



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – March 19, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The K-4 Science/STEM Curriculum Committee recommends new curricular resources for the 2024-2025 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- 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 11
- Our 4th Gr. students will participate in the presentation, [Substance Abuse Prevention](#) on 4/8 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
- The GM student course selection for 2024-25 began on 3/4 with course descriptions available on our [Parents/Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment](#) page (Learning Standards)
- Registration for Gower Summer 2024 Offerings begins on 3/22 - registration details forthcoming

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% (92.0%) for GW (K-4); 95.6% (94.7%) for GM; 94.5% (94.4%) - Teaching Staff and 94.9% (96.4%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required Staff Trainings (3/12) focused on Educator Ethics and led by Principals at each school campus
- The Gower Student Services Team and [Project Rise](#) will team up again to pack Spring Break “To Go Snack Bags” on 3/20 as part of the Gower Cares Initiative
- Our 7th and 8th grade students will participate in the Erin's Law Lesson on 3/19 through PE classes; 5th and 6th grade students will participate on 4/16

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) closes on March 29th! We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Our current rate is 33% (39% GW, 26% GM)*
- 2024-2025 school year registration information for returning students will be available on April 5th - As of today, we have 22 Kindergarten students registered for next year! Welcome Gladiators! (*46 this time last year*)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Fun Fair was held on March 1st at Gower Middle and brought a huge crowd. Many thanks are to be given to the number of Parent and Teacher Volunteers!!!
- The Gower Foundation/PTO-sponsored video project, *This is Gower West*, begins 3/18! Be on the lookout!
- The GM Jazz band performance at Hinsdale South on 3/7 and the Kindergarten Music Program at GW on 3/14 were both well-attended and we expect the same for the upcoming 3rd Grade Wax Museum on 3/20
- Download the Gower School District App on [iOS](#) or [Android](#) to accompany your online experience

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-4 Science/STEM, Innovate 62, RTO, and Summer School Planning Meetings
- The GEA and Board remain on-track with the Collective Bargaining Agreement [timeline](#) with recent meetings on March 4th and 18th to continue the bargaining process - The next scheduled meeting is April 8th
- The Restraint and Time Out (RTO) Oversight Team met on 3/7 - [P.A. 102-0339](#); a progress report will be completed and submitted to ISBE by July 1, 2024
- The Early Release Day (3/22) focused on building based curriculum work in teams and departments
- The April 10th Institute Day is a continuation of our work across grade levels with an outside consultant on Learning Progressions, Alignment to Standards, and Planning for Instruction/Assessments
- As part of our [i3 Learning Initiative](#), the Engaged Learning Specialists have offered “on the spot” Professional Development for those Teachers interested in using AI tools in the classroom

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

- The Preliminary Staffing Plan for the 2024-2025 school year has been submitted to the Board for review and will begin a formal review process with the Gower Education Association ([Appendix B](#))
- Gower was approved for \$64,000 through the federal [eRate grant](#) to offset ongoing technology infrastructure upgrade costs
- Gower hosted two visits: one on 2/29 for the new Quaver Music representative to see the 4th grade music curriculum in action and one on 3/8 for a representative from D95 to observe our ECE program
- Gower led the 2024 WSCAE Science Fair at the Brookfield Zoo for seven member districts - this was the 7th annual fair that Gower has led, and the first fair since Feb. 2020
- Gower is hosting a Social Work Intern from Dominican University for the 2024-2025 school year at Gower West to help provide additional student supports