Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts

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

I have always appreciated the Labor Day Holiday for what it symbolizes. A nation that chooses to work hard, innovate, and drive toward the next goal for improvement is what one envisions as we rest from our labors and celebrate. It is a way to tank up for the next leg of the journey and to step forward with renewed vigor in pursuit of the things we value in our society. There is always a place for hard work and dedication in our national psyche, and it is in our DNA to strive for new horizons.

Our Gull Lake team believes in these core values and models them at every turn. We keep close tabs on the metrics for success that every student needs to demonstrate to make progress in their lives as lifelong learners and contributing citizens. When we know how to work hard and play hard together, much can be accomplished. As we move on from the Labor Day weekend and all that it represents, the GLCS team is here to maximize the return on our investment in kids and community.

Here's to a great school year!

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools

As we begin this school year, our school district and staff are excited to welcome students and families back into our buildings and virtual learning spaces. New beginnings offer opportunities for fresh starts and recalibration of student goals for the academic year. Our district goals for the year are to continue providing engaging learning environments that encompass reading, writing, and speaking with purpose.

READING:

We aim to create a climate where reading is celebrated and embraced at all grade levels. Our dedicated teachers will implement research-based instructional strategies to improve student’s reading comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary development. We will also encourage the habit of independent reading by providing engaging and diverse literature options in our classrooms and school libraries.

WRITING:

Strong writing skills are fundamental to effective communication and critical thinking. We strive to equip students with the necessary tools to become confident and proficient writers. Teachers will utilize a variety of writing approaches, such as narrative, informational, and persuasive writing, to help students develop their writing abilities across different genres.

SPEAKING WITH PURPOSE:

Effective oral communication skills are vital in today’s world. We aim to empower students to express themselves articulately and confidently in all subject areas.

In order to achieve these goals, we will collaborate closely with parents and families. We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are crucial for student success. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to working together with you to support our student’s growth and achievement throughout this school year.
Strategic Planning

The Gull Lake School Board has embarked on the creation of a new Strategic Plan for the District. Discussions began at the March 2023 Board meeting to initiate the planning process. Board VP Brown and trustee Scott-Rhodes were charged with mapping and beginning the process. Superintendent Rittenhouse is participating and assisting the Board. The process will occur over the next several months.

The Board had initiated a similar process in 2020 which was hampered by the onset of the Pandemic and therefore paused until this new effort.

The process includes several steps.

1. Data collection: Three methods to solicit input on a variety of perceptions of the district are in place: A. An open-to-the public district survey has been created and is available on the district website for all members of the community to respond to. B. EPIC/MRA, a highly regarded survey company, was contracted to solicit input on a variety of topics regarding the district; this survey, because of the methodology used, will provide a statistically valid analysis of impressions of the questions asked. C. After the results of the two surveys are reviewed, Focus Groups will be conducted to provide a deeper understanding of any areas needing further clarification.

2. The Board along with key staff will convene to review the data and begin the process of discussing Goals based on the information. A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis by the group will help define areas of focus in this phase.

3. Smaller group analysis will continue the process, with draft Goals prepared during discussion sessions to present to the larger group.

4. The Board will further discuss and adopt the Goals and charge Board Committees, the Board as a whole, and appropriate staff with developing more detailed and granular 1–5-year goals and objectives for implementation. Wherever possible objective measurements will be put into place to allow the Board to monitor progress.

5. During the implementation phase, care will be taken to review impact and make any necessary adjustments to Goals to address unforeseen circumstances.

6. The Board will use the strategic plan to drive Districtwide agendas and set a path forward to continue to serve all students and provide the highest level of public Pre-K through12+ education possible for our community.

The Strategic Planning process will be assisted and facilitated by Dr. Robert Brinkerhoff, WMU professor emeritus and long time Richland resident and leading community member.

Information about progress on each stage of the Strategic Planning process will be discussed at Board meetings and provided to the public via District information sources. As with all decisions by the Board, Goals to be adopted will be discussed at meetings held in public.
Meet Up & Eat Up

We saw a tremendous turnout for Meet Up and Eat Up at Kellogg this summer! Students under the age of 18 can receive a free, nutritious breakfast and lunch every day through this program. Several families joined us each day not only for meals, but for the reconnection with friends and community aspect as well. Thank you to our incredible Dining Services staff for all of their hard work this summer! They served 1202 breakfasts and 2161 lunches to kids as well as a great turn out for adult sales from families in our community.

Welcome Back!

School officially began and we are anticipating this being our best year yet! We have many exciting community events and enrichment opportunities planned for the 2023-2024 school year, including an expanded Outdoor Classroom for all students. Kellogg staff have been busy coordinating with Michigan State to maximize all of the academic and social-emotional benefits an Outdoor Classroom can offer to our students. More to come on this project soon!

Thank You, Art Fair Patrons!

The Gull Lake Community Volunteers would like to say thank you to everyone who attended the Richland Art Fair. The weather cleared and thousands of patrons enjoyed browsing through over 100 booths looking for that special something. From fused glass trays and copper sprinklers, to wooden bowls and hand-painted cowboy hats, there was something for everyone at this year’s art fair. The proceeds from the Richland Art Fair help fund several programs for families in need in the Gull Lake Community.

Next year will be the Richland Art Fair’s 50th Anniversary! Please join us next July 20, 2024, as we will celebrate that milestone with fun activities and special events. If you would like to find out more about the GLACV and enjoy volunteering your time to help others, stop in at the CV table at the Richland Elementary, Kellogg Elementary, or Ryan Intermediate Open House night in August. You can check us out at GLACV.org or join us at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at GLHS. We are looking forward to meeting you!

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Hello Ryan Intermediate Families, I hope your summer vacation has been fun and relaxing. I am excited to be starting my 28th year here with Gull Lake Community schools and I am proud to be your Ryan Intermediate Principal. As we prepare for the 2023-24 school year I have shared below a few important events and dates with you that should be marked on your calendar as we inch closer to the first days of school. Additionally, we have some new faces that will be joining our Ryan team this year. Please see their information below. We are looking forward to the 2023-24 school year. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming school year, please contact our main office at 269-548-3700.

August 28 - First Day of School
September 1 - No School due to Labor Day
September 4 - No school due to Labor Day
September 5 - School Resumes
September 11 Patriot Day
September 18 - Picture Day with Geskus Photography
September 29 - Mobile Dentist

Best wishes and see you soon.
Sincerely,
Rob Woodrow
Thomas M Ryan Intermediate Principal

PTO Information: If you are interested in being a part of our PTO at Ryan Intermediate please contact Kelly Hickey at Ryanpto@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at Facebook/Ryan IntermediatePto.

Other Acknowledgments: Thank you to our Custodial staff and our Maintenance team as they have worked hard to prepare our building for the upcoming school year.

Building Construction: We are excited to begin the new school year with new ceiling tiles in all of our main hallways areas along with new advanced lighting in all of our hallways and gymnasium. Thank you to all of our stakeholders for their continued efforts in supporting building improvements initiatives.
July 2023

Construction was underway this summer for the middle school. The north half of the building received new flooring and paint while the south half of the building received electric and lighting work. The football and physical education locker rooms received a much needed redesign. Thank you to the Gull Lake community for supporting the bond that has made these upgrades financially possible!

Summer Learning:

Learning continued for many staff and students this summer in a variety of ways. One highlight was our summer school program which occurred at the high school this year due to construction. Thank you to the many summer school teachers and staff who supported our learners in the summer months!

Make warm memories and a plan for their bright future.

Let’s work together on a strategy that works for your family. Contact me today to get started.

Edward Jones
> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Lori A Nay, CFP®
Financial Advisor
9153 East D Ave
Richland, MI 49083
269-629-4270
New Staff and Position Changes

Position Changes

Bedford Office Coordinator & Enrollment Specialist
GABRIELLE SKOGLUND

Student Success Teacher & Lead Mentor
CARYN PARKER

Special Services Case Manager
NATHALIE SHULTZ

Bedford Office Specialist
TERRI KISSINGER

New To GLVP

Mentor
KELLY BAGLEY

Mentor
AMANDA KOENIG

Industrial Arts & Technology Teacher
ASHLEY ROSINSKI

Early College Teacher
AARON BRUININKS

FALL FEST
OCTOBER 20, 2023
11:00AM - 2:00PM
Bedford Building
315 Hutchinson Rd, Battle Creek

WWW.GULLLAKECS.ORG
Three Gateway Academy students were winners in the Poems That Ate Our Ears contest sponsored by Kalamazoo’s Friends of Poetry. The contest is in its 47th year and receives entries primarily from Michigan students. Emily Evans, Ashton Miller, and Marshall Riggs all placed in Category 4 in the high school grouping. Their winning poems will be published in a booklet with an awards ceremony and reading in September!

During the 2022-2023 school year, Dr. Elizabeth Kerlikowske, a Kalamazoo writer and author, was instrumental in guiding the students and encouraging them to submit their entries. She volunteered weekly in the classroom with self-selected students and will be returning this upcoming school year. She says, “I love their energy. It’s as much fun for me as it is for them.”

Gateway is grateful to Jack Buck, Director of the Richland Community Library, for connecting us with Dr. Elizabeth as we continue to Read, Write, and Speak with Purpose!

PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY

Don’t tell the secret! The GLHS Performing Arts Company will kick off their exceptional 2023-2024 season with Trap by Stephen Gregg this fall. Heralded as being “unnerving, exhilarating, and wildly inventive,” you’re in for a fresh theatre experience with this show. Show dates and times are November 10th and 11th at 7 pm, and November 12th at 2 pm. Tickets will be available at the door or through the GL Center for the Fine Arts website later this fall.

Students interested in acting or participating on a production crew for Trap should watch for posters around the high school with audition/technical crew sign up dates in mid September, or contact Lisa Ouellette at LOuellette@gulllakecs.org for more information.

In February, PAC will also be presenting The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong. The “goes wrong” works of Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields have been taking London and Broadway by storm, and this play is sure to be hilarious. PAC will be presenting the Tony-winning play Peter and the Starcatcher by Rick Elice in the spring. Don’t miss this delightful Peter Pan prequel!
WELCOME BACK GL!

We are excited to kick off another year of Blue Devil athletics and our fall sports are in full swing! Stay up to date on tryouts, teams, and events by following us on social media or visiting our website www.GoGLBlueDevils.com.

Below are a few reminders and updates if you plan to attend any of our events:

• Admission to high school events is $7.00, children 5 and under are free.
• Admission to middle school events is $5.00, children 5 and under are free.
• Download the Hometown Fan App to purchase and keep all your tickets in one place! Cash is also accepted at the gate.
• **New for this year- we are also accepting credit cards at the gate!**
• We offer our All Sports Pass which includes 25 entries into home events. These never expire and are transferable. The cost is $125 and it can be purchased online by going to our box office at www.GoGLBlueDevils.com, or you can stop in the Athletic Office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm to purchase.
• High school students may purchase a student pass in the Athletic Office. Student passes are $50 and get that student into every regular season home game. Students must come in to purchase the pass and show their ID.

Blue Devil Spectator Sportsmanship Expectations

★ Positively cheer for our Blue Devils!
★ Respect all players, game officials, coaches, and game personnel.
★ Stay off the playing surface.
★ Use appropriate language.
★ Win and lose with good sportsmanship.

New for 2023-2024 school year:

No personal footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs, etc. may be brought to events. Anyone bringing objects that can be thrown, kicked, etc. will be asked to leave them at the gate or take them back to their vehicles.

For those of students that plan to participate in a future sport at the high school or middle school please remember:

• All students must have a Student Central online account created through planeths.com.
• All students must have a valid sports physical (one dated on or after April 15, 2023) uploaded to their Student Central account.
• Please make sure you select all sports you are interested in participating in this school year.

Winter Sport Start Dates

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**
- Boys Basketball: October 23
- Girls Basketball: January 8
- Wrestling: December 11
- Competitive Cheer: November 13

**HIGH SCHOOL**
- Ice Hockey: October 30
- Competitive Cheer: November 6
- Bowling: November 9
- Wrestling: November 13
- Girls Basketball: November 20
- Boys Basketball: November 13

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

District Wide Stop the Bleed Training

Officer Kelm and Nurse Megan trained building staff on Stop the Bleed last school year. Stop the Bleed is a campaign to teach lifesaving bleeding control methods. Simple and effective actions can be used to control active bleeding during an emergency. Lifesaving techniques such as applying pressure, packing the wound, using a tourniquet, and using a seal are taught and practiced in the training. Staff are grateful for the generous support of the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation who provided the funds for each classroom to be equipped with a Stop the Bleed kit, and for the hands on training materials.
NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATION: The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation and transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, ancestry, genetic information or any other legally protected category, (collectively, “Protected Classes”), in its programs and activities, including employment opportunities. For inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies, please contact Lisa Anderson, Assistant Superintendent at 269.548.3400, Gull Lake Community Schools, 10100 East D. Avenue, Richland, MI 49083.

NON-DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT: The Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, please contact Lisa Anderson, Assistant Superintendent at 269.548.3400.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICERS: The Assistant Superintendent and Director of Curriculum & Instructional Technology are the District’s Compliance officers and may be reached at 269.548.3400.

HOMELESS LIASON: The Director of Curriculum and Instructional Technology is the District’s Homeless Liaison and may be reached at 269.548.3400.

ACCESS PROCEDURES: Parents of eligible students who wish to review the student’s educational records shall request at the attending building. A review shall be scheduled within a reasonable time not to exceed 30 days.

DISCLOSURE TO THIRD PARTIES: Personally identifiable information from the educational record of the student shall not be released without prior consent of the parent or eligible student. Information may be released to certain individuals or agencies as permitted by law.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS: The school district has compiled records on all students for use in the provision of appropriate education programs and services. Federal and state legislation provide parents and eligible students (18 years and older) with certain rights regarding the confidentiality of school records.

PARENTAL AND STUDENT RIGHTS: Parents of a student or an eligible student have the right to:
1. Inspect and review the educational records of the student.
2. Request information contained in such records be amended if it is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy or other rights of the student.
3. Request a hearing to challenge the content of the student’s record.

STUDENT RECORDS consist of:

- Personal and family data
- Health and immunization records
- Test data, including aptitude, interest, intelligence, and achievement testing
- Achievement and attendance records
- Anecdotal records
- Records of conferences
- Copies of correspondence concerning student
- Student questionnaires
- Other records which may contribute to the understanding of the student
- Past school records
- Individualized Educational Plans for handicapped children

PROCEDURES RELATING TO RETENTION, DESTRUCTION AND DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS: Records are maintained at the building in which the student is enrolled or last attended. Each record is kept in an individual file open only to those personnel that have a need to know. Information on grades, attendance, and courses completed are kept forever unless transferred to another school district. Portions of a record may be destroyed when it is no longer appropriate to retain them.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SECTION 504 NOTIFICATIONS: It is the policy of the District to actively find and provide services to students with disabilities. The District will provide appropriate evaluations, identification and services for full eligible students under Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or current Special Education Laws.

CHILD FIND SYSTEM: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires all states to have a "comprehensive Child Find system" to assure all children who are in need of early intervention or special education services are located, identified, and referred. Part C of early intervention focuses on children aged birth to three. If you suspect your child has a disability, please contact the District’s Special Education Director at 269.548.3400.
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND COMPLAINT PROCEDURES: The District does not discriminate on the basis of disability, sex, age, or race with regard to admission, access to services, treatment, or employment in programs and activities. The District Special Education Supervisor is the coordinator responsible for Section 504, the American Disabilities Act and Special Education. Contact Suzanne Barrett, at 269.548.3400.

The District Policies and Procedures are on file in the Superintendent’s Office, as well as on the District web site www.gulllakecs.org where they may be reviewed. You may file a complaint regarding a District policy or procedure by contacting the Superintendent of Gull Lake Community Schools, 10100 East D. Avenue, Richland, MI 49083; telephone contact number is 269.548.3400. You will receive the specific process for the legislation for which you believe is non-compliant.

PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: As part of the Gull Lake Community Schools’ Integrated Pest Management Program, pesticides are occasionally used. You have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. For information on how to be informed of pesticide application dates, contact Brad Glessner, Building & Grounds Supervisor at 269.548.3400.

DRUG PREVENTION: In accordance with federal and state law, the Gull Lake Community Schools Board of Education hereby establishes a “Drug-Free School Zone” that extends 1,000 feet from the boundary of any school property. The Board prohibits the use, possession, concealment, delivery, or property within the Drug-Free School Zone or at any district-related event. Furthermore, the superintendent shall take the necessary steps to ensure that an individual, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who knowingly delivers or distributes controlled substances designated and prohibited by Michigan statute with the Drug-Free School Zone to another person is prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

WEAPONS-FREE SCHOOL ZONE: Gull Lake Community Schools is a Weapons-Free School Zone. Violators may face expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.

ANTI-BULLYING/ANTI-HARASSMENT: It is the policy of the District to provide a safe educational environment for all students. Bullying, or harassment of a student at school is strictly prohibited. This policy shall be interpreted and enforced to protect all students and to equally prohibit bullying/harassment with regard to its subject matter or motivating animus. For inquiries or concerns about the Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment policies. You may contact the Superintendent of Gull Lake Community Schools at 269.548.3400.

NONDISCRIMINATION BASED ON GENETIC INFORMATION OF THE EMPLOYEE: The Board of Education prohibits discrimination on the basis of genetic information in all aspects of employment, including hiring, firing, compensation, job assignments, promotions, layoffs, training, fringe benefits, or any other terms, conditions, or privileges of employment. The Board also does not limit, segregate, or classify employees in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive them of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect the status of an employee as an employee, based on genetic information. Harassment of a person because of his/her genetic information is also prohibited. Likewise, retaliation against an applicant or employee for engaging in protected activity is prohibited.
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.