



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – January 23, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Mid-year [NWEA MAP](#) testing is underway with growth and progress reports expected in February
- [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 29 - Feb. 29 for our English Learners
- The District Instructional Music and Band Committee recommends new curricular materials for the 2024-2025 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- The 6th grade student [Candor Health Presentation](#) was scheduled for 1/12 - a new date will be coming soon
- GM student course selection will begin 2/9 and will include a variety of options aimed at maximizing student choice and expanding the student curriculum experience throughout middle school
- Student 'e'ttendance rates for our eLearning Days on Jan. 12th were 87% (GW) and 98% (GM) and 81% (GW) and 98% (GM) on Jan. 16th - Please give us your feedback by using our [eLearning Feedback 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: 95.0% (93.0%) for GW (K-4); 96.1% (95.3%) for GM; 94.4% (94.8%) - Teaching Staff and 94.8% (96.1%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- The Student Council's Hearts at Work fundraising efforts resulted in a \$2,572 donation to Hesus House
- Required staff trainings (Jan. 17 for GM and Jan. 23 for GW) focused on a new state requirement "Recognizing and Responding to an Opioid Overdose" led by School Nurses
- Our 8th grade students and parents had the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors virtually on Jan. 12th to build and review their 9th grade schedule
- The DuPage County ROE Regional Office of Education completed the annual school inspections for both campuses and GW and GM passed with no concerns noted - A standard that we do not take for granted

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is set to open Jan. 23rd! We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 52% GW, 37% GM (state avg. 19%)*
- Feedback on the district's new website has been positive! Parents are encouraged to watch for a Gower School District App to accompany and streamline the online experience - Launching soon!
- Join us for our Annual STEM Night/Science Showcase on Feb. 15th from 6:00-7:30 pm at GW - This event is open to all families and will feature hands-on STEM activities for students in grades K-8 - [RSVP here!](#)
- Bring Your Parent to School Day is scheduled for Feb. 16th at GM and provides an opportunity for parents to experience a 'day in the life' through an abbreviated class schedule
- The [Gower PTO](#) continues to support our school community and is hosting a Winter Wonderland Family Dance at GW on 1/19 - Use [this link](#) for updated PTO News
- The [Gower Foundation](#) continues to support our school community and is sponsoring the 4th Grade Celebrating Differences Event at GW on 1/25; a popular annual event with a focus on inclusion!

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 Instructional Music/Band, Calendar Committee (virtual work), and K-4 Science had to be rescheduled.
- The Calendar Committee updated the 2024-25 calendar for Board approval to comply with Election Day as a State Holiday - Our [updated calendar](#) can be found on the district website under the Parent Tab
- Professional Learning on 1/12 was district-based and focused on Learning Progressions for general education staff and Goal Writing for special education staff - The modality was switched to virtual learning
- Each of our regular route and our sub Bus Drivers completed their annual [Recertification Course](#) (Jan. 8)
- The GEA and Board remain on-track with the Collective Bargaining Agreement [timeline](#) and met on Jan. 22nd to continue the Interest Based Bargaining Process

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

- The [High School Transition Survey](#) given annually to all D86 9th grade students and led by Gower School District is scheduled for Feb. 2nd - 2023-24 is the 7th year of this area-wide survey - *results forthcoming*
- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, current class size and bell schedule is underway for 2024-25 staffing/program recommendations expected in March/April
- The internal candidate review process is underway for the GW Asst. Principal for the 2024-25 school year - This is part of the ongoing Gower Leadership Transition Plan - A recommendation is expected in Feb.
- Gower was represented at the [IASB South Cook Division](#) meeting in the keynote presentation, *Born from Crisis: An Emerging Framework for Effective Leadership*, after receiving high praise from another division