



January 16, 2019

To: Dr. Riggle, Superintendent
Board of Education

Fr: Karen Geddeis

Re: Glenbrook Stories - January 28, 2019

MEMO

Our Glenbrook Stories segment on January 28 will feature GBS special education teacher Terry Harris, whose life went silent about four years ago.

Harris, who has never been able to hear out of his left ear in his life, suddenly lost all hearing in his right ear as well. This was tragic for someone who so much enjoys being in the classroom and on the baseball field. Thanks to double cochlear implants, Harris not only regained the hearing he had lost, but he now hears in the normal range in both ears – something he’s never been able to do.

“As a coach, I can now hear from a distance,” he said. “When the ball makes contact with the bat, I can tell how it’s being hit and what we might need to improve on.”

In the classroom, Harris said he has more freedom to walk around the room and connect with students who might face communication issues and struggle with speaking loudly.

Harris continues to discover noises he’s never heard before: the turn signal in his car, birds, wind chimes, the clicking of a clock, the humming of lights. He calls these beautiful moments his “CI” or cochlear implant moments.