



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – October 17, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- Individual student IAR (Spring 2023) and NWEA/MAP (Fall 2023) scores were sent home on 10/6 from GM and from GW on 9/22 (IAR) and 10/6 (NWEA)
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release the [IL School Report Card](#) on Oct. 30th which will include 2023 IAR student performance data as well as an updated [Equity Journey Continuum](#) data set
- K, 2nd, & 4th gr. students will receive instruction through the [YWCA Child Assault Program](#) (Oct. 10-13) to meet [Erin's Law](#) requirements. ECE, 1st, & 3rd gr. students are instructed by our Social Workers
- Gower Middle shared important [information with parents](#) on 9/20 regarding the transition from a 3-2-1 to a 4-3-2-1 standards-based grading system that emphasizes progress and improvement over time

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: 95.9% (96.0%) for GW (K-4); 96.4% (96.8%) for GM; 95.3% (96.9%) - Teaching Staff and 95.9% (96.8%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- October 16-20 is [National Bus Safety Week](#) - Be mindful of all traffic laws to help keep our students safe
- Required staff trainings in October were completed (10/17) by staff on [Faith's Law](#)
- Special Education Teams and related paraprofessionals received training on September 15 and October 6 for Nonviolent Crisis Prevention led by trained Gower staff
- Student medical compliance is 96.2% (GW) & 97.6% (GM) prior to the 10/15 deadline (96.7%/98.0% in 2022)

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

- Our annual Bring Your Parent to School Day at GW was held on Oct. 6th with 441 parent visitors!
- GM Invite Only Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Oct. 12th from 3:45-6:45 pm; GW and GM have Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 20th from 8 am to 8 pm - More details to follow from school principals
- The Gower Foundation hosted a parent learning session - *Digital Do's and Don'ts; Strategies and Safety at Home* - with Gower's Engaged Learning Specialists at GW on 10/12 (The GM session is scheduled for 10/23)
- The district is planning to launch our [redesigned website](#) on Oct. 31st - Please give us your feedback!
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night will be held on Nov. 10th from 6:30-8:00 pm at Gower Middle School. Please use this [form](#) if your family would like to bring food, a display, and/or perform a cultural dance/song. We look forward to celebrating Gower's diversity!
- Be encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) websites for ongoing activities/programs
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress

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

- 2023-24 marks the first year of Teachers using [iLearn Goals](#) as recommended by the [PERA Committee](#)
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our District ELL team, 5-8 Math, Special Education Teams, District Tech, District Mentoring
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 10/6 was school based and focused on math instruction at GW; and planning for instruction at GM: WIN and Department Collaboration.
- Nov. 21: [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - Students are **not** in session. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"vailable for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
- 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 West's *School Showcase* presentation to the Board of Ed. (10/17) highlighted the targeted work and ongoing action plans around school improvement for the 2023-24 school year (GM will present on Nov. 14)
- The final 2023-24 District Budget was adopted by the Board of Ed. on 9/19 and posted on our website [here](#)
- Gower will receive a total of \$114,957 for 2023-2024 in the [ESEA as Amended Grant](#) distributed as follows: Title I (\$85,029), Title II (\$19,928), and Title IV (\$10,000)
- Gower schools will receive a final ['Summative Designation'](#) on Oct 30th based on a number of [Individual Indicators](#) as part of the 2023 ISBE Report Card and the state's [Support and Accountability \(ESSA\) Plan](#)
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2023-2024 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth ([Appendix B](#))