



# Gull Lake Community Schools COMMUNICATOR

December 2024



Photo Credits:  
Gull Lake Staff & Students

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



# Superintendent Message



**DREW BORDNER**

Assistant Superintendent of  
Curriculum and Instructional Technology  
– [dbordner@gulllakes.org](mailto:dbordner@gulllakes.org)



As the holiday season approaches, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each of

you and your loved ones. At this time of year, I am reminded of the importance of community, kindness, and respect. These are values that we hold in high regard here at Gull Lake Community Schools.

We are grateful for the support and dedication you consistently show to our schools and students. Together, we have created opportunities for our students that we all can be proud of, and are creating an environment where every child feels valued and inspired to learn. I am looking forward to an exciting new year ahead where all our students will continue to "read, write, and speak with purpose".

May your holidays be filled with joy! Thank you for your continued support, Gull Lake is a very special place. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

Respectfully,

Christopher L. Rundle  
Superintendent of Schools

## What is Artificial Intelligence?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to systems that perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as speech recognition, decision-making, and analyzing data. AI systems can "learn" from experience, improving over time and becoming more efficient. In education, AI enhances learning by offering tools that help students practice skills, receive personalized feedback, or access real-time translations. AI-powered platforms also track student progress and suggest areas for improvement.

## Potential Pitfalls

While AI offers valuable learning opportunities, it also presents challenges, particularly with plagiarism. With AI-generated content easily accessible, students may be tempted to use it as their own work, bypassing critical thinking. AI can quickly generate essays or solve math problems, which risks undermining students' intellectual growth and academic integrity.

## The Gull Lake Approach

At GLCS, true education comes from active engagement with the learning process between students, staff, and appropriate use of technology. It's not just about completing tasks. Reading, writing, and speaking with purpose fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and intellectual growth. As a district, we are committed to using technology responsibly and challenging students to grow through meaningful, thoughtful work.

*(ChatGPT, personal communication, November 21, 2024)*

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**Retirement happens whether you're ready or not. Being ready is better.**  
Let's plan your future together.



**Lori A Nay, CFP®**

Financial Advisor

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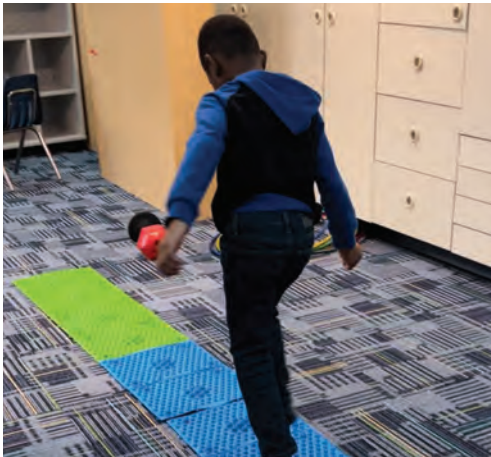


## Halloween Fun at Richland Elementary

Students and staff enjoyed a day full of Halloween fun including a costume parade, class parties, activities, and many great costumes!



Students at Richland Elementary using sensory tools and items donated by the GLCS Foundation. Sensory bins of tools were provided to each classroom, and additional large items were donated for our sensory room. These are available to all students and used by many daily.





**the Y**  
SHERMAN LAKE

## WINTER BREAK CAMP

Join us for 3 days and 2 nights of frosty fun!

**WHEN:** December 29-31  
Check-in: 10:00 am  
Check-out: 10:00 am  
**WHO:** 1st-8th Graders

**REGISTER:**  
[shermanlakeymca.org](http://shermanlakeymca.org)

**ACTIVITIES:**  
include sledding, crafts, games, archery, capture the pig and so much more!

**SHERMAN LAKE YMCA OUTDOOR CENTER**

**CAMP JUST GOT COOLER!**





We are thrilled to announce the addition of our new Outdoor Classroom, a vibrant learning space that connects students with nature while expanding their curiosity and creativity. This space will offer hands-on learning experiences in fresh air, allowing students to explore curriculum in new, interactive ways. With natural surroundings as their backdrop, students can deepen their understanding and appreciation of the world around them. We're excited to see how this space inspires our students to think outside the traditional classroom and grow in new directions!

We are so thankful to our generous donors who made this project possible: Kellogg Elementary PTO, GLCS Foundation, and GL Area Rotary! A special thank you to area businesses and community members who graciously donated the picnic tables to complete the space as well: John & Lynne Chipman, Bob & Paula Cook, Lee & Nancy Brundage, Chris & Michelle Tracy, Kingscott, Miller Davis, Suzie Stimson Leech, Tim Harding, Mark & Denise Lancaster, Jim & Debbie Scott, Trillium Staffing Solutions, Wenke's Greenhouse, Blake Hawk, Bob & Mary Mellema, Tom & Judy Schau, Lion's Club, GL Community Volunteers, Pete & Jo Hawk, Bob Deal, Charlie & Betsie Scott, Mike & Jan Waldorf, Richland Village Pharmacy, Bud & Judi Baldwin, and the Jill Adamski Scholarship Fund.



The outdoor classroom was made possible through a GLCS Foundation grant and donations from 24 local families and organizations.

Through grants, GLCSF supports needs and enrichment opportunities identified by teachers, students, and staff. Please help ensure that GLCS students have access to innovative educational programs.

Help us continue to provide opportunities for students, teachers, and staff to learn and grow by donating to the GLCS Foundation.

**Support the Foundation that Supports YOUR Schools.**

**Donate Today, and Make a Difference Tomorrow!**







## 3rd Grade Donut Dates!

A time for a parent/guardian/family adult to share donuts and quality time with their favorite student!



## Students are recognized at the Community Circle Assembly for their leadership abilities!

Did you know that every month, Ryan Intermediate introduces a Leader In Me Habit? Each month, students are observed and can be recognized by a teacher or a Ryan staff member for displaying and putting one of the Habits into action while at school. The students who are selected are then recognized at an all-school Community Circle Assembly, and their certificates are placed on display to celebrate their achievement. Congratulations to those students who were honored this month!



5th graders sold wreaths to raise funds to help pay for their spring field trip to the Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Education Center!

## RYAN SINGERS CONCERT

Ryan Singers had the opportunity to join forces with our HS and MS choirs and display their talents at the fall choir concert at the GLCFA! Thank you to Mr. Minard, who leads and directs our Ryan and MS choir groups.

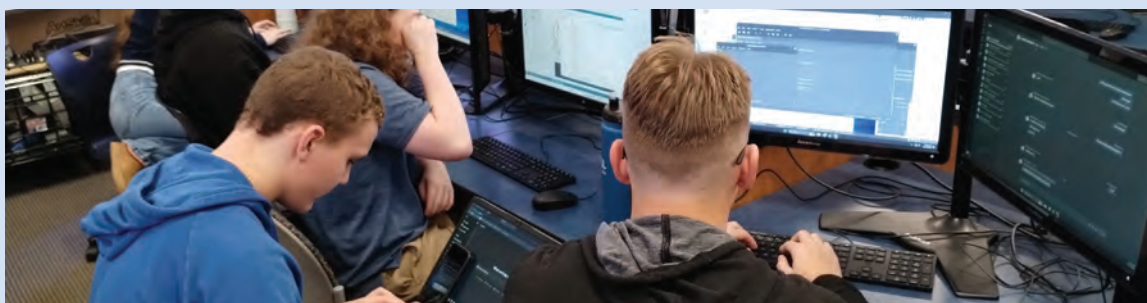
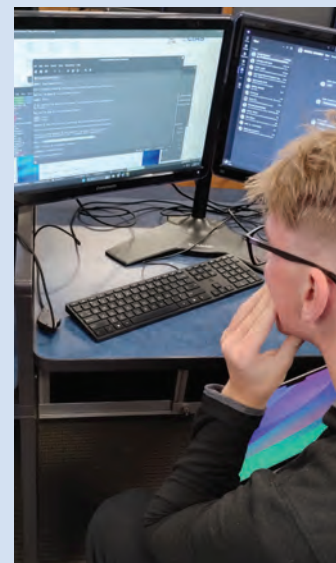
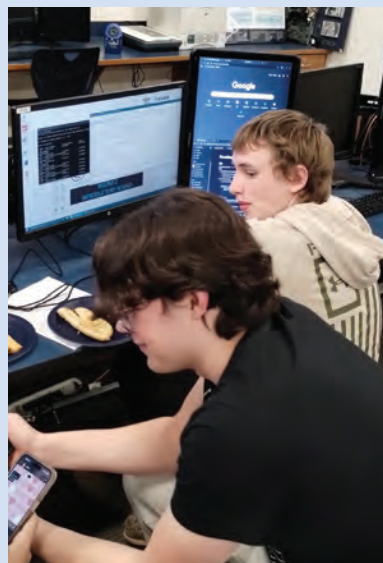
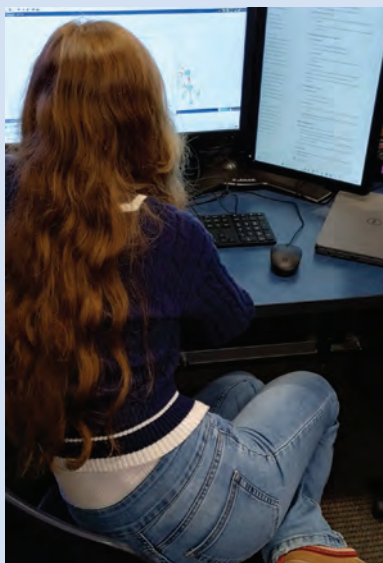






In November, Cybersecurity students competed in the CyberPatriot Round 2 competition demonstrating dedication and technical prowess. These Patriots of Cyber competed against teams from across the country, showcasing their cybersecurity skills by tackling complex challenges involving system defense, risk management, and vulnerability assessment.

Through teamwork, problem-solving, and adaptability, they've not only gained valuable experience but also deepened their understanding of real-world cybersecurity practices. Their performance in this round reflects their hard work and enthusiasm for cybersecurity, setting them up for even greater success in future rounds.



Cybersecurity students recently attended the 3rd Annual Cyber Summit at Western Michigan University, where they connected with industry professionals and gained insights into the dynamic field of cybersecurity. The event also offered breakout sessions tailored to student's specific interests, providing hands-on learning and skill-building opportunities.



**These enriching experiences are available right here at GLCS! If you're interested in joining future events or have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Lange at [blange@gulllakecs.org](mailto:blange@gulllakecs.org).**



In celebration of our veterans, GLHS NHS students Aaron Adams and Luke Bernard delivered a collection of personal care products for the VA hospital in Augusta.



Rylee Fraaza, Taylor Belz, Ellie Worgress and Maddie Elderidge support the Salvation Army by volunteering their time on a Saturday morning to bring cheer to the Hardings in Richland.

## Warm Up the Winter

GLHS Student Senate and NHS 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 at GLHS and the GLCS Administration Building through January 17th.

Thank you to President Rylee Fraaza for the fresh NHS bulletin board, which highlights current NHS members.



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discover the personal  
service you deserve.



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The GL Area Community Volunteers have had a busy fall! We partnered with the Gull Road Meijer in October for our annual **Fall Warm-Up Program** and provided coats and snow pants to children in need in our district. In



November, 18 students from the GLHS NHS assisted our CV members in shopping for 119 families for our **Bright Holidays Program**. This program provides clothing and educational toys for children, as well as personal care items and food for families. We know the holidays will be a lot happier for 311 children in our GL Community. Many thanks to the high school students and everyone who generously sponsored families and made donations to make our Bright Holiday program a success!



[drogoshlori@gmail.com](mailto:drogoshlori@gmail.com)





## 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 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 and 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.

### Congratulations to our boys tennis team on advancing to the MHSAA Division 3 State Finals.

This is the second year in a row the team has qualified!



### Our girls golf program has become one of the top programs in the state!

For the fifth straight year, they qualified for the state tournament! Congratulations to the coaches and golfers on this amazing achievement! Also, special shout out to Charlotte Boudeman for making all state honors!



### Congratulations to sophomore Lane Isom on qualifying for the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals!

She ran an amazing race and earned all state accolades!



## Upcoming Sport Start Dates

Middle School Wrestling (6th - 8th grade): December 9, 2024

Middle School Girls Basketball (7th-8th grade): January 6, 2025

High School and Middle School Spring Sports: March 10, 2025

**Look for updates on sport specific tryout times and schedules at [www.GoGLBlueDevils.com](http://www.GoGLBlueDevils.com)**

**We look forward to hosting you at our events this year!**  
*Go Blue Devils!*

## Fall Sport Conference Award Winners

### FOOTBALL SMAC East

#### All Conference 1st Team

Zac Pfennig  
Emmanuel Lusimba

#### All Conference Honorable Mention

Carson Grant  
Bryce Wartella  
Lucas Hutchinson

### BOYS SOCCER

#### All Conference 1st Team

Ethan Waldorf  
Cole Guilfoyle

#### All Conference Honorable Mention

Joey Konenkamp  
Charlie Trantham  
Jake Leversee

### GIRLS GOLF

#### All Division 1st Team

Ella Schaberg  
Charlotte Boudeman

#### All Division Honorable Mention

Aubrey Crowley

### VOLLEYBALL SMAC East

#### All Division 1st Team

Taygan Corstange  
Ava Vanlerberghe

#### All Division 2nd Team

Grace Corstange

#### All Division Honorable Mention

Sarah DeMaagd  
Ellory Estes  
Taylor Belz

### CROSS COUNTRY SMAC East

#### All Division

Gavin Markucki  
Finn Tauren  
Alicyn Gleesing  
Jaslyn Townes  
Brooke Ramer

#### All Division, All Conference and All State

Lane Isom

### 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

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.



# THE WITCHES

The GLHS Performing Arts Company is hitting the books this winter with a classic from the master of weird, Roald Dahl, with their production of *The Witches*. This stage adaptation by David Wood stays faithful to the original novel as Boy and Grandmother battle the Grand High Witch and attempt to put an end to all of the squishing of children.

In addition to this delightful story, the PAC students will also be creating and performing their own mini-shows during the 24-Hour Theatre Experience and will present these as the opening act of *The Witches*.

Come cure the winter doldrums with us!



How about a little lightheartedness this winter?

The GLHS Performing Arts Company Presents

Roald Dahl's  
THE WITCHES



based on the book "The Witches" by Roald Dahl  
and adapted by David Wood

February 7 @ 7    February 8 @ 7    February 9 @ 2  
Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts

"The Witches (Wood/Dahl)" is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

## GULL LAKE YOUTH WRESTLING 2024 - 2025 Season Registration Now Open!

Programs available  
for grades Y5 - 8th



Visit [www.gullakewrestling.com](http://www.gullakewrestling.com)  
or scan the QR code for more info

19th Annual

# The Event Mardi Gras

Join us for a great night of fundraising  
featuring dinner, dessert, live DJ, and dancing!  
Raffles, live auctions, & silent auctions  
unique baskets by each of our sports teams!

MARCH  
SATURDAY 1 6:30 PM

Wear a mask, beads, or come as you are!

14 WINNING TICKETS DRAWN!  
10 WIN \$150  
1 WINS \$250  
1 WINS \$500  
1 WINS \$1000  
1 WINS \$3000 GRAND PRIZE!

GILMORE CAR MUSEUM

GLSportsBoosters.org

Proceeds benefit our GL sports for both GLHS and middle school with sports equipment and uniforms!

The Gull Lake Sports Boosters is a 501(c)(3) not for profit and donations are tax deductible. Please see our website for details.





## GLMS Drama Club

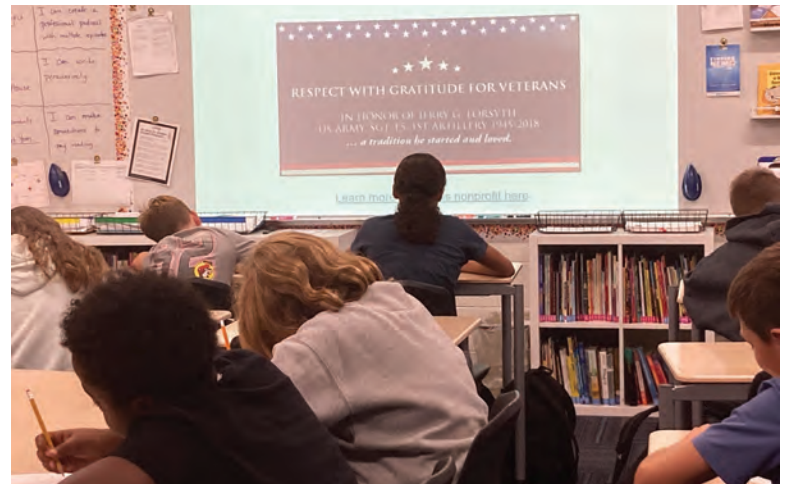
Drama Club has recently wrapped up its second production, *Beauty IS a Beast*. Drama Club is open to students sixth through eighth grade to provide middle school students an opportunity to build foundational performing arts skills to reach their fullest potential. All students who audition or interview for tech crew will be able to be a part of the production.

Drama Club began during the 2023-2024 school year with our debut production, *The Ever After*, last March. Since then, the program has been growing rapidly, with nearly sixty students participating in the fall production as either an actor or backstage crew member. We are so excited to see the program continue to grow with our next production, *The Magical Land of Oz*, which will perform in March 2025.



## Respect with Gratitude for Veterans

GLMS was proud to partner with Respect with Gratitude for Veterans this fall. It relies on volunteers like our middle school students to write these letters, and this activity gives our students an authentic opportunity to use their writing skills while also practicing appreciation and showing gratitude towards others. We mailed out 192 letters from our students to veterans throughout the country to be received in time for Veteran's Day.





# GLMS ELECTIVE OPTIONS

At GLMS, we make every effort to have all students experience a minimum of a trimester course in the following elective areas in their 6th or 7th grade years: health, Spanish, PE, fine arts, writing, STEM. Some of the electives we have been able to add recently include additional courses in the STEM realm such as Green Architecture and Outdoor Education, App Creator, Flight & Space, Medical Detectives, Drama, and Financial Literacy.







# EARLY COLLEGE & GULL LAKE VIRTUAL PARTNERSHIP NEWS

**MICHELLE JAROS** Principal of Early College and Innovative Programs - [mjaros@gulllakecs.org](mailto:mjaros@gulllakecs.org)



Congratulations to **Matthew Hall**, GLVP Early College student, recognized as one of 16,000 Semifinalists in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Matt entered GLVP in 4th grade and has taken advantage of courses and experiences such as Robotics/Tinkering, field trips, and core classes at GLHS while enrolled at Kellogg Community College. He is active in Robotics, Cyber Patriots, and Fencing. Matt plans to apply to several colleges and hopes to study statistics or data science. Along with being a scholar, Matt works at his local McDonald's, mentors on the Robotics team, and enjoys playing the drums.



We visited Tillers International with the GLVP Field Trip Program. Located in Scotts, Tillers is a non-profit organization dedicated to teaching heritage homesteading skills and preserving sustainable farming practices.



## NOW ENROLLING FOR SECOND SEMESTER!

**GULL LAKE**  
Virtual Partnership  
K-12 VIRTUAL EDUCATION

### PERSONALIZED PATHWAYS

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ONLINE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION



2 LEARNING IN THE COMFORT  
OF YOUR OWN HOME



3 COLLEGE CREDIT  
OPPORTUNITIES



4 HOMESCHOOL  
PARTNERSHIP



5 IN-PERSON &  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT



269.548.3411



[www.gulllakecs.org/glvp](http://www.gulllakecs.org/glvp)





Families and staff enjoyed a great time at our annual GLVP Fall Fest in October!



Mason Keagle, A GLVP/ Early College student, recently went to Portugal where he competed on Team USA at the WKC World Karate Championship. Mason returned home with a bronze medal for placing 3rd in his division in Continuous Sparring! Great job Mason, and way to represent the USA! We are all so proud of you!



During student advising at Kellogg Community College, Early College Teacher Aaron Bruininks met BLAZE, the mascot of the KCC Bruins! Of the nearly 450 Gull Lake students participating in Dual Enrollment/ Early College programs, 150 attend classes at KCC!





## PARENT DINNER AND DISCUSSION

**Parents,**

**Have you ever thought:**

- What do other virtual parents do?
- My child seems anxious or depressed.
- Why can't I motivate my child to do school work?

**This is a night created for you: Parents Only**

- We hope you feel encouraged and empowered as a virtual school parent.
- We hope to offer you tools for your parenting toolbox.

Phil Pittman, representing New Oakland Family Centers, along with GLVP staff and other parents just like you, will offer their advice in a discussion style setting.

**Location: Gull Lake High School Media Center**  
**6-7:30pm**

For more information or to RSVP, please call 269.548-3411

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER  
**11**  
2024







In the first few months of school, students have been busy and engaged! They connected with younger students through the Recess Buddies and Read & Ride Roundup programs, shared their skills in community service at Beacon Pointe Assisted Living and the Richland Area Community Center, and partnered with the Rotary with their fall roadside cleanup. Students heard from inspiring speakers Barry Gray and Dave & Chelsea Sutton, honed their reading, writing, and speaking skills with guidance from Dr. Elizabeth Kerlikowske and Fable the Poet, and enjoyed an educational visit to Kalamazoo Valley Community College.

We'd also like to congratulate **Lily Cook** and **Carter Edwards** for being named Liz's Parkview Cafe/Gateway Academy Students of the Month for September and October, and for receiving a \$50 gift certificate to Liz's! Well deserved!



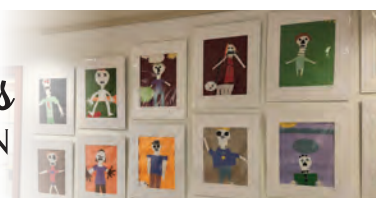
## FROM THE CLASS OF 1974...

The weekend of their reunion they held a 50/50 raffle in order to raise money to support Gateway Academy students. It was a fun way to pay it forward after their time at GLHS. They also toured their old high school (now GLMS), GLHS, and Gateway Academy. They were all so impressed by how far the district has advanced with technology and building improvements since they graduated in 1974!





The RACC's 2nd My Guy & I Glow Party fundraiser was a shining success! Y-5 through 5th grade boys took their special ladies out for a night of dancing, snacks, refreshments, pictures, and fun! We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, GLHS for the use of their facility, and our 40 wonderful volunteers for their help! We love being able to provide a time and place to celebrate GL boys and their special ladies, and look forward to doing it again next year.



The year is off to a fantastic start as we continue to bring the arts to life throughout the district. We're excited to have provided funding to support the GLMS Drama Club's production of Beauty is a Beast and to supply arts materials for Kellogg Elementary. Pictured, you'll see some fun creations by our Kellogg students.

We're also delighted to announce the return of two scholarships: the Robin Nott Performing Arts Company Scholarship and the GLCS Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship. Each scholarship offers a one-time award of \$1,000. Applications can be obtained from the high school guidance office or by emailing the FAF at [glcsfineartsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:glcsfineartsfoundation@gmail.com).

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support of the arts at GLCS!



W.K. Kellogg  
Biological Station  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

JOIN US FOR WINTER  
**EVENTS AT KBS!**

**SHOP LOCAL AT THE HOLIDAY MARKET**  
DEC. 7, 14 & 21 FROM 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.  
KIDS DAY AT THE MARKET IS DEC. 7 FROM 2 - 3:30 P.M.

**JINGLE & MINGLE** ●  
FORMERLY KNOWN AS SIP & SHOP  
CASH BAR AVAILABLE  
DEC. 11 5 - 8 P.M.

**WINTER WONDERLAND DINNER** ●  
DEC. 19 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

**WHOVILLE HAT CRAFT CLASS** ●  
DEC. 12 6 - 7:30 P.M.

**A DUCKY DAY** ●  
JAN. 25 NOON - 3 P.M.

**NARCISSUS BLUMEN GARDEN CRAFT CLASSES** ●  
DEC. 17 10 - 11:30 A.M..  
DEC. 17 6 - 7:30 P.M.

**GUIDED BIRD HIKE** ●  
FEB. 15 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

**HOLIDAY SPICE TEA** ●  
DEC. 17 2 - 3:30 P.M.

**NATURE QUEST** ●  
SCAVENGER HUNT FOR FAMILIES  
MARCH 1 NOON - 3 P.M.

+   
**BIRDS AND COFFEE ONLINE CHATS** ●  
10 - 11 A.M.  
DEC. 11 | JAN. 8 | FEB. 12

[kbs.msu.edu/events](http://kbs.msu.edu/events)  
  
@KelloggBioStn

● BIRD SANCTUARY  
● MANOR HOUSE



# Board of Education

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## 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](http://www.gulllakecs.org).

## MEETING DATES

December 16, 2024

January 20, 2025

February 17, 2025

March 17, 2025

## YOUR FOREVER AGENTS.

