



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – March 15, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The 2022 Blue Stem & Caudill Challenge at GM included students and staff reading a total of 578 books; with 6 GW students and 9 GM students finishing at least half of the books on the list of nominated titles
- The GM student course selection for 2022-23 closed on 2/25 with [course descriptions](#) available on our Parent Info/Curriculum and Assessment (Additional Information) page ([Appendix A](#))
- [Illinois Assessment of Readiness - IAR](#) testing will begin the week of April 4th for students in grades 3-8
- The [Illinois Science Assessment](#) will occur on April 15th and 18th for 5th and 8th grade students; results are published by the [Illinois State Board of Education](#) and included as part of the [Annual School Report Card](#)
- Summer Step Up and ESY are being planned for June 6-30. Registration is open and invitation letters have been sent home from GW & GM.
- Our [Remote Education Program](#), designed around [Edmentum](#) and aligned to the same learning standards as our In-Person program, continues for the students approved for remote learning (GW - 4; GM - 3)

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 rates: 93.0% for our 561 GW students; 95.6% for our 389 GM students; 95.4% for our 93 Certified Staff and 95.5% for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- The Illinois State Board of Education formally introduced the [Equity Journey Continuum](#); an informational tool for districts to identify and work to close gaps in student achievement, opportunities, and supports
- Required Staff Trainings (March 8) focused on EL Strategies that help ALL students led by ESL teachers
- Facilities Update: Weekly [Campus Project](#) construction meetings are underway. Demolition of the District Office begins Spring Break. District staff will relocate to Rm 116 at GM; phone numbers remain unchanged

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) closed on March 11th. We are closing in on our standing goal of 35% parent participation with current participation rates of 40% at Gower West and 34% at Gower Middle. Thank you!!!
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has begun for our newest Gladiators! (50 so far–17 new and 33 from ECE; 72 *this time last year*). Our returning student [registration process](#) will begin on 4/8
- Our in-person music program has returned to Gower West: 2/24 (2nd), 3/10 (1st); 3/22 (K)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Funfair was held on March 4th and was a welcomed event for our school community
- The 2021-22 [Gower Foundation Speaker Series](#) included a screening of the film, *The Upstanders* on 3/10

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

- 2021-22 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Innovate 62, Special Education Teams, RtI/MTSS, RTO Oversight Team, and Professional Development
- 3/25 Professional Learning will focus on Best Practices for IEP Goal Writing, Supporting Student Needs at GM, Math Support at GW, and our annual review of Cultural Competency/Implicit Bias for GW/GM
- A number of Afghan refugee families have joined Gower (7 students at GW and 7 at GM) - Our staff and student body rallied to support and welcome our newest Gladiators on 2/28 - *Be What You Want to See!*
- The RTO Oversight Team (Restraint & Time Out) met March 3rd to review the [ISBE template](#) for building and submitting our district plans to [ISBE](#) by July 1st

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

- Gower Administrators are working with two other [LADSE](#) districts (D94 and D106) in a consortium to apply for an [American Relief Plan Grant](#), which would bring an additional \$4,414 in homeless funds.
- District administrators completed the Preliminary Staffing Plan for the 2022-23 school year with an ongoing commitment to maximize student supports and meet district fiscal goals ([Appendix B](#))
- The District eLearning Plan is being recommended for renewal (3 year) as part of the March Board meeting - District Administrators continue to work with ISBE officials to simplify the renewal process ([Appendix C](#))
- Gower's eLearning and Remote Education Plan were featured in the [IASA Podcast - Does Remote Learning Still Have a Place in Schools?](#) published on March 4th
- The Gower administration was featured in the Feb. 22' edition of *Leadership Matters - Elevating Education*
- Gower was recognized for excellence in the category of school administration as part of the [2022 ISBE Those Who Excel Award Program](#) - *Community Problems Require Community Solutions*
- The 2021-22 Non-Tenured Teacher Evaluation Cycle and the Principal/Assistant Principal Evaluation Cycle have been completed in accordance with the March 1st state deadline