



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – November 20, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The Illinois State Board of Education released the [2023-24 School Report Cards](#) on 10/30 and they have been linked to the district's [Academic Performance](#) webpage
- 2023-24 ISBE Report Card includes [IAR](#), [5Essentials Data](#), [District Equity Data](#), and the school-based [Annual Summative Designation](#) - GW is 'Commendable' & GM was designated "Exemplary" ([Appendix A](#))
- 7th gr students will participate in a [Substance Abuse Prevention](#) program on 11/22 through Candor Health
- Science Showcase information will be shared on Nov. 18-22 through classroom teachers, in preparation for our 1/30 Gower Science Showcase/STEM Night, and the WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair 2/28

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% (96.9%) for GW (K-4; K-88%; 1st-90%); 95.8% (96.4%) for GM; 96.1% (94.5%) - Teaching Staff and 96.2% (96.8%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in November is being completed on 11/12 at GM and on 11/19 at GW and focused on our English Language Learner program and specific strategies to support our EL students
- In partnership with Pleasantdale SD 107 & LADSE, eligible students from Gower have the opportunity to participate on a joint Special Olympics Team - This is the 4th year of this program
- Watson was introduced to GM on Nov. 1st to begin our Gower *Paws that Care* comfort/therapy dog program
- Through the work of the Student Services Team, Sensory/Calming Rooms have been added to both schools to help students build more productive coping/regulation strategies and reset to be at their best for the day

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

- The Core Stakeholder Team made up of nearly 50 members of the Gower School Community held their second meeting on 11/19 to continue their work around the [Strategic Planning Process](#)
- A GM Committee of staff and students traveled to Midway Airport on 10/23 to greet veterans returning from an Honor Flight and both school campuses recognized our veterans with various activities
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night was held on 10/17 from 6:00-7:30 pm at Gower Middle School and featured food, cultural displays, and performances from over 20 countries all enjoyed by a huge crowd
- GW and GM have virtual Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 25th from 8 am to 8 pm - parents can sign up for conferences through Pick a Time - Directions have been sent out by school principals
- Nov. 26st [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - This is a **non-attendance day** for students. Participation is optional. eLearning assignments will be posted by 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"vailable from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm
- The Gower PTO is hosting the Holiday Gift Shop on 12/6 & 12/7 at GW and the Willowbrook-Burr Ridge Kiwanis Club is hosting 'Pancakes with Santa' on 12/7 in the GW cafeteria beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Visit the [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) websites for information on ongoing activities and programs

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, Innovate 62, ELL, 5-8 Science, and 5-8 Social Studies
- The Nov. 26th e-Learning practice day provides a unique training opportunity to ensure staff preparedness for the potential use of [e-Learning Days](#) in lieu of Emergency Days with the winter months approaching
- GW & GM staff continue to work on the [targeted measures](#) for improvement from the 2024 5Essentials report
- Our 11/26 Institute Day will also include required Teacher training on Title IX & the Student Records Act
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 11/22 will be school-based and focused on Planning for Instruction and continued work on assessments and rubrics as part of our Guaranteed Viable Curriculum

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

- Gower will receive a total of \$162,321 for 2023-2024 in the [ESEA as Amended Grant](#) distributed as follows: Title I (\$126,967), Title II (\$21,240), and Title IV (\$14,114)
- Our annual financial audit for the 2023-24 school year is expected to conclude in Nov. - Report forthcoming
- Gower will receive \$8,550 as part of the consortium grant with Hinsdale District 86 to support our English Language Learner program which has grown in recent years
- Our School Maintenance Project Grant for the 2024-25 school year for \$50,000 was approved by ISBE
- The DuPage Regional Office of Education Professional Development Audit of Gower has been completed with the required documentation submitted ahead of the December deadline - Report forthcoming
- Our eLearning plan is being submitted to the Board for a 3-year renewal through the 2028 ([Appendix B](#))
- Members of the Gower Board of Education will attend the Joint Annual Conference (Nov. 22-24) to learn from experts on critical topics such as school finance, community engagement, safety and security, and more