



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

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

- Mid-year [NWEA MAP](#) testing is underway with growth and progress reports expected in February
- Based on the new [ISBE Social Science Standards Instructional Mandates](#), the GM Social Studies Committee recommends an adjustment to the scope and sequence for the 2023-2024 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- In February, 7th and 8th gr. students are receiving instruction in mental health and depression awareness through P.E. based on programming from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) and led by Gower Staff
- GM student course selection will begin 2/10 and will include a variety of options aimed at maximizing student choice and expanding the student curriculum experience throughout middle school

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 507 GW students (K-4); 95.3% for our 378 GM students; 94.8% for our 94 Certified Staff and 96.1% for our 58 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (Jan. 10) focused on Bullying/Anti-Violence Prevention/Peer Counseling, Anti-Violence Resolution; and Suicide for GM led by Social Workers
- Our 8th grade students and parents had the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors on Jan. 13th to build and review their 9th grade schedule
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are at Medium Risk for DuPage County. Visit our [COVID-19 information webpage](#) for more information
- Facilities Update: Our Gower West [Campus Project](#) remains on-schedule to open in Spring 2023

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) opens on Jan. 24th. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 40% GW, 35% GM (state avg. 17.7%)*
- The Student Council's Hearts at Work fundraising efforts resulted in a \$3,355 donation to Shop With A Cop
- Bring Your Parent to School Day on Jan. 13th at GM was attended by more than 170 parents and provided an opportunity for parents to experience a 'day in the life' through an abbreviated class schedule
- Save the Date for two district-wide events: Gower Science Showcase and STEM Night on 2/2 from 6:30-8:30 pm at GM and Gower Multicultural Night on 3/10 from 6:00-8:00 pm at GW
- Thank you for your participation in the Gower Foundation's [Parent Engagement Survey](#) to determine 'Topics of Interests' and preferred delivery for upcoming Community Engagement opportunities year
- The [Gower PTO](#) continues to support our school community and is hosting a Sock Hop at GW on 1/20
- The Gower Foundation is sponsoring an author visit for students in grades 4-8 at GM. Lindsay Currie, a local Chicago author, will be presenting to students in February

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

- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, Tech Team, ELL, and K-4 Math
- The Calendar Committee incorporated community feedback and revised the [2023-24 and 2024-25 school calendars](#) for Board review and subsequent approval at the Feb. 21st Board meeting ([Appendix B](#))
- Professional Learning on 1/13 is district-based and focused on student/staff activities to promote mindfulness/wellness and improve mental health
- Presenters from [Adaptability](#), the [Center for Creative Arts Therapy](#), and the [Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services](#) were invited to facilitate break-out sessions will lead sessions for staff on 1/13
- Each of our nine Bus Drivers completed their annual [Recertification Course](#) (Jan. 9)

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

- Efforts to expand relationships with university programs and potential candidates continue; e.g. Speech Language Pathologist interns this spring, GM Social Worker intern for 2023-24, Job Fair representation
- The [High School Transition Survey](#) was administered to D86 9th grade students on Jan. 11-12. Administered annually from 2015-16 through 2019-20, the survey has been reinstated
- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, current class size and bell schedule is underway for 2023-24 staffing/program recommendations expected in Feb/March
- The [job link](#) for the GW Assistant Principal, set to begin in the 2023-24 school year, opened on 12/21 and we are seeing a strong interest in the position