



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – February 20, 2024 - 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 1-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([Appendix A](#))
- 6th Gr. students will participate in the presentation, [Human Reproduction & Embryology](#) on 2/23 at GM
- 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
- Summer Step Up and ESY Programs for targeted Gower Middle and Gower West students are being planned for June 3-27. 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: 94.0% (93.0%) for GW (K-4); 95.7% (95.3%) for GM; 94.5% (94.7%) - Teaching Staff and 94.8% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required Staff Trainings (Feb. 13) 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
- Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase School visits took place at GW and GM on 2/6 - [A Good Thing!](#)

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: 13% GW, 13% GM*
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will begin on March 1st for our newest Gladiators!
- The GW Beginner Band Program held on 2/1, the GW 1st Grade Music Program on 2/8, and the GM Jazz Cafe on 2/13 brought in a packed house; and we look forward to the 4th Grade Author Night on 2/29
- STEM Night (2/15) and Bring Your Parent to School Day at GM (2/16) were both well-attended by over 200 guests at each event and highlight strong community support for our annual programs
- The [Gower PTO](#) Fun Fair is planned for March 1st 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!!!
- The [Gower Foundation](#) launched the 2nd episode of Season 2 of the [Gladiator Soundboard Podcast](#) on 2/15! [Digital Dos and Don'ts](#) with our very own Engaged Learning Specialists! Be sure to [listen in!](#)

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, Mentoring, District Tech, K-8 Science and 5-8 Social Studies
- The GEA and Board remain on-track with the Collective Bargaining Agreement [timeline](#) and met on Feb. 12th to continue the Interest Based Bargaining Process - Next scheduled meeting is March 4th
- Early Release Day (2/16): 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 3/7 - [P.A. 102-0339](#)
- As part of our [i3 Learning Initiative](#), Innovate 62 Committee members will attend and present at the [2024 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.*

- The recommendation for GW Instructional Support Specialist and 4th Gr. Band Teacher, Meg Hoff, to begin as GW Assistant Principal effective July 1, 2024 is being presented to the Board for approval
- IDEA Part B Consolidated amendment was approved with an additional allocation of \$273 for Preschool and \$23,090 for IDEA Flow Through in support of our special education and preschool programs
- Gower Admin completed the [EL - Title III](#) Intent to Apply for 2024-25 federal funding with local partners
- A recommendation for 2024-25 school registration/activity, lunch, and transportation fees is being submitted for Board approval ([Appendix B](#))
- The 7th 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](#))
- District administrators continue to review staffing plans for the 2024-25 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 2028-2029 school year illustrate an ongoing commitment to sound financial practices and fiduciary responsibility to the Gower Community
- Gower was represented at the [IASB Three Rivers Division](#) meeting in the keynote presentation, *Born from Crisis: An Emerging Framework for Effective Leadership* on March 5th