



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – February 21, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades K-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([Appendix A](#))
- The GM student course selection for 2023-24 began on 2/10 with [course descriptions](#) available on our Parent Info/Curriculum and Assessment (Additional Information) page
- Winter data meetings have been held in both buildings to review student data, monitor progress, and adjust interventions in Math, Reading, and Behavior as part of our overall MTSS process
- Our 6th Gr. students participated in the presentation, [Human Reproduction & Embryology](#) on 2/14 at GM
- Summer Step Up and ESY Programs for targeted Gower Middle and Gower West students are being planned for June 5-29. Parents will receive a letter and registration information in the next few weeks

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; 95.3% for our 378 GM students; 94.7% for our 94 Certified Staff and 96.2% for our 59 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are at Low Risk for DuPage Co. - Visit our [website](#) for more information
- Required Staff Trainings (Feb. 14) focused on annual State Testing schedules ([LAR](#)) and led by Principals
- The RTO Oversight Team (Restraint & Time Out) is made up of Teachers, Student Services Team Members, Paraprofessionals, and Administrators and meet annually to review current school data and plans
- 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](#) opened on Jan. 24th! We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Our current rates: 16% GW, 7% GM*
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will begin on March 6th for our newest Gladiators!
- The Gower Science Showcase and STEM Night on 2/2 was well-attended by over 100 guests; and we look forward to the Gower Multicultural Night on 3/10 from 6:00-8:00 pm at GW - Sign up [here](#)
- The 1st Grade Music Program held on Feb. 9th brought in a packed house at GW and we look forward to the Kindergarten Music Program on March 16th!
- The [Gower Foundation](#) has launched their Parent & Community Engagement Podcast, [Gladiator Soundboard](#). The first episode, *What Does The Holistic Educational Experience Look Like at Gower*, can be [found here](#)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Fun Fair is planned for March 3rd from 6-9 pm at Gower Middle. We know how important it is for our students and families to have FUN!!! Join us at this year's Fun Fair!!!

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, Innovate 62, District Threat Assessment Team, Mentoring, K-8 Science and Social Studies, ELL, and K-4 Math
- The Gower District Threat Assessment Team meeting was held on Jan. 24th with our Community Policing Officer from Burr Ridge, and our local team to review our protocols and apply them to different scenarios
- Early Release Day (2/17): Parent Teacher Conferences are held as needed for Gower West families
- Our Restraint and Time Out (RTO) Oversight Team will hold their annual meeting on 3/9 - [P.A. 102-0339](#)
- As part of our [i3 Learning Initiative](#), Innovate 62 Committee members attended the [2023 IDEAcon](#) conference to collaborate with other educators and to continue to strengthen our local programs

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

- Gower will participate in the Illinois State University Job Fair in Normal, IL on 3/2 as part of our ongoing, future-Teacher recruitment efforts
- A recommendation for 2023-24 school registration and transportation fees includes the continuation of a reduced rate in response to ongoing economic challenges and submitted for Board approval ([Appendix B](#))
- The 6th Annual High School Transition Survey was administered in collaboration with D86 and local feeder districts. The data indicate a high degree of readiness from our most recent graduates ([Appendix C](#))
- Gower Admin completed the [EL - Title III](#) Intent to Apply for 2023-24 federal funding with local partners
- District administrators continue to review staffing plans for the 2023-24 school year with an ongoing commitment to maximize student supports - staffing plan is expected for the March Board Meeting
- The 5-Year District budget [forecast and projections report](#) through the 2027-2028 school year illustrate an ongoing commitment to sound financial practices and fiduciary responsibility to the Gower Community