



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – September 25, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning
- Individual student performance data in reading and math (NWEA/MAP, Fastbridge) and SEL data collected (SAEBRS) are being utilized as part of our school-based Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)
- College & Career Spirit Days will continue at GW & GM with monthly spirit day announcements focused on different career pathways such as changes in career pathways, double majors, trained for multiple settings
- Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in [Teen Sexual Health](#) on 9/20 and our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents will be participating in our annual [Health/Puberty program](#) on 10/10 led by Candor Health Education
- The [Illinois Learning Standards](#) establish expectations for what all students should know and be able to do in each subject at each grade and are intentionally rigorous to prepare Future Ready students

**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% (96.0%) for GW (K-4); 96.2% (96.5%) for GM; 97.4% (96.3%) - Teaching Staff and 98.2% (98.4%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- CPR/AED Training was held on 9/19 for support staff, coaches, teachers, and bus drivers.
- GM is in Year 3 of their 'Gower Houses' approach. Visit the [GM Student Resources tab](#) to learn more. GW is heading into Year 2 of a similar 'Gower Families' approach to promote team building and school spirit
- Required staff trainings in September were completed (9/17) by school nurses on the following health topics: asthma, diabetes, food allergy, anaphylactic shock guidelines, and seizure protocols
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (0 reports in 2023-24; 2 reports in 2022-23; 0 reports in 2020-21 or 2021-22)

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

- Our 2024-25 Curriculum Nights on August 28<sup>th</sup> at GW and September 5<sup>th</sup> at GM were both well attended and provided useful information for parents to gain a clear understanding of the student experience
- [National Hispanic Heritage Month](#) - Sept 15 - Oct 15 - Let's recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of both Hispanic & Latinx American communities
- GW hosted their Annual Grandparent Bingo Night on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> - Another well-attended community event!
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities - The much anticipated [Foundation Gala](#) is Sept. 28, 2024
- Our annual Bring Your Parent to School Day at GW is scheduled for Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> and at GM on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>
- Save the date for Gower's Multicultural Extravaganza 2024 on October 17<sup>th</sup> at GW; sign ups are being sent home through the Friday principal newsletters

**Collaborative Teachers & Staff** – *The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, & works together to improve.*

- Newly adopted K-4 curriculum, *Mystery Science*, and 5-8 curriculum, *Inspire Science* are being implemented with curricular materials for students to use
- Gower staff submitted the FY25 [Illinois State Library Grant](#) for an additional \$850 in funding to add to the Gower Middle Library collection (\$850 was directed to the GW Library last year)
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our District ELL Team, Special Education Teams, 5-8 Social Studies, and District Mentoring.
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 9/20 is school-based and a continuation of our GVC work (Guaranteed & Viable Curriculum) now focused on assessment and CPI training for special education teams
- New teachers will participate in an in-house Capturing Kids' Hearts training on September 26<sup>th</sup>

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

- Our [Strategic Planning](#) will continue with the Community Perception Survey open from (9/26 - 10/6) and the development of the Core Stakeholder Team - If interested in joining, please complete this [interest form](#)
- Gower was awarded \$72,125 through the federal [E-Rate Program](#) to offset technology costs for 2024-25
- The final 2024-2025 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix A](#))
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' for student funding was 117% for FY25 and resulted in \$601,778.46; FY24 values were 117% and \$600,976.75; FY23 values were 113% & \$599,290.35