
Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools

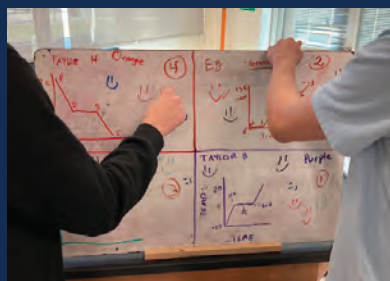


DREW BORDNER

Director of Curriculum & Instructional Technology – dbordner@gulllakecs.org

Recently Gull Lake High School and Richland Elementary completed instructional rounds within their buildings. This non-evaluative process, focuses on the essential interaction between teachers and students. It creates the basis of learning and opportunities to celebrate success and areas of growth within instruction. Teachers and administrators visited classrooms with a focus on working to increase student's opportunities to read, write, and speak with purpose through various engagement strategies.

After the classroom visits, the instructional team worked toward common understandings within the engagement strategies observed and analyzed emerging patterns. The information was shared with building leaders and provided actionable steps with their school improvement teams. Individual teachers received positive feedback from the instructional rounds team members who visited their classrooms. This process allows for continued focus on instruction, teaching, and learning practices within our district.



**You've worked hard to achieve success.
You deserve financial advisors who
work as hard for you.**

As an Ameriprise private wealth advisory practice, we have the qualifications and experience to help navigate your complex financial needs. Whether it's investment management, tax strategies or legacy planning, we can work with you to grow and preserve what you've worked so hard to achieve.

Call us today and discover the personal service you deserve.

TruVista Wealth Advisors
A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

269.629.6040

8712 Gull Rd
Richland, MI 49083
ericfurlotte.com



Not Federally Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value

The Compass is a trademark of Ameriprise Financial, Inc. Ameriprise Financial, Inc. does not offer tax or legal advice. Consult with a tax advisor or attorney.
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC.
© 2021 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. (07/21)



Sensory Kit

Thank you to the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation for buying materials to build a sensory kit for students to have access to in all Young Fives through 2nd grade classrooms, offices, and spaces at Kellogg Elementary and Richland Elementary! Sometimes kids just need something to keep their hands busy when they learn.

Gilmore Car Museum

The first graders took a field trip to the Gilmore Car Museum and had a great time during the slot car race.



Read and Ride

Some of our students enjoying our Read and Ride program at the Cheff Center on Thursdays.



WINTER BREAK CAMP

WHEN: December 28-30
Check-in: 10:00 am
Check-out: 10:00 am
WHO: 1st-8th Graders
COST: \$225
REGISTER:
shermanlakeymca.org
ACTIVITIES
include sledding, crafts, games, archery, capture the pig and so much more!

SHERMAN LAKE YMCA
www.shermanlakeymca.org
269.731.3030

CAMP JUST GOT COOLER!

W.K. Kellogg Biological Station
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

JOIN US FOR WINTER
EVENTS AT KBS!

TOUR THE MANOR HOUSE & SHOP LOCAL AT THE
HOLIDAY MARKET
11 A.M. TO 4 P.M. DEC. 3, 10 & 17

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS	SOCIAL EVENTS
BIRD SANCTUARY HISTORY ● WEBINAR FOR CURRENT & PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS JAN. 19 10 - 10:30 A.M.	SIP AND SHOP ● FREE ADMISSION TO THE MANOR HOUSE HOLIDAY MARKET, CASH BAR DEC. 7 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.
OUT OF BOUNDS BIRDS ● 3-SESSION ONLINE CLASS JAN. 24, FEB. 1 & 8 6 - 7:15 P.M.	GUIDED BIRD HIKE ● WALK THE TRAILS WITH SANCTUARY STAFF AND LOOK FOR BIRDS FEB. 18 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
EXPLORING WITH SCIENTISTS ● ONLINE PROGRAMS, AGES 9-12 FEB. 7, 14, 21 & 28 4:30 - 5:30 P.M.	WINTER SCAVENGER HUNT ● FAMILY FUN AT THE BIRD SANCTUARY MARCH 4 11 A.M. - 3 P.M.
NATURE JOURNALING ● 4-SESSION ONLINE CLASS FEB. 16 & 23, MARCH 2 & 9 6:30 - 7:30 P.M.	<p>BIRDS AND COFFEE ONLINE CHATS 10 - 11 A.M. DEC. 14 • JAN. 11 • FEB. 8</p>

kbs.msu.edu/events

[@KelloggBioStn](https://www.facebook.com/KelloggBioStn)

● BIRD SANCTUARY
 ● MANOR HOUSE
 ● K-12 PARTNERSHIP



Leader In Me ▶

Some of our 5th-grade students had the opportunity to share some of the Leader In Me initiatives they have experienced here at Ryan Intermediate during the GLCS Foundation 40th Anniversary celebration. These students were able to present and speak with community and Foundation members. A big thank you to our GLCS Foundation for giving us the opportunity to share and for their support with our Leader In Me journey.



◀ Begin With the End in Mind

Last month we focused on Habit #1: "Be Proactive" and this month we will be focusing on Habit #2: "Begin With the End in Mind". We introduced this habit in our classrooms throughout the month of November, culminating with a Community Circle all-school assembly during the first week of December. Congratulations to our first group of Ryan leaders who were recognized at our last Community Circle assembly for displaying one of the habits!



AthleticMentors

Fitness for ALL @ ANY level!

Find Your Inner Athlete

with our Functional Fitness Programs:

- ✓ Metabolic Testing
- ✓ Health Evaluation
- ✓ Nutrition Counseling
- ✓ Coached Gym
- ✓ VIP Coaching
- ✓ Classes
- ✓ Virtual Portal

15% Off

Your First Purchase or Month with this Ad!

www.AthleticMentors.com (269) 743-2277

Book Fair ▶

The Ryan Book Fair was a huge success. Thank you to our PTO and volunteers who worked the Book Fair for us. All students had the opportunity to shop with their classroom, and scholarship coupons were granted for those in need.



◀ Field Trip

5th-Grade Students Sherman Lake Field Trip took place this month. Students spent a half day out at the Sherman Lake YMCA participating in team building games and experiential learning opportunities. A big thank you to our PTO for helping to support this trip.



GLMS Represented at the National Level

**Edward Jones**edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Dreaming up the
ideal retirement
is your job.
Helping you get
there is ours.

We're excited to
hear from you.



Lori A. Nay
Financial Advisor
8599 N 32nd Street
Richland, MI 49083
269-629-4270

In October, Dr. Maring had the opportunity to start a board position with the national Pre-K through 8th grade Principal association as the Middle Level Director At-Large. She traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with the U.S. Board of Education staff regarding relevant issues in schools and heard from the Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona. She returned with a broader view of education and understanding of how different states and districts are addressing current educational issues. It was a great experience representing the State of Michigan, middle level schools, and Gull Lake Community Schools as well as learning from others.

Career Day Speakers Needed



GLMS is planning a Career Day for 8th grade students on Thursday March 9, 2023. We are looking for parents, alumni, and community members that may be interested in volunteering to speak to our students about their career path. We are surveying for initial interest now so we can start getting a variety of career

speakers lined up. If you are interested please complete the following Google Form.

<https://tinyurl.com/GLMSCareerDay>



CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity students competed in the Governor's High School Cyber Challenge with two GL Teams making the Top Ten. With this finish, they were invited to participate in round two of the Cyber Challenge, ending up 6th and 9th out of 232 teams that competed from around the state. This is an amazing accomplishment for these hard-working students showcasing their Cybersecurity skills.

Cybersecurity students also attended the Cybersecurity Cyber Summit held in Novi, MI. They were able to listen to professionals speak in both round table discussions as well as break out rooms for more specialized discussions on topics that interested them.





We are Thankful for Pie Day

Kellogg students and staff enjoyed pumpkin pie around one “table” and focused their minds on things they are thankful for this holiday season. Parents were also treated to pie at dismissal as we are thankful for them!



◀ Fall Fest

The Kellogg PTO went “all out” as they hosted a Fall Fest for families to enjoy face painting, cake walks, hayrides, bounce houses, games, food trucks, donuts, raffles, prizes, and so much more! This annual tradition is a favorite for Kellogg families and staff as it continues to grow each year.

“Wild About Learning” ▶

Kellogg's Homecoming Parade Float Theme was “Wild About Learning”. Students and staff had so much fun dressing the part for this community event.





40th Anniversary Founders' Celebration!

On November 10 we celebrated the GLCS Foundation's 40th year of expanding and enhancing education at Gull Lake Schools with a Founders' Reception at the Gilmore Car Museum. More than 250 people joined in honoring and celebrating our nine Founders and the work we continue to do.

THANK YOU to our generous sponsors who made this event possible and to the students, parents, and staff who demonstrated the Foundation's impact. Find a complete list at glcsf.org.








40th Anniversary New Donor Match!
Every new donor Gift will be Doubled, up to \$12,000!
 Inspired? Scan the QR Code to donate!



SCAN ME

glcsf.org

Top left - founders Tom Geil, Joyce Melvin, Bo VanPeenan **Top right** - Ryan scholarship recipient, Claire Haas and GLCSF Trustee Mari Draeger **Middle** - Project Lead the Way program demonstrators **Bottom** - Model UN program demonstrators



FALL SPORTS RECAP

What a wonderful fall sports season we had here at Gull Lake! Each one of our teams accomplished amazing things this year and the wonderful support of our Blue Devil community made it such a fun experience for everyone! Thank you to everyone who supported our student-athletes and coaches this season, it was exciting to see such great community involvement for our teams! We are looking forward to carrying over the excitement to the winter season! Below are some of the highlights from the fall.

Boys Soccer 2022 STATE CHAMPIONS!



Congratulations to our boys soccer team on their fourth program state title! They finished off the regular season as SMAC regular season champions, and then topped off the season with the state championship win over Cranbrook Kingswood!

Girls Volleyball advances to MHSAA State Quarterfinals




The Blue Devil volleyball team made a great run in the postseason. They took down a tough Mattawan team to win the district championship, and then swept Lakeview for the Regional championship. Despite battling hard in the quarterfinal, the girls were defeated in four sets by Saline.

Girls Golf advances to MHSAA State Finals for the third year in a row!




Our girls golf program has become one of the top programs in the state! For the third straight year they qualified for the state tournament! Congratulations to the coaches and golfers on this amazing achievement!

GULL LAKE
YOUTH WRESTLING
 PROGRAMS FOR Y5 – 5TH GRADE



FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.GULLLAKEWRESTLING.COM



Boys Soccer

All Conference 1st Team

Ryker Corstange
 Jasek Zielaskowski
 Tariku Klipsch
 Drew Boucher
 Adam Boyle

All Conference Honorable Mention

Ethan Carr
 Xavier Thomas
 Kai Watts

Girls Golf

1st Team All Division SMAC East

Kara Nelson
 Ella Schaberg
 Charlotte Boudeman

Honorable Mention All Division SMAC East

Ella Ezbenko

Cross Country

All Division SMAC East

Wyatt McComb
 Kendall Wank

UPCOMING SPORT START DATES

Middle School Wrestling (6th - 8th grade): December 5, 2022

Middle School Girls Basketball (7th-8th Grade): January 9, 2023

High School and Middle School Spring Sports: March 13, 2023

Look for updates on sport specific tryout times and schedules at our Blue Devil athletics website, www.GoGLBlueDevils.com

We look forward to hosting you at our events this year and as always, Go Blue Devils!

Volleyball

1st Team All Division SMAC East

Grace Wood
 Sophie Crawford

2nd Team All Division SMAC East

Breeana Eklund
 Taygan Corstange

Honorable Mention All Division SMAC East

Amelia Colosky
 Elle Green

Boys Tennis

Singles 1st Team All Conference

Henry Kamman

Doubles Honorable Mention All Conference

Chad Romyak and Chase Sommerfeld:



Two Scholarships Available

The GLCS Fine Arts Foundation is thrilled to announce that we will once again be awarding two (2) scholarships: the Robin Nott Performing Arts Company Scholarship and the 5th GLCS Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship. Both scholarships are one-time awards of \$1,000. While the Nott scholarship is intended to honor those who have participated in the Performing Arts Company at GLHS, the FAF Scholarship is available to any student who has completed at least four (4) fine arts courses at GLHS and who intends to pursue a fine arts education in college. Applications are available in the high school guidance office, by emailing the FAF at glcsfineartsfoundation@gmail.com, or at our website, <https://glcsfineartsfounda.wixsite.com/glcsfaf>. Application deadline is February 24, 2023.

Tis the Season for Charitable Giving

During this season, we'd love for you to consider a donation to the GLCS Fine Arts Foundation. Our programs would not be possible without contributions from our community. Donations may be made via PayPal at our website, or by mail to GLCS Fine Arts Foundation, P.O. Box 611, Richland, MI 49083. We thank you for your continued support of the Arts in the Gull Lake Community Schools.

MARCHING BAND

Congratulations to the Blue Devil Marching Band on a highly successful 2022 marching season. This year's show 'Leap of Faith' received top awards consistently throughout the season. The Blue Devil Marching Band earned a Superior rating at MSBOA Marching Festival. The band was undefeated in their flight at all MCBA competitions on the west side of the state, including undefeated awards in best general effect and best colorguard. The band accolades also included individual awards for best visual performance and music performance while still competing on the west side of the state. The band ended their season on November 5th at MCBA State Championships, performing at Ford Field in Detroit. The Blue Devil Band placed third in Flight IV, bringing home the bronze medal and becoming the first medalists for the GL band program. Congratulations to our hard working student musicians and thank you to all of the families, volunteers and community members who

greatly contributed to this success. Way to go, band!

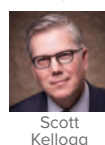


PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY



The Gull Lake High School Performing Arts Company had a successful run of their fall show, *This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing*. Over 50 students participated in all aspects of theater, including acting, lights, set, sound, costumes, hair/makeup, media, and stage management, to create an enjoyable production. Leading the cast were Lila Warren (junior), Kailynn Bachman (junior), and Avery Horrigan (freshman), and leading the technical crews were stage managers Maggie Dziedzic and Iris Pierce. The sound crew of Garrett Nichols, Manreen Dhillon, and Evanne Horrigan won the audience's vote for favorite crew, and PAC President and Props Chief, Katie Godbey, was awarded MVP for this show by her fellow PAC members.

YOUR FOREVER AGENTS.



Contact an office near you to receive a free home valuation!

Richland (269) 629-7653
Gull Lake (269) 203-7315
Gull Road (269) 488-1530

Member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



VETERANS DAY DRIVE

In celebration of our Veterans Gull Lake High School National Honor Society delivered a collection of personal care products for the VA hospital in Battle Creek. Thank you to all that have served.

WARM UP THE WINTER

The Gull Lake High School Student Senate and National Honor Society are teaming up to "Warm Up the Winter." High School students will be collecting NEW hats, gloves and socks for all sizes to donate to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Collection boxes can be found at the following locations: GLHS, GLCS Admin Building, Neuro Chiropractic in Richland and the Richland Library. Collecting now through December 21st. Please consider donating.



Thank you, Community Members!

Thank you to many of the students from the GLHS National Honor Society, who helped us shop for clothing for our Annual Bright Holidays program. Also, thank you to the West Main Kohl's store for hosting our shopping event. Along with the Richland Area Community Center, Parker Hannifin, Zoetis, Richland Rotary, and many other local businesses and community members, the Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers were able to provide clothing, educational toys, personal care items, and gift cards for food to 116 families and 312 children in need.

In October, we hosted our annual Fall Warm-Up program, where we provided 276 coats and 139 pairs of snow pants to children in our district so they would stay warm and dry in the upcoming winter months. Thank you to Haven Reformed Church for partnering with us for these two programs.

If you are interested in making a charitable donation to the Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers organization this holiday season (or any time), please send your check to GLACV, P.O. Box 352, Richland, MI 49083, or you may donate online at GLACV.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity, and for making the holidays a little brighter for hundreds of children and families in our community!





AGES 2 - ADULT

YOUTH LEAGUE - Deadline Dec. 30
Soccer Ages 4-HS | Flag Ages 6-14

ADULT Coed, Men's & Women's
(Begins week of Dec. 5)

CLASSES - Start Jan. 2
Soccer Ages 2-11 | Flag Ages 5-7 | Skateboard Ages 5-13

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!



KICSPORTS.net

269.226.2000 | 8151 Merchant Place, Portage, MI 49002



If you've visited Liz's Restaurant or stopped by the Administration Office, you will see our Student Of The Month listed on the letter board. We'd like to congratulate the following students for being chosen:

September- Melissa Sigsbee

October- Audrey VanderVort

The Student of the Month is selected based on his/her academic achievement, attendance, and positive attitude. Each student receives a \$50 gift certificate courtesy of Liz's Restaurant.

You may have noticed our students out and about in the community doing all sorts of good things!

- Recess buddies at the Ryan Intermediate
- Assisting seniors at Beacon Pointe
- Teaching technology at the Richland Area Community Center
- Raking leaves
- Helping the Rotarians with their annual roadside cleanup

As Muhammad Ali once said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth."

We've been fortunate to have guest speakers sharing information about their careers. Thank you to owner of Rebel Fabrication, Mike Johnson, Barry Gray of Gray & Associates Farm Bureau Insurance, and Michigan authors, Elizabeth Kerlikowske and Jennifer Clark.



ROTARY

Members of the **Volunteens** at the Gull Lake Area Rotary Spaghetti Dinner were helping people with their trays, servicing tables, and raising money for Polio.



The **Gull Lake Rotary** participates in a Statewide Project called **Adopt-a-Highway** which takes place three times of year. Students from **Gateway Academy** helped Rotary clean up a stretch of M-43 from Bell Tower north to Sterling Drive at the south end of Little Long Lake.





EARLY COLLEGE & GULL LAKE VIRTUAL PARTNERSHIP NEWS

BOBBI JO STONER Principal of Early College and Innovative Programs - bstoner@gulllakecs.org

Two GLVP Student Artists Accepted in Local Competition

GLVP high school students Meagan Rozema and Pumpkin King created and submitted artwork that has been accepted for inclusion in Kalamazoo Valley Community College's High School Art and Design Competition Exhibit! The exhibit will be installed from November 29th to December 1st at KVCC's Center for New Media.



Art by Meagan Rozema



Art Designs by Pumpkin King

GLVP Music Student has an audition with America's Got Talent!

Remington Moesta recently interviewed with the GLVP Digital Media Club to tell us more about



GULL LAKE Virtual Partnership



his opportunity to audition for America's Got Talent! Remington taught himself to play piano during COVID and is getting ready to play blindfolded for his virtual audition on December 3rd.

GULL LAKE Early College

JODEE STANTON, Dean of Gull Lake Early College, will be retiring in January. For 30 years, she has served students as a teacher, school counselor and dean. We wish her sunny days and safe travels in retirement.

MINA FRENCH has joined us to take over as the Counselor of Innovative Programs and Early College. Please feel free to reach out to her with any program questions.



Early College outreach visit at Gull Lake Middle School teaches about the importance of making wise decisions about your career options and future plans.



Mina French, Jodee Stanton, and Lisa Addy at Fall Fest 2022.



Early College student Noah Banasky, 11th grade, meets with Counselor Mina French and his mom to navigate the scheduling questions of balancing a busy high school and college schedule!

Early College information meetings and applications for current sophomores will kick off in January 2023!

WWW.GULLLAKECS.ORG

Gull Lake Community Schools



Board of Education

PRESIDENT
Carole Mendez

VICE PRESIDENT
Jeff Brown

SECRETARY
Brad Bagley

TREASURER
Laura Zervic

TRUSTEES

Lin Marklin

Mini Paulose-Murphy

Krystal Scott-Rhodes

SUPERINTENDENT

Raphael Rittenhouse



Gull Lake Community Schools
10100 East D Ave.
Richland, MI 49083

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit No. 313

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Gull Lake Community Schools Communicator is published quarterly by Gull Lake Community Schools, 10100 East D Ave., Richland, Michigan 49083. Occasional special issues published as needed.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Parents and all other community members are encouraged to attend school board meetings on a regular basis. Meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at the Thomas M. Ryan Intermediate School Media Center at 7:00 pm, unless otherwise indicated. Upon request to the Superintendent, the District shall make reasonable accommodation for a person with disabilities to be able to participate in the meetings. Official minutes of each school board meeting are available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office, 10100 East D Avenue, Richland, MI 49083, or may be accessed on the school website: www.gulllakecs.org.

MEETING DATES

December 19, 2022
January 16, 2023
February 20, 2023
March 20, 2023

WINTER TRANSPORTATION

It's that time of year again, and those snowy, blustery days that may affect school bus schedules are here.

Our bus drivers appreciate your help to make sure the buses arrive at school on schedule. Bus drivers may leave up to 10 minutes earlier than their normal departure time to help ensure all students arrive at school on time. It is very important students are at the bus stop 10 minutes prior to the established pick-up time. You can download the BusQuest App which allows families to track bus location in relation to their pick-up.



Please check the next day's forecast each evening and have your student properly clothed so they are comfortable and protected from the elements.

The decision to delay or cancel school is a cooperative effort by the superintendent, the transportation supervisor, and the supervisor of building and grounds. This decision is usually made by 5:00am.

The School Messenger Alert System will call families who provide contact information. The District Website will post any school delays or closings, and here is a list of television and radio stations that post our closing information.

-Television stations: WWMT, WOOD-TV, WOTV, WZZM

-Radio: WNWN 98.5, WFAT 96.5, WQXC 100.9, WMUK 102.9, WWKN 104.9, WBXX 95.3, WBCK 930AM, WQLR 106.5, WKZO 590 AM, WQSN 1470 AM, WRKR 107.7, WKRF 103.3, WKMI 1360 AM, WKPR 1420 AM



AUGUST



SUZIE KANE
Bus 27

SEPTEMBER



DEANNA DAUTEN
Substitute Driver

OCTOBER



CHRISTY DAVIS
Special Education Bus