

Superintendent Updates

January 29, 2021



Raph Rittenhouse
Superintendent

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Dear Gull Lake Families,

Yesterday, GLCS staff began participation in the COVID-19 vaccination program hosted by the Kalamazoo Health and Community Services Department! After this week, nearly 400 teachers, instructional aides, support staff, food service workers, bus drivers, maintenance and custodial workers will have experienced their first “arm poke” in a two-part series. This vaccination program will help us stay healthy for all forms of instruction moving forward. With 80% of our families electing the in-person learning option, the timing could not be better!

GLCS staff are pleased to resume in-person instruction next week on Tuesday after Monday’s Virtual Parent/Teacher conferences. Every measure we take now to preserve the health and safety of our essential educator workforce builds consistency moving forward so that there are fewer and fewer disruptions to our weekly schedules. We appreciate your flexibility and team effort in supporting these important health and safety measures.

While our first notification came suddenly this week based on the availability of vaccines for educators, we now know the next date for the second vaccine dose, which is scheduled for February 25th. In order to safely conduct the rest of the process and allow for the potential symptoms the second dose has been known to cause, we are scheduling February 25th and 26th as remote synchronous virtual instruction days. This will allow us to still teach remotely while dealing with the after-effects of the shot.

It is a privilege to serve our Gull Lake students and families. As always, we will continue to bring our very best to the table on behalf of our students, including proven teaching practices, social-emotional supports and deep learning engagement. We look forward to hearing from you this coming Monday about what is working and ways we can partner to serve you even better!

Have a great weekend and GO GULL LAKE!

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Raphael Rittenhouse".

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent
Gull Lake Community Schools