



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – April 25, 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 are complete - results will be made available on the [Illinois School Report Card](#) when published in the Fall of 2023 and on our [Academic Performance webpage](#)
- Our K-4 Math Curriculum Committee recommends an upgraded curricular series ([Illustrative Mathematics](#) from Imagine Learning) to be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- The [WSCAE Art Expo](#) is scheduled for 4/29 at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park from 10 am to 2 pm
- K-8 NWEA End of Year MAP testing is scheduled for the week of May 8th with an End of Year NWEA MAP Board report is anticipated for the June 20th Board meeting
- 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: 93.0% for our 507 K-4 GW students; 95.0% for our 381 GM students; 94.1% 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 held on April 11th and 18th focused on ADD and ADHD and led by Gower staff
- Gower Cares provided 40 Spring Break Snack To-Go Bags for students/families at a packing event on 3/24
- The Burr Ridge Police Department will begin their annual, 6-part, DARE program for 5th graders on 4/25
- 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.*

- Thank you for helping us exceed our standing goal of 35% parent participation on the annual [5-Essentials Survey!](#) It was a record setting year with a 46% overall parent response rate! (52% GW, 37% GM)
- 2023-2024 school year registration for returning students is underway - As of today, we have 64 Kindergarten students registered for next year! Welcome Gladiators!
- The final preschool screening for 2022-23 was held on 4/20 - Screening for next year will resume in August
- The Spring Musical is scheduled for April 27th & 28th at Gower Middle; Our 4th grade students will travel to see the show during the school day on April 27th as one of our transition activities for our rising 5th gr. class
- We invite the Gower Community to join us on May 18th from 5:30-7:30 pm as we plan to open the amazing addition to the Gower West campus with a student [Art Symposium](#) sponsored by the Gower Foundation
- The [Gower Foundation](#) has launched another episode of their [Gladiator Soundboard](#) Podcast! Episode 3: [What does testing, grading, and learning look like at Gower?](#) Looking for a new podcast? Give this one a try!
- The [Gower PTO](#) Book Fairs are being held 4/18-20 at Gower West and 4/25-27 at Gower Middle; and a Trivia Night is being held on 4/29 at the Five Seasons Family Sports Club in Burr Ridge

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, K-8 Science, Professional Development, and K-4 Math
- 4/7 Early Release Day was school-based and focused on progress towards school improvement goals. The 4/10 Institute Day was focused on curriculum work and an Illinois Resource Center workshop on Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Practice for Any Classroom
- The Parent/Student Handbook Committee will meet on 5/2 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
- GEA Leadership has reviewed the Preliminary Staffing Plan presented in March and supports the updates noting the importance of continuing to explore effective models/strategies for early primary support (PK-2)

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

- We thank our long-standing Board Members, Sehba Khan and Joe Schulte, for their **12 years** of dedicated service and commitment. Their impact on our school district has been significant. *Be What You Want To See!*
- Updates to the 2023-2024 Preliminary Staffing Plan presented in March have been made in preparation for the 2023-24 school year ([Appendix B](#))
- The Gower Admin Team has made a personnel recommendation to fill the new Gower West Assistant Principal position for the 2023-24 school year - Transition and meet and greet activities are underway
- The Board of Education will hold an open-session training and orientation from 5-7 pm immediately preceding the regularly scheduled Board meeting scheduled to begin at 7 pm on May 23rd in the new Board Room located in the newly constructed District Office located at the Gower West campus!
- The Gower Admin Team is in the final stages of preparing a recommendation for Board Approval to adopt a new website platform designed to be more dynamic and mobile-friendly ([Appendix C](#))