

Gull Lake

Highlights 2024-2025



KALAMAZOO RESA

Career Connect

Career Awareness & Exploration (CAE)



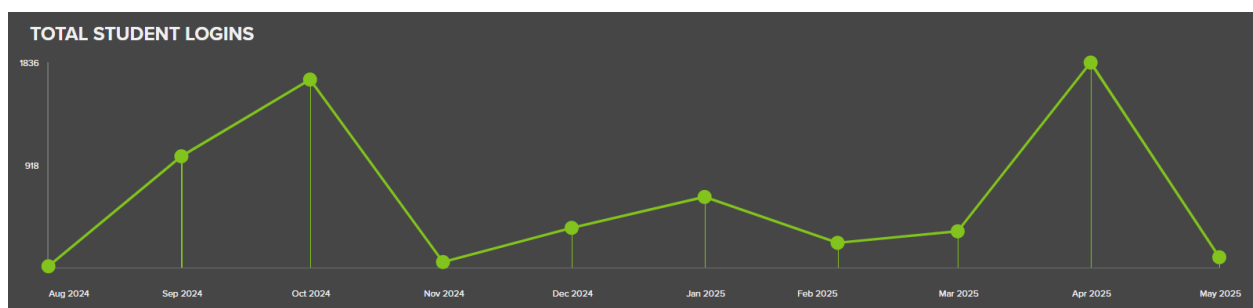
Xello & EDP Support

At the middle school level, students continued their engagement with the Xello platform as a key component of career development programming. Throughout the year, students completed foundational activities such as Matchmaker, Personality Styles, Learning Styles, and Mission Complete, helping them to build self-awareness and explore a wide range of career options. In 7th grade, students created their Education Development Plans (EDPs) using personalized profile data within Xello. This process not only encouraged individual reflection but also fostered peer-to-peer understanding of unique strengths and interests.

In 9th grade, students updated their Matchmaker results and completed the Skills Lab to finalize their career inventories. This prepared them for the Reality Fair, where they applied their career interests to real-world budgeting and financial planning scenarios, making meaningful connections between their future goals and practical life decisions.

In 10th grade, students enrolled in the College and Career Readiness course further built on their Xello data to identify career pathways that aligned with their skills and interests. This information was going to be used to prepare for an in-class career panel event, during which guest speakers would share insights into various professions, enhancing students' career literacy and readiness.

Gull Lake Community Schools had **6208** total student logins this school year.



Career Champions

Kim Ditto, Jen Champion, Diana Kwiatkowski, and Katie Soule represented Gull Lake as a 6-12 counselor champion team for the first year! Their goal was to create an intentionally vertically aligned 6-12 career development continuum. Overall, their projects reached 553 students across Gull Lake Community Schools.

- In middle school there was the introduction of Xello, through which students completed key components including Matchmaker, Personality Styles, Learning Styles, and Mission Complete. In 7th grade, students engaged in creating Education Development Plans (EDPs) using their personalized profile pages, deepening their understanding of their own strengths as well as those of their peers.
- Students enrolled in the combined 7th and 8th grade career class explored their aspirations by designing vision boards, a creative and reflective activity that allowed them to visualize their future goals. Family engagement was also incorporated through features in the principal's newsletter and the inclusion of career planning information within students' scheduling documents.
- In high school, all 9th grade students completed the skills lab within Xello and enhanced their results from their interests inventories. Students also researched different classes and programs through GLHS/CTE/EFA/Early College to explore their career pathway and how to align their post secondary goals with their EDPs.
- Students also applied their learning by participating in a reality fair, which connects career planning with real-world financial literacy.
- In 10th grade, students enrolled in the College and Career Readiness course had arranged for employees from one company to come in and speak as a panel to the class about their pathways.

These counselors demonstrated a strong commitment to expanding career awareness opportunities for students and expressed enthusiasm about enhancing and growing these initiatives in the future.

Experiences

Students throughout the district were exposed to a variety of experiences and industry partners this year.

- In October, 225 students in 8th grade attended the MiCareer Quest at the Kalamazoo Expo Center
- In October, 140 students in 9th grade participated in a Reality Fair
- In November, 7 students in 11th and 12th grade attended an industry tour at Edwards Garment
- In February, 119 students in 9th grade participated in a Reality Fair
- In March, the Discovery Lab had 241 students in 6th grade participate in hands on activities related to manufacturing careers

Future Opportunities

- Introduction to Xello and support staff with Xello at the elementary/intermediate levels
- Continued career development at the middle school level with career posters and family engagement
- Continued career development at the high school level with meeting the graduates activities in 11th and 12th grades
- Continued career development at the high school level with career panels
- Xello training for staff and families as needed
- Connecting students with industry partners (guest speakers, industry tours, etc.)
- Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Education
- Additional tools and resources that promote family engagement

2024-25 Career Development Consultant(s)

Jen Baldwin - jen.baldwin@kresa.org

Jaci Glaser (Discovery Lab) - jaci.glaser@kresa.org