



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – April 16, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The 5-8 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 are complete - results will be made available on the [Illinois School Report Card](#) when published in the Fall of 2024 and on our [Academic Performance page](#)
- The [WSCAE Art Expo](#) is scheduled for 4/27 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 6th with an End of Year NWEA MAP Board report is anticipated for the June 18th Board meeting
- Registration for Gower Summer 2024 Offerings is now available - register by 5/3 in PowerSchool

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); 95.6% (95.0%) for GM; 94.5% (94.1%) - Teaching Staff and 94.9% (96.4%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- On 4/8, the [IDPH requested schools](#) to take action to review local outbreak control measures and [exclusion protocols](#). Our local vaccination coverage is reported annually and is available on the [ISBE website](#)
- Required Staff Trainings held on April 9th focused on Peer Counseling/Conflict Resolution and led by Gower staff
- Gower Cares provided 32 Spring Break Snack To-Go Bags for students/families at a packing event on 3/22
- The Burr Ridge Police Department began their annual DARE program for 5th graders on 4/12

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!](#) We set a new record by 5% with a 51% overall parent response rate! (55% GW, 45% GM)
- 2024-2025 school year registration for returning students is underway - Currently, we have 58 Kindergarten students registered for next year! Welcome to our newest Gladiators! (64 this time last year)
- The final preschool screening for 2023-24 will be held on 4/25-Screening for next year will resume in Aug.
- The Spring Musical is scheduled for 4/25-4/26 at Gower Middle; Our 3rd and 4th grade students will travel to see the show during the school day on April 25th- an excellent transition activity for our rising 5th gr. class
- We invite the Gower Community to join us on May 9th from 5:30-7:30 pm to enjoy our 2024-2025 student [Art Symposium](#) sponsored by the [Gower Foundation](#)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Book Fairs are being held 4/15-18 at Gower West and 4/22-24 at Gower Middle; and a Trivia Night is being held on 4/27 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, 5-8 Science, Professional Development, and Parent/Student Handbook.
- 4/19 Early Release Day was school-based and focused on continued curriculum work on learning progressions, units, and assessments.
- The Parent/Student Handbook Committee will meet on 4/16 to begin the process of reviewing, revising, and updating the 2024-2025 handbook; the draft will be presented to the Board at the June meeting
- The annual PERA Committee will meet on 4/30 to review the Professional Appraisal Process
- There have been no changes to the [2024-25 Preliminary Staffing Plan](#) presented to the Board in March and hiring is underway with 3 of our 5 open certified positions for next year hired (remaining 2 in progress)
- The GEA and Board remain on-track with the Collective Bargaining Agreement [timeline](#) with recent meetings on April 8th and 15th to continue the bargaining process - The next scheduled meeting is TBD

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

- The Gower West leadership transition continues to with our newly appointed Principal (Mrs. Capizzi) and Assistant Principal (Mrs. Hoff) relocating to the Main Office to directly support day-to-day operations while Mrs. Rodewald supports the transition and gets to do what she loves best - spend time with the students!!!
- UChicago Impact is conducting a follow-up [Leadership Success Case](#) a decade later with our Gower Admin Team including recent visits to both of our school campuses - *Be What You Want to See! - Children at their Best!*
- Gower Administrators rebooted the *Leadership Development* experience for Teachers interested in school leadership on March 13th to discuss leadership case studies and role play/respond for professional learning
- Gower was represented and quoted in a recent article published by Education First - [Student Success Indicators - Improving School Conditions to Improve Student Outcomes - Illinois' 5Essentials Survey](#)