



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 15, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- More than 150 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs
- 2023-24 marks the 10 year anniversary of our [i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades K-8 is scheduled to begin the week of August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix A](#))
- Our [Public Suggestions and Concerns \(8:110\)](#) and [Equal Educational Opportunities \(7:10\)](#) policies help promote equity, cultural competency, and maximum involvement across our community ([Appendix B](#))

**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.*

- Enrollment on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> is 539 at GW, including 79 K students (112 & 78 previous two years), and 377 at GM, (522/521 GW & 380/363 GM at the start of the previous two school years)
- The [Capturing Kids' Hearts](#) process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and [Social Emotional Learning](#) framework remains a focus for ongoing improvement efforts & teacher training
- Updates to [Faith's Law](#) introduced by recent legislation have been included in the [Parent/Student Handbook](#)
- The Gower Cares school supply packing event was held on August 7<sup>th</sup> at GM from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 40 backpacks are ready for pick-up on August 15<sup>th</sup> ahead of the Meet & Greet
- Our annual Safety Committee/Crisis Response Meeting was held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and included district staff as well as representatives from Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- In accordance with the [Student Online Privacy Protection Act](#) parents can make student privacy related requests/inquiries by emailing [DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com](mailto:DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com)
- Facilities Update: Both school campuses are ready for the start of the 2023-24 school year and we are excited to put the Gower West and District Office addition to use - Thank you Gower Community!

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

- The 2023-24 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- Save the dates for our 2023-24 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> at GM and Aug. 31<sup>st</sup> at GW
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> for parents and students to learn more about the middle school
- The annual Gower Back to School Meet and Greet is scheduled for Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at GW and GM
- The [Gower PTO](#) is hosting a Back to School Bash at Gower West from 5:30-7:30 p.m. as part of our Meet and Greet Event! - Be sure to stop by and meet your Teachers and stick around to enjoy the festivities!!!
- The [Gower Foundation's](#) 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Read-a-Thon ends in September; [Click here](#) to help us reach the 62,000 minute goal - and if you haven't listened to the [Gladiator Soundboard Podcast](#), check it out today!
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information and activities including the PTO Mum sale and the Foundation's Front Row Frenzy

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

- Our Virtual Summer 2023 professional learning program for certified staff included a book study of *Teach Like a Pirate* and a culminating presentation and book signing by the author, Dave Burgess on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup>
- New Teacher Orientation was held Aug. 7 & 8; Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 15 & 16 with our annual ESP Institute scheduled for Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>
- District Committee work continued throughout the summer and involved our District ESL and STEM; GW MTSS, GM ELA and SS and district SpEd programs, whole child support, and School Leadership Teams
- The District's PERA Committee aligned and updated the summative rating formula and made the adjustments to the [Professional Appraisal Plan](#) based on Illinois [Public Act 102-0252](#)

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

- Hiring is completed for the 6.0 certified teacher vacancies (5 new hires, 1 FMLA). We encourage applicants for our remaining ESP (Education Support Personnel) vacancies; ([Link](#) to apply for remaining vacancies)
- District grants for the 2023-24 school year, including the Consolidated District Plan, Title I, II, III, IV, and IDEA Consolidated Grant, have been submitted according to ISBE requirements
- The 2023-24 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/16 to the Board meeting on 9/19
- The 2022-23 school year ended with a surplus of \$1,237,877 of the projected \$17,146,307 expenditures - sound fiscal management as nearly all of the surplus was used to close out the Gower West addition project