

SUPERINTENDENT **NEWSLETTER**

May 5, 2023

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Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

Last summer, I began a house project that started out as a simple replacement of planks on the deck extending out from our family room. Like most projects, it involved making decisions on materials and estimating the amount of fasteners and planks required. Everything started out fine, but as I began tearing out the old materials, it became evident that a lot more work would be necessary to get the job done right. The boards underneath the sliding glass doors had deteriorated and needed replacing, which meant shimming up the heavy sliding doors and tearing out the old support boards. It also became clear that a new deck surface needed a different support system underneath that would shed water and keep the new deck dry below the top boards. Within a short time, the scope of the project increased, and a new approach was required to complete it.

Helping students learn is a lot like the home project I just described. Sometimes we have to get to the root of the learning issue by digging below the surface to assess foundational skills and concepts. At times, these skills require shoring up in order to make new progress. Effective educators work on the foundational skills that allow a student to grow and navigate the increasing complexity and demands of the core curriculum. This empowers the student to successfully complete their diploma requirements and map a chosen pathway to their future. Our team closely monitors progress on these important skills and provides several layers of support along the way, depending on the specific needs of the student.

There is rigor and effort involved for every learner as they learn to master the skills and proficiencies required to successfully pursue their dreams. Parents can support this process by working with the school team to encourage the learner to engage in the growth process and the rigorous effort required to achieve true success. Our team knows how to map in plenty of fun along with the rigor so that the necessary repetitions and practice do not become drudgery! Strong efforts are rewarded by successful outcomes and increased confidence.

Many of you are making plans to have your child participate in our summer learning programs. These extension programs are designed to be engaging and active as they strengthen the foundational skills and concepts that lead to success. Your investment will be greatly rewarded as you see your child grow their skills and confidence.

Thank you for being such great Partners in Learning!

Enjoy this beautiful weekend,



Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools



Updates:

GLCS PAC will be performing Clue May 12-14, 2023.

No school on Monday, May 29th.

Last day of school is Thursday, June 8th.



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