



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

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

- The required state assessments of [IAR](#) in grades 3-8) and ISA (5th and 8th grade) are planned for April; and students who qualify for the Dynamic Learning Maps ([DLM](#)) in grades 3-8) began testing on March 15
- Our Adaptive Physical Education and Peer Buddies program at Gower West will be featured in a video through Adaptability to showcase the program
- Our 4th Gr. students will participate in the presentation, [Substance Abuse Prevention](#) on 4/4 at GW. This content is in line with our inclusion of Illinois Instructional Mandates related to Health and Safety & Awareness. Participation is encouraged. Parent opt out is available upon request
- Registration for Gower Summer 2023 Offerings is now available - register by 5/5 using this [form](#)

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: 92.0% for our 506 K-4 GW students; 94.7% for our 379 GM students; 94.4% for our 94 Certified Staff and 96.4% for our 58 Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) remain at Low Risk for DuPage Co. - Visit our [website](#) for more information
- Required Staff Trainings (March 14)) focused on The American Disabilities Act and led by psychologists
- Gower Cares and [Project Rise](#) will team up again to pack Spring Break “To Go Snack Bags” on 3/23
- 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](#) closes on March 30th! Thanks to all of those helping us meet our standing goal of 35% parent participation! There’s still time to take the survey! - *Our current rates: 36% GW, 22% GM*
- 2023-2024 school year registration information for returning students will be available on 4/7 - As of today, we have 46 Kindergarten students registered for next year! Welcome Gladiators!
- The Gower Multicultural Night held on 3/10 was well attended and with dozens of countries represented
- The Kindergarten Music Program held on 3/16 brought in a packed house at GW as well as the 4th grade Author Night on 3/2 and the Beginner Band/Chorus Concert on 3/9! A busy couple of weeks in March!
- The [Gower Foundation](#) Parent & Community Engagement Podcast Series, [Gladiator Soundboard](#), continues with the second episode, *Mental and Physical Safety at Gower*, and can be [found here](#)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Fun Fair was held on March 3rd at Gower Middle and was well attended despite the Winter Weather Advisory:) Many thanks are to be given to the number of Parent and Teacher Volunteers!!!

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, Professional Development, GM Math, K-8 Music/Band, ELL, and K-4 Math
- 3/24 Early Release Day is school based and focused on progress towards school improvement goals. Staff will review the Cultural Competency & Implicit Bias Training Module (*content available upon request*)
- The Restraint and Time Out (RTO) Oversight Team met on 3/9 - [P.A. 102-0339](#); a progress report will be completed and submitted to ISBE in July 2023
- As part of our [i3 Learning Initiative](#), Innovate 62 Committee members are leading a March Madness Innovation Bingo in which Teacher Teams at GW and Houses at GM have a friendly competition to try several different teaching and learning strategies in their classrooms; the winners will be announced on 3/24
- GM Teacher, Jen Stankiewicz has been nominated for the 2023 Middle School Teacher of the Year by the Northeastern District of [IAHPERD](#). Congratulations! Way to Go Gower!!!

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

- Gower is currently hosting two Speech and Language Pathologist Interns to expand our relationships with local universities and to recruit new professionals for an anticipated retirement in 2024
- The Preliminary Staffing Plan for the 2023-2024 school year has been submitted to the Board for review and will begin a formal review process with the Gower Education Association ([Appendix A](#))
- Illinois State Police User Agreement for School Administrators has been submitted as part of our ongoing response to school safety and the strong partnerships we have with law enforcement agencies
- Gower was represented as a featured panelist on the NWEA Live Webinar - *What Makes Them Stay? Uncovering essential leadership strategies to retain effective teachers.* The resource is available on-demand [here](#)
- The Gower Admin Team, in coordination with the Gower Education Association, continues the selection process for the GW Assistant Principal Position for the 2023-24 school year