



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – November 14, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

Ambitious Instruction – *Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.*

- Our 7th gr students participated in a [Substance Abuse Prevention](#) program on 11/17 through Candor Health
- The Illinois State Board of Education released the [2022-23 School Report Cards](#) on 10/30 and they have been linked to the district's [Academic Performance](#) webpage
- 2022-23 ISBE Report Cards include student [IAR](#), School [5Essentials Data](#), and [District Equity Data](#) along with school-based [Annual Summative Designations](#) - GW and GM are both 'Commendable' ([Appendix A](#))
- Science Showcase information was shared on November 10-17 through classroom teachers, in preparation for our 2/15 Gower Science Showcase/STEM Night, and the WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair 2/23

Supportive Environment – *The school environment is safe, clean and conducive to student learning. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students have the support of their teachers as well as their peers.*

- Year to date attendance: 96.9% (94.0%) for GW (K-4); 96.4% (95.5%) for GM; 94.5% (94.8%) - Teaching Staff and 96.8% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in November is being completed on 11/14 and focused on our English Language Learner program and specific strategies to support our EL students
- In partnership with Pleasantdale SD 107 & LADSE, eligible students from Gower have the opportunity to participate on a joint Special Olympics Team - This is the 3rd year of this program
- The school office teams and ELL team will participate in a Translate Live training on 11/17 to support families that need "real time" English language translation services; a device will be in each school office

Involved Families and Community – *Strong relationships are built across the community to support learning.*

- The Gower Foundation launched Season 2 of the [Gladiator Soundboard Podcast!](#) Listen to our Principals and Assistant Principals in the first episode, *What does 'Children at their Best!' look like in Gower schools, today!!!*
- GM hosted an Honor Flight for Veterans 5K (11/8); both schools held assemblies to honor our veterans
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night was held on Nov. 10th from 6:30-8:00 pm at Gower Middle School and featured food, cultural displays, and performances from over 20 countries
- GW and GM have virtual Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 20th from 8 am to 8 pm - parents can sign up for conferences through Pick a Time - Directions have been sent out by school principals
- Nov. 21st [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - Students are **not** in person. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"available for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
- The Gower PTO is hosting the Holiday Fair on 12/1 & 12/2; the Willowbrook-Burr Ridge Kiwanis Club is hosting 'Pancakes with Santa' on 12/2 in the GW cafeteria
- Visit the [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) websites for information on ongoing activities and programs

Collaborative Teachers & Staff – *The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, & works together to improve.*

- GM Teachers are sharing classroom instructional strategies and observing one another as part of a school-wide "Gower Walks" initiative
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, Tech Team, Innovate 62, ELL, and K-8 Science
- Our November 21st Institute Day will be an eLearning Day and include required trainings on Title IX, Bloodborne Pathogens, Sexual Harassment, and Cultural Competency and Racial Bias
- The Nov. 21st e-Learning practice day provides a unique training opportunity to ensure staff preparedness for the potential use of [e-Learning Days](#) in lieu of Emergency Days with the winter months approaching
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 10/31 and 11/17 was district based and focused on Essential Standards, Essential Questions, and Learning Progressions
- The GEA and Board are on-track with the [timeline](#) for their 2023-24 Collective Bargaining Agreement work

Effective Leaders – *School leaders work with staff to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.*

- Gower Middle's *School Showcase* presentation to the Board of Ed. (11/14) highlighted the targeted work and ongoing action plans around school improvement for the 2023-24 school year
- Our [IDEA Part B Consolidated Grant](#) was approved (\$197,800) to support our Early Childhood Program and our Special Needs (IEP) students to off-set program costs.
- Gower received an overall 100% Performance Rating/Meets All Requirements on the most recent [Special Education Monitoring System Accountability Report](#) for the 2022-23 school year
- Gower will receive \$124,031.88 in new grant funds through the Illinois Department of Public Health: Enhancing Post-Covid Recovery Efforts for School Based Health Needs 2024
- Our annual financial audit for the 2022-23 school year is expected to conclude in Nov. - Report forthcoming