

Superintendent Updates

January 15, 2021



Raph Rittenhouse
Superintendent

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Dear Gull Lake Families,

As we continue forward into 2021 and reflect on what we have been learning, it has often been the case that our challenging circumstances have helped highlight other important issues we have in common. These issues have quietly existed in the background but are now more pronounced as we forge new relationships and alliances with each other in order to grow and thrive.

An area we will be exploring together is the topic of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. As we watched our family, friends and neighbors struggle this past year with the limitations caused by the Pandemic, our hearts were moved to help others and include them in our lives more consistently through building better relationships. What we have been learning is that it takes active engagement with each other in order to improve our lives collectively.

Gull Lake Community Schools is forming a group that is representative of our community as a whole and will be inviting those with a passion for engagement to apply for membership in a work group that will explore Diversity, Equity and Inclusion issues. A survey is being developed that will go out to our school community in the coming weeks. Many of you have unique experiences and skill sets that are valuable and applicable as we select members for this new work group.

We look forward with great anticipation to February as our launch month for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiative, and know that great things can be accomplished by people of goodwill working together.

Here are two district highlights for this week:

19 GLHS DECA Members Qualify for State!

Members of the Gull Lake High School DECA club participated in DECA's Virtual District competition where they zoomed with their judges on their respective business events. The following students qualified to compete at the State Competition in March: Avery Zeigler, Johanna VanLandegent, Charlie Waldorf, Olivia Laurens, Abigail Eilertson, Caroline Yapp, Ella Smith, Kiley King, Zachary Collard, Morgan Bennett, Carli Brooks, Ethan Carr, Ty Grant, Payton Isom, William Beardsley, Landon Bell, Ava Quinn, Avery Hesling and Claire Flynn.

Gull Lake CyberDevils (8th-9th grade team)

This group that is composed of GLCS 8th and 9th graders is coached by Rotarian Vince Carahaly and sponsored by the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club. They have been competing in multiple rounds of the CyberPatriot competition and have been making a very good showing against teams with older high school students. This partner activity sponsored by a community partner helps bring more high-quality experiences to our students.

Have a great weekend and GO GULL LAKE!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raphael Rittenhouse".

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools