



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – December 18, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Winter [NWEA MAP testing](#) and [FastBridge Screening](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 14-24 for our K-8 students and [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 27 - Feb. 28 for our English Learners
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of 107 students that represent 19 different native languages spoken in Gower ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower participated in the [Hour of Code](#) Dec. 9-15 using hands-on coding activities in various class settings
- The District's Annual STEM Night/Science Showcase is scheduled for Jan. 30th from 6:00-7:30 pm at GW - This event is open to all families and will feature hands-on STEM activities for students in grades K-8
- Quality of Student Discussion ([Targeted 5Essentials Measure](#)) continues to be the focus for improvement in our instruction throughout the district with our Specialists [modeling and sharing strategies](#) with Teachers

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: 92.0% (95.0%) for GW K-4 (K-87%; 1st-89%); 95.7% (96.1%) for GM; 95.9% (94.1%) - Teaching Staff and 96.2% (95.1%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in December was completed on 12/10, led by Gower staff, and focused -on Protections and Accommodations for Students-American Disabilities Act
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) Campus Visits will be held on January 22nd with a representative of CKH meeting with teachers and administrators to assess our continued implementation of the process
- Gower staff will participate in a training on January 14th regarding the new HB5394 ([Public Act 103-0608](#)) and required Cardiac Emergency Response Plans

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 will hold their third meeting on 1/21 to continue their work around the [Strategic Planning Process](#)
- Our eLearning Practice Day on Nov. 26th had student participation rates of 97% for GM and 87% for GW
- The GM Winter Band & Chorus Concert on 12/5 and the 2nd grade Music Program on 12/12 were big hits!
- The annual [5Essentials Survey](#) will open soon! We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 54% GW, 45% GM (state avg. 19%)*
- The [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) continue to support our school community and are currently running a joint fundraiser to help support the [Gower Cares Closet](#); 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.*

- A group of instructional coaches and the Math specialist from Woodridge District 68 visited Gower West on 12/10 to observe the implementation of [Illustrative Mathematics](#) adopted in Gower in 2023
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, GM Social Studies, GM Math, District Calendar Committee, ELL, Innovate 62, and K-4 Social Studies
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 12/20 is school-based and focused on Planning for Instruction
- Gower participated in the IL Assoc. for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) [Annual Convention](#) (12/5-12/6) and the [Multilingual/ESSA Conference](#) (12/11-12/13)
- The Calendar Committee provided feedback on the 2025-2026 school calendar; and developed a draft of the 2026-2027 school calendar; both calendars will be presented to the Board at the January meeting

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

- The DuPage Regional Office of Education Professional Development Audit of Gower has been completed with the required documentation; no corrective action plan needed
- The ISBE English Learner Program Audit is scheduled for January 21st with all required documentation submitted by the Gower EL team prior to the ISBE due date of December 13th
- Gower will receive a professional development support offset grant (\$1,260) from the Dupage ROE
- Gower will receive \$8,550 as part of the consortium grant with Hinsdale High School District 86 to provide additional support to our English Language Learner program
- Gower is working to ensure the continuation of the [High School Transition Survey](#) given annually to all D86 9th grade students - 2024-25 would mark the 8th year of this area-wide survey
- The final report from our annual financial audit completed in Nov. by an independent auditor shows that the district is in compliance with all financial reporting requirements by the [IL State Board of Education](#)
- Winter break marks the beginning of the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2025-26 school year budget by school and district administrators