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

I recently attended a presentation sponsored by the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club. The program, titled The Civility Project, was conducted by two celebrated journalists, Nolan Finley and Stephen Henderson. They have been longtime friends who are famous for disagreeing on just about everything. The one thing they both agree on is that they are committed friends despite their differences.

Nolan and Stephen forged a friendship because they got to know each other and spent the time listening to each other’s viewpoints. They learned that they shared many of the same core values, but differed in their ideas about how to problem solve the societal issues of the day. They agreed to disagree and committed to practicing active listening together. This meant listening without judgment or forming the next argument to refute the other. It also involved paraphrasing what the other was saying, so that the speaker was assured that the main points of the idea were acknowledged.

As we head into the Holiday season, many of us will be with extended family and friends in environments where complicated topics and opinions will be introduced. This is the best time to lean into the conversation and participate using strategies that show you are fully present for the other person.

On a recent trip with a longtime friend, we met with several locals at a restaurant and had a conversation much like the kind described above. The group commented that my friend and I had very different opinions from each other, but that we were clearly good friends. It was an opportunity to share the underlying principles that guided our friendship.

My wish for you and the good people of our community this Holiday season is that you will get a chance to engage in healthy dialogue about the things that matter most to you, and that you get the chance to better understand your friends and loved ones on a whole new level.

Happy Holidays!

Raphael Rittenhouse
Superintendent

Gull Lake Community Schools

FOSTERING A CULTURE OF LITERACY: Gull Lake Community Schools Embrace "One Community, One Book"

Gull Lake Community Schools is excited to announce the launch of "One Community, One Book," a district-wide literacy initiative aimed at bringing families together through the joy of reading in February. This innovative program encourages all students from Young 5s to 5th grade to read the same book, fostering a shared literary experience among students, parents, and educators. Simultaneously, students in grades 6-12 will embark on their own literary journey while reading a book with the overarching district-wide theme of inclusion. Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation has graciously provided financial support for every student and staff member to receive their own copy.

The benefits of "One Community, One Book" are numerous and impactful. First and foremost, this initiative promotes a culture of literacy within our community, emphasizing the importance of reading as a lifelong skill. The program creates a shared experience that extends beyond the classroom, promoting meaningful conversations and connections at home. Additionally, the initiative supports cross-grade collaboration, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among students of different ages.

The goal is to spark curiosity, instill empathy, and ignite a passion for learning. Thanks to the support of the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation, this initiative not only promotes literacy but also provides valuable resources to enhance the reading experience.

We believe that "One Community, One Book" will not only strengthen our community’s commitment to literacy but also create lasting memories for families as they embark on this literary adventure together. Look for more information coming your way in January and the grand book title reveals in February!
The Richland Buzz

Allyson Bakken, Richland and Kellogg STEAM teacher, has coined The Richland Buzz: Weekly News Updates. The Richland Buzz is shared every Monday with all classrooms. There is an awesome group of Richland students who practice and record these fun weekly news updates. A special thank you to Mrs. Bakken and her news crew for sharing your skills each week!

Read and Ride

Mrs. Karen Koets hosted another great Read and Ride session this Fall! Students were reading books to dogs, riding horses, and reading sentences on a trail ride with their horses. Thanks to all of our volunteers for their help and dedication to our students and literacy!

The GLCS Fine Arts Foundation is thrilled to announce that we will once again be awarding two scholarships: the Robin Nott Performing Arts Company Scholarship and the GLCS Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship. Both scholarships are one-time awards of $1,000. The application deadline is February 23, 2024.

We thank you for your continued support of the Arts in Gull Lake Community Schools!

https://glcsfineartsfounda.wixsite.com/glcsfaf
GLCSFineArtsFoundation@gmail.com
Fun in 1st Grade!
Mrs. Mingerink’s first graders enjoyed a book walk in our outdoor classroom, set up by our librarian Mrs. Bergland.

Students have been practicing their leadership skills by leading our daily calendar time. They ask questions of their classmates to help fill in the slides.

The kindergarten classes at Kellogg have been working hard and having fun mastering sight words!

Fire Safety in 2nd Grade

On October 10th, the 2nd graders at Kellogg were visited by the Ross Township/Augusta and Hickory Corners Fire Departments. The students learned about fire safety, what to do to protect yourself and your home from fires, and about some of the equipment the firefighters might use. Brody says the best part of the visit “was when we got to spray the fire hose!” Thank you to everyone who made this happen!

YOUNG FIVES students at Kellogg visited Gull Meadow Farms as a part of their Apple Study. Prior to their field trip, students learned about apple life cycles, different types of apples, parts of an apple, and Johnny Appleseed! They enjoyed a bumpy tractor ride to pick apples, followed by a presentation with Ms. Mary VanderWal, and delicious cider and donuts. Everyone had a blast enjoying all of the activities Gull Meadow Farms had to offer. Following the field trip students used the apples they picked to make apple juice and applesauce. Yum!

SECOND GRADERS at Kellogg and Richland Elementary are wrapping up their trimester in STEAM. Throughout the trimester, students have been pair programming on Scratch Jr., a block coding app, to build upon other programming and problem solving skills from first grade. Most recently, students designed and created a program to keep score of a game. They enjoyed testing their programs with a game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors.” After the Thanksgiving recess, first graders will be joining Mrs. Bakken in the Steam labs for the first time.
Our Volunteers have been hard at work in our community! This fall they have helped at the Ryan Rally, the Rotary Lasagna Dinner, the Kellogg Fall Festival, the "My Guy and I" Dance, and also with raking leaves for those in our community that require extra assistance. Please reach out to either Kyle VanLandegent, Ethan Carr, Jessica O'Leary, or Mrs. Kuch if you know of an organization or group that can use their help.

**Warm Up the Winter**

GLHS Student Senate and National Honor Society are teaming up to "Warm Up the Winter." HS students will be collecting NEW hats, gloves, and socks for all sizes to donate to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. Collection boxes can be found now through December 21st at GLHS and GLCS Administration Building.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BLUE DEVIL MARCHING BAND** on a highly successful 2023 marching season! This year's show 'The Oasis' received praise of the musical accomplishments of our performers all season. The band ended their season on November 4th at MCBA State Championships, performing at Ford Field in Detroit. The Blue Devil Band placed fourth overall in Flight IV, earned first place in percussion, and senior Nate Hubbard received the MCBA Flight IV Scholarship. 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! #WithPride

Thank you to Rylee Fraaza and Ashley Vert for the fresh NHS Bulletin Board that highlights current NHS members!

**THE GULL LAKE PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY** hit the ground running with their production of Trap in early November. Over 50 students worked as a part of the cast and/or crew to create this unique piece of theatre, but this is just the beginning of the excellent season that is yet to come! Next, the group will present The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong, which has been a smash hit on Broadway and in London. This hilarious play is sure to delight audiences February 9-11 at the Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts!
MiCareerQuest Southwest

8th grade students had the opportunity to attend a career investigation event designed specifically for them. More than 5,000 county wide students participated in the interactive, informational, and inspiring career exploration event. Students explored careers in Healthcare and Agricultural Science, Engineering, Manufacturing, Professional Trades, and Information Technology. Students got to talk with industry professionals and discover what many careers involve while also experiencing hands-on activities. Thank you to Kalamazoo RESA, Michigan Works! Southwest, Calhoun Area Career Center, and Southwest Michigan First for sponsoring this event.

Hands on learning in Medical Detectives and Science classes.

Mrs. Fulling’s class put on the annual Thanksgiving Lunch on November 16th. They served many teachers and their parents a full meal to get ready for the upcoming holiday season!

Gull Lake Youth Wrestling

Programs for Y5s - 5th Grade

To register/more information visit www.gulllakewrestling.com

Registration opens November 6th
FALL SPORTS RECAP

It was another exciting fall sports season for our Blue Devils. 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 in a positive way; from parents of our athletes, to alumni to the local businesses. 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 Tennis Advanced to the MHSAA Division 3 State Finals!

This was the first time since 2013 they have qualified for the state championships. Special shout out to Sullivan Abegg and Cooper Zervic who were Regional Champions at #4 doubles!

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

Our girls golf program has become one of the top programs in the state! Congratulations to the coaches and golfers on this amazing achievement! Also, special shout out to Sophomore Charlotte Boudeman, an Individual MHSAA Regional Champion!

Cross Country advances two runners to the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals!

Congratulations to sophomore Gavin Markucci and freshman Lane Isom on qualifying for the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals!

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

• Admission to high school events is $7.00, children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.
• Admission to middle school events is $5.00, children 12 and under are free with a paid adult.
• We accept cash or credit cards at all events.

Fall Sport Conference Award Winners

BOYS SOCCER
All Conference 1st Team
Ryker Corstange
Evan Kaiser
Zavier Thomas
Kai Watts
Tre Reiner

GIRLS GOLF
All Conference 1st Team
Kara Nelson
Ella Schaberg
Charlotte Boudeman

VOLLEYBALL
All Division SMAC East 1st Team
Sophie Crawford
Breanna Eklund
Taygan Corstange

All Division SMAC East Honorable Mention
Sarah DeMaagd
Grace Corstange
Kaye Gleesing

CROSS COUNTRY
All Conference
Gavin Markucci:
All Division SMAC East and All Conference
Lane Isom

Upcoming Sport Start Dates
Middle School Wrestling (6th - 8th grade):
December 4, 2023
Middle School Girls Basketball (7th-8th grade):
January 8, 2024
High School and Middle School Spring Sports:
March 11, 2024

Look for updates on sport specific tryout times and schedules at www.GoGLBlueDevils.com
We look forward to hosting you at our events this year! Go Blue Devils!

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

Gull Lake Athletics
KARYN FURLONG Athletic Director – kfurlong@gulllakecs.org

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Sophie Crawford
Breanna Eklund
Taygan Corstange

All Division SMAC East Honorable Mention
Sarah DeMaagd
Grace Corstange
Kaye Gleesing

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Gull Lake Athletics
KARYN FURLONG Athletic Director – kfurlong@gulllakecs.org
GLVP families and staff had a great time at the annual GLVP Fall Fest this year! We had a variety of activities and students were able to meet mentors, teachers, and community partners.
If you've visited Liz's Parkview Cafe or stopped by the Administration Office, you will see our Student of the Month listed on the letter board at each location. The Student of the Month is chosen due to his/her academic achievement, attendance, and positive attitude. Each student receives a $50 gift certificate, courtesy of Liz's Parkview Cafe. We'd like to congratulate the following students for being chosen as our Student of the Month:

**SEPTEMBER**
RYAN GALE

**OCTOBER**
ASHTON MILLER

It's been a busy start to our school year with:
- Trips to the KIA and Comstock Community Auditorium
- Students participating in multiple community service projects
- Learning life skills in the kitchen
- Special speakers

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RYAN GALE

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Thank You, Bright Holidays Sponsors!

The GLACVs continue to support those in need in our community. In October, the GLACVs sponsored their annual Fall Warm-up program. Just as the weather turned chilly, they were able to provide 323 coats and 181 pairs of snowpants to children in GLCS. In November, students from the GLHS Volunteers and National Honor Society assisted the CVs in shopping for their annual Bright Holidays program, which provides clothing, personal care items, educational toys, and food gift cards to 140 families in our community. Many thanks to the students, several area sponsors, and many other individuals who graciously sponsored families and made donations to the Bright Holidays program. Thank you for your generosity, and for making the holidays a little brighter for hundreds of children and families in our community!

glacv.org

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

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Ryan Intermediate participated in their annual Halloween parade this fall. The weather was cold but the costumes and the fun did not disappoint. A big thank you to all of our parents and community volunteers for making our parade day a success!

On October 25th, all 5th grade students who signed up were able to share a donut and quality time with their parents or guardians. This is part of an ongoing initiative designed by our Culture team, and several Student Lighthouse members were on hand to help serve. Be on the lookout for future events that our 3rd and 4th grade students will have the opportunity to participate in!

Each month, Ryan Intermediate focuses on a Leader In Me habit. Students are then recognized by a teacher or staff member for displaying and putting one of the habits in action while at school. The students who are selected are then recognized and their certificates are placed on display for a month to celebrate their achievement. Congratulations to the students who were selected as using or regularly displaying one of the seven habits during the month of November!

The 5th grade 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. The 5th graders will build on their experience when they visit Sherman Lake YMCA in the fall for a 3 day, 2 night overnight experience.

Thank you to our PTO and volunteers who helped make the Book Fair such a success! All students had the opportunity to shop with their classroom, and scholarship coupons were granted for those in need.
Every gift is an opportunity for Gull Lake students!

GLCS Foundation grants support teachers and students by creating unique opportunities that expand and enhance education at Gull Lake Community Schools.

Your gift will help us continue to provide these opportunities.

GIVE TODAY—FOR GRANTS!

glcsf.org

ATTENTION JUNIORS & SENIORS!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEGIN DECEMBER 22

glcsf.org

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glcsf.org
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.gullakecs.org.