Gull Lake Community Schools

COMMUNICATOR

December 2025

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

Our Very Best Wishes for this Holiday Season!

As we enter this special season, I want to extend our appreciation to our Gull Lake students, families, staff, and community. This time of year should remind us of the importance of connection – of coming together to support one another, celebrate our achievements, and look to the future with hope.

Gull Lake Community Schools are stronger because of your partnership. Whether you are a parent volunteering, a staff member going the extra mile, a student striving to grow, or a community member cheering us on – you play a meaningful and important role in shaping a place where every child can thrive and "Learn to Read, Write, and Speak with Purpose."

Thank you for your continued support of Gull Lake Community Schools. We look forward to an exciting new year together!

Respectfully,

Christopher L. Rundle
Superintendent of Schools

DREW BORDNER
Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum and Instructional Technology
– dbordner@gulllakecs.org

One Community One Book

Returns to Gull Lake Community Schools!

GLCS is excited to continue its partnership with the Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation to bring One Community One Book (OCOB) back to our district for the third time!

What is OCOB?

One Community One Book is a Y5-8th-grade reading initiative that encourages all students, families, and staff to read the same book and participate in activities that foster discussion, creativity, and connection. Our goal is to engage students of every age, as well as families and staff, in meaningful reading experiences.

Classroom and Family Activities:

Throughout February, students and families will have opportunities to participate in engaging activities designed to extend learning beyond the classroom. These activities are crafted to spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and encourage reflection, ensuring that every learner has a chance to connect with the story in meaningful ways.

We look forward to seeing our community come together to celebrate reading and learning through this exciting program!

Edward Jones
> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

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Gateway News

LYNNETTE WALKER
Gateway Academy Supervisor – lwalker@gulllakecs.org

Since the start of the 2025-26 school year, Gateway Academy students have been busy learning, serving, and giving back. They served as Recess Buddies at Ryan Intermediate, joined the Read & Ride Roundup at the Cheff Center, and volunteered at Beacon Pointe Assisted Living and the Richland Area Community Center, helping residents and offering tech support.

In partnership with the Rotary Club, students took part in roadside cleanup and helped prepare food bags at the Southwest Michigan Food Bank. Weekly trips to the Sherman Lake YMCA provide fun, fitness, and teamwork. In class, students sharpen reading, writing, and speaking skills while working on their calendar projects, guided by Ms. Mary Whalen and Dr. Elizabeth Kerlikowske.

The fall wrapped up with a heartwarming Friendsgiving, where students prepared and shared a meal with families and community partners, highlighting their dedication to leadership, creativity, and service!

We had “fin-tastic!” time at the RACC’s My Guy and I Under the Sea Glow Party! The mermaids and surfer dudes were positively glowing as they danced the night away! The boys enjoyed showing their moms and special ladies a “crab-ulous” time, with prizes, snacks, refreshments, pictures and fun! Special thanks to GLHS for the use of their facility, and to the Art Club and the Environmental Club for the cool decorations this year. We can’t wait to see you next year!

Richland Area COMMUNITY CENTER

Gull Lake Middle School

DR. CARMEN MARING
GLMS Principal – cmaring@gulllakecs.org

GLMS Drama Club

Over the past three years we have been steadily growing the opportunities to engage in Drama and Theatre experiences at GLMS. We have seen an exponential increase in students electing to take our trimester Drama encore class and have maxed out our classes even with added sections. This year the Encore team developed and added a new Musical Theatre course this school year to engage students further.

In addition to course work available to students, a Drama club was started through Community Education two years ago and transitioned under the GL Performing Arts umbrella midway through the 2024-2025 school year. The team has produced a fall play and a spring musical maxing out the middle school cafetorium space for all shows. We anticipate moving into the GLCFA for the upcoming Spring musical and look forward to continuing to introduce our students to this aspect of performing arts! Thank you to Mr. Allred and a team of supportive educators and theatre lovers who have contributed to the creation, implementation, and growth of this program.

W.K. Kellogg Biological Station
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

JOIN US FOR WINTER
EVENTS AT KBS!

SHOP LOCAL AT THE HOLIDAY MARKET
DECEMBER DATES: DEC. 6, 13 & 20, 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

KIDS DAY AT THE MARKET
DEC. 6 11 - 2 P.M.

NARCISSUS BLUMEN GARDEN CRAFT CLASS
DEC. 16 10 - 11:30 A.M.

A DUCKY DAY
JAN. 31 NOON - 3 P.M.

GALENTINE'S TEA
FEB. 12 2 - 3:30 P.M.

GUIDED BIRD HIKE
FEB. 14 11 - 12:30 P.M.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
SANCTUARY FREE ADMISSION DAY
FEB. 15 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

PANSY BLISS FLORAL CLASS
MARCH 18 10 - 11:30 A.M.

More info at:
kbs.msu.edu/events
Follow us on social:
@KelloggBioStn

BIRD SANCTUARY
MANOR HOUSE

BIRDS AND COFFEE ONLINE CHATS
10 - 11 A.M.
DEC. 10 | JAN. 14 | FEB. 11

Gull Lake Area Community Volunteers

Many GL students will be warm this winter, thanks to the GLACVs. They recently held their annual Fall Warm-up program, providing 271 coats and 146 pairs of snow pants to children in need in our community. The GLACVs will soon be participating in their Bright Holidays program in December, providing clothing items, food, personal care items, and educational toys to families in need. If you are interested in volunteering for this wonderful organization, we would love to meet you. Please check out GLACV.org and our Facebook page for more information!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual My Gal and I Spring Dance
will be held on
Saturday, March 7, 2026 at GLHS, from **6-8 p.m.**

GLACV members and two young assistants helped with the annual Fall Warm-up event providing 120 families with warm winter gear!

Leader In Me at Ryan Intermediate

ROB WOODROW
Principal – rwoodrow@gulllakecs.org

Donut Dates!

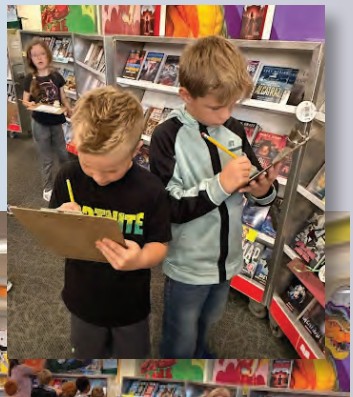
The third grade team hosted Donuts With Dates in November. Our Student Lighthouse Team was on hand to set up, serve donuts, and pour drinks. Our fourth grade Donuts With Dates initiative is scheduled for February 12th, and our fifth grade Donuts With Dates is planned for March 12th. This is a fun event to connect with our students and families!

MATH SURGERY

Fourth grade transitioned their classroom spaces into a mock surgery room and held a "Math Word-Problem Surgery" day, where students learned various mathematical strategies at the stations set up in their classrooms.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to our PTO for partnering with us again in running another successful book fair!



Leader In Me Happenings

Students at Ryan have been learning about Habits 2 and 3 in our Leader in Me program. The Student Lighthouse Team, led by third grade Director Kevin Failing, shared skits to teach these habits to students at our Community Circle Assembly. Students that demonstrated these habits were honored at the assembly as well as recognized at our Leader in Me Celebrations led by school counselor, Mrs. Reynolds. Great job students!

Read and Ride Roundup 2025

Our fall camp at the CHEFF Center was a fantastic learning experience in October and November for our first graders! We appreciated the help of the Gateway students as arena sidewalkers, too!

Our sixteenth year of offering this unique camp that develops reading skills, confidence, and adventure was supported financially by GLCS, GLCSF, Gull Lake Area Rotary, GLACV, Richland PTO, the CHEFF Center, and many more throughout the community!

A BIG "thank you" to all those who are part of our READ and RIDE ROUND UP team and have supported this wonderful program of learning and growing!

Kellogg News

COURTNEY BOYCE Principal – cboyce@gulllakecs.org

FALL FEST is a beloved annual tradition that brings the Kellogg community together for an evening of fall fun and celebration. This year's event was our best turnout yet, with families enjoying a wide variety of activities including a petting zoo, bounce houses, carnival games, hayrides, face painting, pumpkin picking, and a delicious dinner. The laughter and togetherness throughout the night reminded everyone that it's the spirit of the community that makes our school a special place.

Thank you to **Gull Meadow Farms** for hosting our Preschool, Young Fives, and Kindergarten students this fall and teaching them all about the farm!

Pie Day at Kellogg Elementary!

Gull Lake Athletics

KARYN FURLONG Athletic Director – kfurlong@gulllakecs.org

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 third year in a row the team has qualified!

Congratulations to junior Lane Isom and freshman Kalynn Young on qualifying for the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals!

Lane finished in 12th place overall and recorded the fastest time a female GL runner has run at this course!

Congratulations to our boys cross country team qualified for the MHSAA Division 2 State Finals for the first time since 2015, and finished 12th overall.

Congratulations to junior, Alli VanHuysen on a great finish to the season!

She qualified for the Division 2 Golf State Finals as an individual.

Upcoming Sport Start Dates

Middle School Wrestling (6th - 8th grade): December 1, 2025

Middle School Girls Basketball (7th-8th grade): January 5, 2026

High School and Middle School Spring Sports: March 9, 2026

Look for updates on sport specific tryout times and schedules at www.glbluedevils.com

We look forward to hosting you at our events this year!

Go Blue Devils!

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.

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

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 Final Forms online account created through finalforms.com.
- All students must have a valid sports physical (dated on or after April 15, 2025) uploaded to their Final Forms account.
- Please make sure you select all sports you are interested in participating in this school year.

High School News

BOBBI JO STONER Principal – bstoner@gulllakecs.org

GLHS Team Additions!

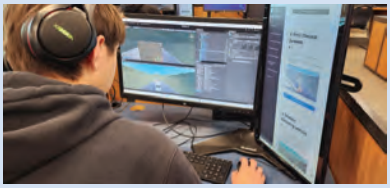
Isabelle Tackmann
Social Studies

Dan Tennant
School Counselor

Nikki VanPelt
Mathematics

GL DECA Officers attended the DECA Leadership Summit at MSU in order to develop their leadership skills, interact with collegiate DECA members, and attend sessions led by business professionals.The officer team includes President Libby King, Membership VP Sam Weber, Competition VP Coco Lopez, Fundraising VP Ishana Thakur, Secretary Gwen Schmitz, and Social Media Specialist Ellory Estes. Next up for the GLHS DECA Chapter is preparing for the District Conference in January at WMU!

VIDEO GAME DEVELOPMENT is officially underway at GLHS! In our first year, students are already earning industry-standard Unity certifications and creating their own interactive worlds. Artists can dive into digital art and 3D modeling with Blender. Curious? Here are some quotes from our current video game developers! "This class (and the rest of the computer science classes) are more than just coding classes. It's an opportunity to grow into professionals in these fields before we ever step out into the world." ~James Maher



Introducing our CyberPatriot Season XVIII team: THE SCRIPT KIDDIES!

This talented group of student cyber-professionals is hard at work learning how to secure the kinds of operating systems and networks used by small businesses. Throughout the season, they take on real-world challenges in Windows 11, Windows Server, and Linux, and use Packet Tracer to simulate office environments. Their tasks include securing routers, switches, firewalls, and everyday devices such as printers, phones, computers, and other IoT technology.

The team has had the privilege of collaborating with former Gull Lake CyberPatriot competitors as well as cybersecurity mentors from WMU's Wraven Cybersecurity Club.

GLCS Fine Arts FOUNDATION

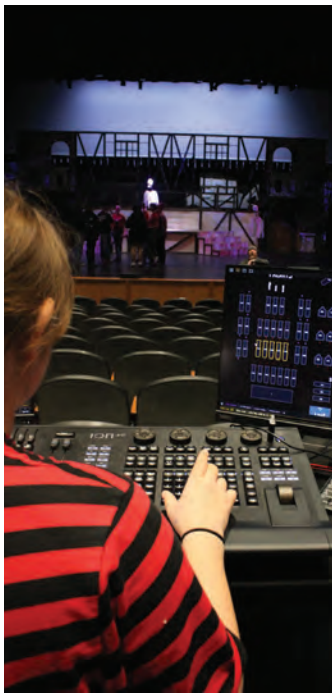
SAM SNOW Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts Manager
– ssnow@gulllakecs.org

We have started the year strong at the GLCFA! Bravo to GLHS PAC for a successful first show, *The Three Musketeers*, where many students learned new stage combat skills from a professional fight choreographer. Congratulations to the new middle school choir director, Allison Rousseau, on her first choir concert with Gull Lake!

Looking ahead in December we have the GLMS 6-8 Band Concerts, Kellogg Holiday Concert, and the GLVP Winter Recital.

For all up to date information and upcoming events check out our new social media pages:

Facebook:
Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts
Instagram: gulllake.cfa



The year is off to a fantastic start as we continue bringing the arts to life across the district. We're thrilled to support creativity at the elementary schools with the purchase of 500 pounds of clay, along with essential supplies to keep young artists inspired.

We're equally excited to share the return of two one-time $1,000 scholarships: the **Robin Nott Performing Arts Company Scholarship** and the **GLCS Fine Arts Foundation Scholarship**. Applications and eligibility criteria are available in the high school guidance office, by email at glcsfineartsfoundation@gmail.com, or by visiting our website. The submission deadline is **February 27, 2026**.

Thank you for your continued support of the arts in GLCS. Your generosity truly makes a difference!

WWW.GULLLAKECS.ORG

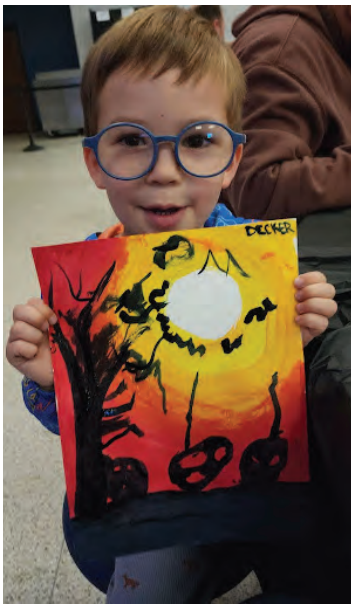
Richland Elementary

DANIELLE BUCKMASTER
Principal – dbuckmaster@gulllakecs.org

Students began a longer science experiment last year after reading the book *Pumpkin Jack*. They carved a pumpkin and set it outside to see what might happen! Each week when the students came to Library class, they would check on our Pumpkin Jack, and they were quite surprised when they saw green coming out of where Pumpkin Jack had been sitting. Pumpkin Jack thrived over the summer months and this fall they were able to harvest 22 pumpkins! They voted on which two pumpkins would be the next Pumpkin Jacks and started the process over again!

A Spooktacular success!

Thank you to everyone who joined Richland Elementary for Paint Night, and to art teacher, Mr. McDowell, who made a picture-perfect Bob Ross! Another special thank you to Pam Gernaat and Peggy Kendrick for organizing this fun event!



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Gull Lake Virtual Partnership News

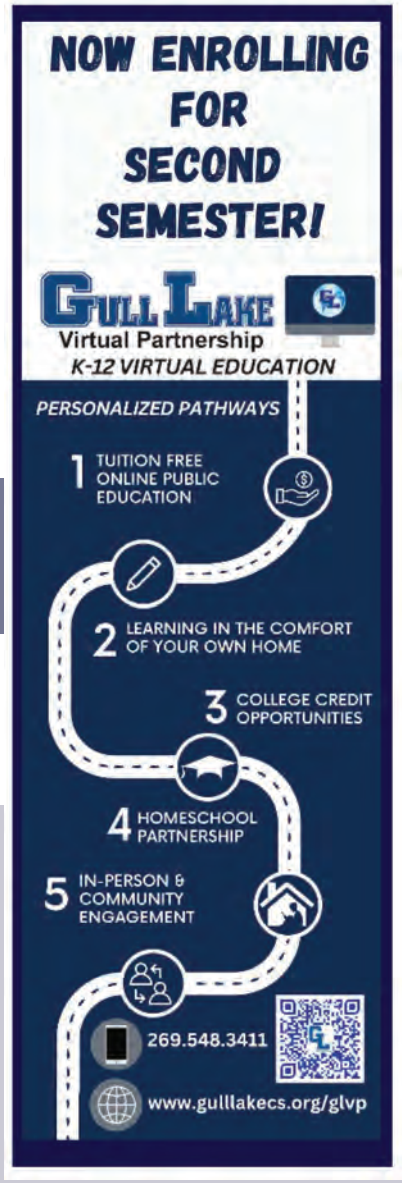
MICHELLE JAROS Principal of Early College and Innovative Programs - mjaros@gulllakecs.org

New this year, the GLVP Student Leadership Team was selected by GLVP teachers based on demonstrated leadership ability and academic excellence. The team has already had a significant impact this year, successfully planning and supporting several key events:

- A K–5 trip to Gull Meadow Farms.
- A fun, accessible at-home Spirit Week for families.
- A community-building Roller Skating event.

Moving forward, the team is organizing a Bowling event in the winter and a Track and Field day in the spring. They continue to find simple, creative ways to help families connect and enhance the school year experience.

Photos- GLVP 1-2, please put GLVP 3 on the page somewhere as well



Early College News

LISA ADDY Dean of Early College - laddy@gulllakecs.org

At GLVP, we are proud of all of our students who pursue an educational path that aligns with their unique goals and passions. Our students are the reason we continue to expand and refine our program for both local and non-local learners. GLVP's passionate staff, flexible scheduling, and creative yet rigorous course options have allowed countless students to excel academically while growing in all areas of their lives.

BROOKS ROGOWSKI — Scholar, Athlete, and Team USA Champion

Brooks Rogowski, one of our senior students, is an exceptional athlete who continues to balance elite-level hockey with his academic goals. Brooks began his junior year through Gull Lake's dual enrollment program. With the support of the GLVP team, he has earned college credits while continuing to pursue his hockey career and complete his high school diploma.

His dedication to training and competition has taken him around the world—including to Slovakia with the **U17 USA team**, where they brought home a gold medal. Looking ahead, Brooks has committed to **Michigan State University**, where he plans to continue both his education and his athletic career. He is also eagerly anticipating the **2026 NHL Draft** next June.

WE GET TRAINED

2025 MCAN Conference

The Early College team attended the **2025 Michigan College Access Network (MCAN) Conference**. Through a variety of learning sessions, we gained new tools to help reduce barriers and empower students to pursue and complete a postsecondary credential or degree beyond high school.

TO LEARN MORE:

Early College Informational Night
(10th-grade students and parents)
Wednesday, January 21
6:00 – 8:00pm @ GLCFA

Early College & Dual Enrollment Informational Meeting
(MS & HS students and parents)
Friday, February 13
10:00am – 12:00pm @ Bedford

WE WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR STUDENTS

CCR Presentation at GLHS

Our Early College teachers recently presented to the GLHS 10th-grade CCR students, highlighting the benefits of earning college credit and saving money through the Early College Program. A panel of current EC students joined the presentation, sharing their experiences, successes, and advice for future participants.

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.

MEETING DATES
December 15, 2025
January 19, 2026
February 16, 2026
March 16, 2026

SAVE THE DATE

SPELL 3
BEE A PART OF THE BUZZ
TEAMS

February 24th
6:00 p.m.
Tue

Gull Lake Center for the Fine Arts

glcsf.org

GL Spell 3 is a team-based spelling bee competition. It is a family friendly fundraising event to support "**One Community, One Book**". **GL Spell 3** brings together members of GLCS staff, students and the community to support literacy at Gull Lake schools. Complete event details will launch soon on the GLCSF website.
To learn more about OCOB and past GL Spell events, visit **glcsf.org**

THANK YOU, DONORS!
$223,295 to Enhance Education at GLCS!

"One Community, One Book"

Supporting literacy in the classroom, and at home!

One Community, One Book
Sponsored by GLCS FOUNDATION
Every Family. Every School. Every Night.

GLCS FOUNDATION

On February 1st, 2026, through the Spark Series, GLCS Foundation will launch the "One Community, One Book" (OCOB) program in partnership with Gull Lake Community Schools. This is the THIRD cross-district reading program of its kind at GLCS.
EVERY student in Young 5s through 8th grade at GLCS will receive a book and coordinated classroom and take-home activities to improve literacy, listening skills, cognitive and language development, expanded vocabulary, attention span, creativity, and life lessons. Through this program, more than 2,300 students have the opportunity to share the gift of reading together in their classrooms and with their families.

2024 OCOB

Support the foundation that supports your schools.

glcsf.org