



**Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – October 16, 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 ([Appendix A](#))
- Individual 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade student IAR (Spring 2024) and NWEA/MAP (Fall 2024) scores were sent home on 9/20 from GW and GM with 5<sup>th</sup> grade students also receiving their 2024 IL Science Assessment reports
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release the [IL School Report Card](#) on [Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>](#) which will include 2024 IAR student performance data as well as an updated [Equity Journey Continuum](#) data set
- K, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive instruction through the [YWCA Child Assault Program](#) (Oct. 21-25) to meet [Erin's Law](#) requirements. ECE, 1<sup>st</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are instructed by our Social Workers
- The Gower West School Leadership Team recommends the continued use of the 3-2-1 standards-based report card grading system as the 4-3-2-1 rubric system used to evaluate student work is strengthened

**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: 93.0% (95.9%) for GW (K-4; K-88%; 1<sup>st</sup>-91%); 96.2% (96.4%) for GM; 96.3% (95.3%) - Teaching Staff and 97.5% (95.9%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- October 21-25 is [National Bus Safety Week](#) - Be mindful of all traffic laws to help keep our students safe
- Required staff trainings in October were completed (10/15 for GW & 10/22 for GM) by staff on Bullying and Violence Prevention & Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect
- Gower administrators are working with staff to incorporate comfort-dog support as a more formal, program basis to expand our supportive environment for student needs while spreading 'paws-itivity'
- Special Education Teams and related paraprofessionals received training on September 20 for Nonviolent Crisis Prevention led LADSE Staff and ISBE training on behavior and trauma informed practices (10/11)
- Student medical compliance is 93.9% (GW) & 93.0% (GM) prior to the 10/15 deadline (96.2%/97.6% in 2023)

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

- The [Gower Foundation](#) Gala (9/28) had over 170 guests and raised over \$35,000 for school projects!
- GM Invite Only Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:45-6:45 pm; GW and GM have Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 8 pm - More details to follow from school principals
- Our annual Bring Your Parent to School Day at GW was held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> with over 325 parent visitors!
- The Core Stakeholder Team made up of nearly 50 members of the Gower School Community met on 10/15 to review the district's mission and vision as part of the [Strategic Planning Process](#)
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night will be held on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm at Gower Middle School. Please join us for food, displays, and performances to celebrate Gower's diversity!
- Save the date for the [Gower PTO](#) Halloween Palooza at Gower West from 5:30-7:30 pm on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress

**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 5-8 Math, Special Education Teams, 5-8 Social Studies, ELL, and Professional Development
- Professional Learning on 10/11 is school-based and focused on Assessments and Rubrics as part of the Guaranteed Viable Curriculum Work with professional learning time on 10/31 teacher-directed
- Our District New Teacher Mentors continue their work with one of our largest hiring cohorts in recent years with a focus on school and district culture, CKH implementation, eLearning, and parent engagement
- Nov. 26: [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - Students are **not** in session. eLearning activities/assignments will be posted no later than 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"available for guidance and assistance from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

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

- Gower received an overall 96.3% Performance Rating/Meets All Requirements on the most recent [Special Education Monitoring System Accountability Report](#) for the 2023-2024 school year (3 yr. Avg. of 98.8%)
- Gower West and Gower Middle school administrator presentations to the Board of Ed. (10/16) highlighted the targeted work and ongoing action plans around school improvement for the 2024-25 school year
- The final 2024-25 District Budget was adopted by the Board of Ed. on 9/25 and posted on our website [here](#)
- Gower schools will receive a final ['Summative Designation'](#) on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> based on a number of [Individual Indicators](#) as part of the 2024 ISBE Report Card and the state's [Support and Accountability \(ESSA\) Plan](#)
- The Principal Evaluation Model for 2024-2025 has been initiated and is based on 50% Professional Practice and 50% Student Growth ([Appendix B](#))
- Our [IDEA Part B Consolidated Grant](#) was approved (\$198,561) to support our Early Childhood Program and our Special Needs (IEP) students to off-set program costs