



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – December 20, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Winter [NWEA MAP testing](#) and [FastBridge Screening](#) has been scheduled for Jan 9-13 for our K-8 students and [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 23 - Feb. 28 for our English Learners
- The Gower Social Studies Committee continues their review of the new ISBE Social Science Standards and Instructional Mandates for required adjustments to our curriculum scope and sequence
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of over 100 students that represent more than 20 different native languages spoken in Gower ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower West participated in the [Hour of Code](#) (Computer Science Education Week) Dec. 5-11
- The District's Annual STEM Night/Science Showcase is scheduled for Feb. 2nd from 6:30-8:30 pm at GM - This event is open to all families and will feature the NIU STEM Outreach Team's Science Roadshows & Science projects from students in grades 4-8

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: 93.0% (95.0%) for our 561 GW students; 94.9% (96.5%) for our 374 GM students; 94.7% (95.9%) for our 94 Certified Staff and 96.3% (96.7%) for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in December was completed on 12/13, led by Gower Social Workers, and focused on Mental Health and Suicidal Behavior
- New teachers participated in the Capturing Kids Hearts training on 12/13 & 12/14 in Bolingbrook
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are at Medium Risk for DuPage County. Families are encouraged to cooperate when notified of *exposure*. COVID-19 testing (along with Flu, Strep, & RSV) is available at both schools free of charge - 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.*

- Our eLearning Practice Day on Nov. 23rd had student participation rates of 97% for GM and 80% for GW
- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) opens on Jan. 23rd. 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%)*
- Gower Foundation raised over \$1,700 through their Giving Tuesdays Fundraiser and rounded their donation to the [Gower Cares Closet](#) to \$2,000
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is planning to release a Parent Survey to determine 'Topics of Interests' and preferred delivery for an upcoming Community Engagement effort later this school year
- The [Gower PTO](#) and continues to support our school community and are currently running the Gower Gift Checkbook Fundraiser and Papa Passero Nights to help support a variety of school programs

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, District Threat Assessment Team, ELL, K-8 Science, K-8 Social Studies, District Calendar, and K-4 Math
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 12/21 is school-based and focused on Supporting All Students at GM, and School Improvement Math Goals at GW
- Gower was awarded \$3,000 through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grant to purchase additional books for our school libraries.
- The Calendar Committee met on 12/13 to discuss the Board reviewed 2023-24 school calendar for approval at the Jan. 17th Board meeting and to develop options for the 2024-25 school calendar ([Appendix B](#))

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

- Gower received additional allocations for Title and IDEA grants. Title I, II, and IV grants increased by a total of \$32,570 and IDEA grants increased by a total of \$22,359 - New totals for the 2022-23 school year are \$143,486 for Title grants and \$212,242 for IDEA grants
- Gower received a professional development support offset grant (~\$1,000) from the Dupage ROE
- Gower is working to reboot the [High School Transition Survey](#) given annually to all D86 9th grade students
- The final report from our annual financial audit completed in Oct. by an independent auditor shows that the district is in compliance with all financial reporting requirements by the [IL State Board of Education](#)
- Gower was represented on an administrator panel, *Addressing Equity in Kindergarten Classrooms*, at the Annual Mastering KIDS Summit; Educating KIDS Today: Embracing the New Normal held on Dec. 1-2
- Winter break marks the beginning of the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2023-24 school year budget by school and district administrators including
- The [job link](#) for the GW Assistant Principal, set to begin in the 2023-24 school year, will open on 12/21