



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – September 19, 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
- Individual student performance data in reading and math (NWEA/MAP, Fastbridge) and SEL data collected (SAEBRS) are being utilized as part of our school-based Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- Gower Middle is in the 2nd year of implementing new WIN (What I Need) Time period added to Advisory for students to focus on specific skills, interests, and areas of growth (e.g. Current Events, Financial Literacy, Writing, Math, and Executive Functioning Skills)
- College & Career Spirit Days will continue at GW & GM throughout the school year with monthly spirit day announcements focused on careers within the STEM field
- Our 8th grade students participated in [Teen Sexual Health](#) on 9/15 and our 5th grade students and parents will be participating in our annual [Health/Puberty program](#) on 10/5 led by Candor Health Education

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: 96.0% (95.9%) for GW (K-4); 96.5% (96.9%) for GM; 96.3% (97.5%) - Teaching Staff and 98.4% (97.1%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- CPR/AED Training was held on 8/17 and 9/19 for support staff, coaches, P.E. teachers, and administrators
- GM is in Year 2 of their '[Gower Houses](#)' approach. Visit the [GM Student Resources tab](#) to learn more. GW has implemented a similar 'Gower Families' approach to promote team building and school spirit
- Required staff trainings in September were completed (9/12) by school nurses on the following health topics: asthma, diabetes, food allergy, anaphylactic shock guidelines, and seizure protocols
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (2 reports in 2022-23; 0 reports submitted in 2020-21 or 2021-22)

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

- Our 2023-24 Curriculum Nights on August 31st at GW and August 24th at GM were both well attended and provided useful information for parents to gain a clear understanding of the student experience
- GW hosted their Annual Grandparent Bingo Night on Sept. 14th - Another well-attended community event!
- Our annual Bring Your Parent to School Day at GW is scheduled for Oct. 6th and at GM on Feb. 16th
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) - Sept 15 - Oct 15 - Let's recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of both Hispanic & Latinx American communities
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on their ongoing activities and programs

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

- Newly adopted K-4 Math curriculum, *Illustrative Mathematics* is being implemented with a new math centers and curricular materials for students to use
- Our District Librarian submitted the FY24 [Illinois State Library Grant](#) for an additional \$850 in funding to add to the Gower West Library collection (\$850 was directed to the GM Library last year)
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Professional Development, Special Education Teams, and K-8 Music/Band
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 9/15 is school-based and focused on Illustrative Mathematics implementation at GW, CPI training for special education teams, and WIN/Department Planning at GM
- The GEA and Board have developed a [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.*

- The final 2023-2024 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix A](#))
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 117% resulting in \$600,976.75 of state funding for FY24; FY23 values were 113% & \$599,290.35
- Adjustments to Bus Transportation services have improved route efficiency and added safety ([Appendix B](#))
- Gower was awarded \$2,200 through a Professional Development Grant from the DuPage Regional Office of Education to help districts off-set costs of teacher workshops/trainings for the 2023-2024 school year