

SUPERINTENDENT **NEWSLETTER**

May 19, 2023

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Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

A few weeks ago, I talked about the foundations of learning, and the importance of constructing the necessary skills to advance learning. In my original training as an educator, the focus was on instrumental and vocal music. The training involved something called “proficiencies”, which meant long hours practicing scale patterns and rhythms that are used as building blocks of our musical system. Sometimes, musicians hit a plateau where their progress slows, and they must revisit proficiency work to master more difficult musical passages. When a listener hears a musician perform a technical passage that appears effortless, it is important to understand the many hours of prior practice and perseverance required to achieve that level of performance.

Mastering core concepts in reading, writing, math, and science requires proficiency that is constructed over time using quality repetitions and feedback on performance. Fine Arts and Electives instructors also teach the foundations required for growth and progression. Social Studies teachers use timelines to show key events that influence societies and cultures. Successful learning and achievement mean investing in the foundations of each area of study. At GLCS, we believe that learning success and real-world performance are built on a solid foundation of skill development, constructed knowledge modeled by successful practitioners, and the self-directed efforts of each student. Our staff consistently provide engaging environments and activities that challenge students to think critically and independently.

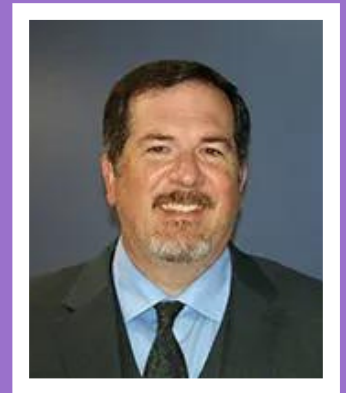
As we partner with our families as first educators, know that we are helping develop the whole child by modeling and teaching foundational skills and concepts that can transfer to any chosen pathway. Encourage your student to invest the time and repetitions that build mastery. I have yet to hear an adult claim that they invested too much time and effort in their studies! A strong education remains one of the best investments anyone can make and establishes us as valuable members of a free and fair society.

Practice makes perfect!

Have a wonderful weekend,



Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools



Updates:

**No school on Monday,
May 29th.**

**Gateway Academy
Graduation is May 31st.**

**Commencement
Ceremony is June 1st.**

**Last day of school is
Thursday, June 8th.**



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