



April 15, 2019

To: Dr. Riggle, Superintendent
Board of Education

Fr: Karen Geddeis

Re: Glenbrook Stories - April 29, 2019

MEMO

Our Glenbrook Stories segment on April 29 will feature GBN senior Erin Rosenfeld who just may be the first deaf and hard-of-hearing student to win a state Speech Team title. (We're still researching state records on that). She's also the first one in 22 years at GBN to win a state speech title. But it's not those accomplishments that set her apart.

Erin, who was born profoundly hard-of-hearing took on an even bigger challenge in the state contest. She signed in American Sign Language (ASL) and concurrently voiced her speech, a feat that is tremendously challenging.

"Neurologically, for the brain it's very difficult to sign and speak simultaneously," said Speech Team Coach and social studies teacher Sarah Ilie. It's like speaking two languages at once, she said.

This is a story about turning a challenge into an opportunity. It's about Erin's grit. When she could have requested an interpreter as an accommodation under the ISHA rules, she didn't - and she challenged the traditional type of speech seen at state competitions.