



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 23, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Nearly 150 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs
- 2022-23 marks the 9 year anniversary of our [i³ 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 September 6th
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix A](#))
- Our [Community Relations \(8:110\)](#) and [Equal Educational Opportunities \(7:10\)](#) policies help ensure that all proposed programs, curriculum, and practices consider and remove any disparities or barriers that may exist, promote equity and cultural competency, and maximize 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. 19th 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)
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) remain at the High Risk Level for DuPage County. Families are encouraged to cooperate with masking requests when notified of [close contact](#) designation. COVID-19 testing is available to members of the Gower Community and free of charge
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting was held on July 26th and included district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- 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
- The Gower Cares school supply packing event was held on August 18th at GM from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 45 backpacks are ready for pick-up on August 22nd ahead of the Meet & Greet
- In accordance with the [Student Online Privacy Protection Act](#) parents can make student privacy related requests/inquiries by emailing DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com
- Facilities Update: Visit our [Campus Project website](#) to track construction progress through the summer

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

- 5th Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 11th & New Student/Bus Orientation at GW scheduled for Aug. 24th
- The annual Gower Back to School Meet and Greet is scheduled for Aug. 24th from 4-6 p.m. at GW and GM
- Save the dates for our 2022-23 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 13th at GW and Sept. 8th at GM
- The 2022-23 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities - Save the date for the [Foundation Gala](#) - Sept. 17, 2022
- The Gower Foundation's Summer Read-a-Thon ends 9/16; [Click here](#) to help us reach the 62K minute goal

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

- Our Virtual Summer 2022 professional learning program for certified staff included 30+ teachers across a variety of programs including an option for [Google Certified Educator](#) testing (Level I & Level II)
- New Teacher Orientation was held Aug. 17-19 & Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 23 & 24 with our annual ESP Institute scheduled for Aug. 25th
- District Committee work continued throughout the summer and involved our GW Math and SEL, GM Standards Based Grading and STEM, District Special Education and ELL, 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 10.0 certified teacher vacancies (4 new hires, 6 FMLA). We encourage applicants for our remaining ESP (Education Support Personnel) vacancies; ([Link](#) to apply for remaining vacancies)
- District grants for the 2022-23 school year will be submitted by June 30th according to ISBE requirements
- The 2022-23 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/17 to the Board meeting on 9/20
- 2021-22 End of Year financial reports indicate a surplus of \$192,299, or 1.3% of the projected \$15,198,159 in expenditures for the year across district operating funds - evidence of solid fiscal management
- Our school campuses are prepared for the 2022-23 school year and our [COVID-19 information web page](#) is a helpful source for parents to find related updates and to read more about the [CDC guidelines/procedures](#)