



Gower School District 62

7700 Clarendon Hills Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527

(P) 630-986-5383 (Web) www.gower62.com



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – May 23, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Spring NWEA/MAP testing for K-8 is complete and the EOY Report will be presented in June
- Preliminary 22-23 [ACCESS](#) scores for student performance in our English Learner Program indicate 15% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (11% in 21-22; 19% in 20-21)
- Final plans are underway for our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities beginning on June 5th at Gower West (band at Gower Middle) - We have over 150 students registered across all programs
- On May 5th, Gower Middle hosted a Step Up Day for the Gower West 4th grade students; students went on a tour and participated in various activities to prepare for an effective transition to 5th grade
- [Adaptability](#) and Gower 62 have created a video to showcase the Adaptive PE instruction and the reverse inclusion model with peer buddies - The video will be presented to the Board in the meeting

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 K-4 GW students; 94.9% for our 381 GM students; 94.0% for our 94 Certified Staff and 96.2% for our 58 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Dupage [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) remain at Low Risk - Our COVID-19 [webpage](#) will be removed on June 2nd given the end of state and federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declarations on May 11th
- Required Staff Trainings held on May 16th focused on Crisis and Emergency Plans and led by Principals
- The [Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce](#) plans to host a summer backpack drive to support children in Gower 62 and area schools - Gower Cares will plan a packing event in August
- Facilities Update: Our Gower West [Campus Project](#) is in the final stages of completion

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

- Use our [Registration page](#) to complete the process for the 2023-24 school year - Registration began April 7th
- Kindergarten Orientation was held on May 11th and welcomed 70 families to Gower West in an effort to support, prepare, and help families adjust to this important school transition
- The Spring Musical held on April 27th & 28th and the Gower Middle Spring Band Concert held on May 4th were both well attended and showcased the talent of our students as well as the support of our community!
- The Gower Foundation [Art Symposium](#) on May 18th included a *First Look* walkthrough of the Gower West Addition. More than 300 parents and community members enjoyed the opportunity to tour the new spaces!
- Gower will hold a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) Meeting on May 25th for private and home schooled students in our district as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements
- The [Gower Foundation](#) has launched another episode of their [Gladiator Soundboard](#) Podcast! Episode 4: *What Does Communication Between Interest Groups Look Like at Gower?* - Use this link to listen on [Spotify](#) or [Podbean](#)
- The [Gower PTO](#) hosted the 8th Grade Dance on May 19th as part of a series of celebratory and culminating events for our graduates as they prepare for Graduation and their transition to high school

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, ELL, Accelerated Track, Parent Student Handbook, Summer School Planning, and Innovate 62
- The May 12th Early Release Day was school-based and focused on planning for the 2023-2024 school year
- The Parent/Student Handbook Committee met on May 2nd to begin the process of reviewing, revising, and updating the 2023-2024 handbook; the draft will be presented to the Board at the June meeting
- The Professional Development Committee is offering summer project based work focused on curriculum and instruction and the opportunity to participate in a summer online Book Club, *Teach Like a Pirate*
- Gower Middle PE Teacher, Jennifer Stankiewicz was named the [IAPHERD](#) Teacher of the Year! Congrats!!!

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

- Gower West and Gower Middle School were recognized as Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools for the 2022-2023 school year! This is the 8th consecutive year for Gower West and the 2nd year for Gower Middle! Congratulations! Gower continues to be recognized as a National CKH Showcase District
- The preliminary FY24 Education Budget is being presented to the Board tonight for review and forecasts a modest budget surplus of ~\$285,000, or ~2% of the Education Fund anticipated revenue for 2023-24
- The selection process to fill our remaining (3) Teacher vacancies for the 2023-2024 school year is underway
- Gower School District has secured access to the Illinois State Police Law Enforcement Portal in accordance with the Reporting of Mental Health Clear and Present Danger Determinations Law, [430 ILCS 66/105](#)
- The Gower Board of Education held an Open Session Orientation/Training ahead of their May 23rd regularly scheduled meeting to review the [Board Charter](#) and a number of Board roles and responsibilities