

Superintendent Updates

June 4, 2021



Raphael Rittenhouse
Superintendent

rrittenhouse@gulllakecs.org



Dear Gull Lake Families and Staff,

This week we celebrated Senior Academic Awards, Gateway Academy Commencement and the GLHS Commencement outdoors with cooperative weather and lots of smiling faces! Each ceremony highlighted important aspects of our comprehensive programs and offerings. More importantly, it served as a reminder of who we serve and why we do what we do.

Officer Adam Kelm, GLCS Liaison Officer, was the keynote speaker at the Gateway Commencement and shared how his life changed when he chose to serve the students and families of Gull Lake Community Schools. He spoke from the heart when he shared that he learns as much from the students as they learn from him, and how much he feels it is an honor and privilege to work in a capacity where he can mentor and lead proactively when it matters most.

Lynnette Walker, Gateway Academy Director, put together an incredible program with her staff and highlighted the accomplishments of each graduate with love, compassion and humor. Community members in attendance were able to see the deep connections formed between the Gateway Academy staff and the students who needed this program in their lives. Each Gateway student speaker bravely spoke about how the *people* in the program changed their lives for the better.

At the GLHS Awards Ceremony and Commencement celebration, our student speakers shared their experiences in a very heartfelt way and talked about important lessons they have learned along the journey, especially during the past 15 months. Principal Don Eastman shared his thoughts and encouragements with the Class of 2021 and emphasized "What Matters Most". As students came across the podium for their recognition, I saw many students thank Mr. Eastman for his service and example. After the ceremony, students, families, teachers and support staff lingered and talked with each other about their best memories together.

After all, it is PEOPLE, not programs, that change lives. We would do well to remember this, and these year-end celebrations help us to remember what matters most.

Best regards,

Raphael Rittenhouse/Superintendent

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raphael Rittenhouse".

Gull Lake Community Schools