



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – January 22, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Mid-year [NWEA MAP](#) testing is underway with growth and progress reports expected in February
- [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 27 - Feb. 28 for our English Learners
- The 6th grade student [Candor Health Presentation](#) on Human Reproduction took place on 1/17
- GM student course selection will begin 2/7 and will include a variety of options aimed at maximizing student choice and expanding the student curriculum experience throughout middle school
- In February, 8th gr. students are receiving instruction in mental health and depression awareness through P.E. based on programming from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) and led by Gower Staff
- The GM Student Council had an opportunity to participate in the [Strategic Planning Process](#) by identifying Core Values - There was close alignment with Teacher and Parent groups (e.g. Knowledge, Achievement)

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: 91.0% (95.0%) for GW K-4 (K-86%; 1st-89%); 95.4% (96.1%) for GM; 95.8% (94.4%) - Teaching Staff and 96.3% (94.8%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- The Student Council's Hearts at Work fundraising efforts resulted in a \$947 donation to Hosed House
- Our 8th grade students and parents had the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors virtually on Jan. 10th to build and review their 9th grade schedule
- The DuPage County ROE Regional Office of Education completed the annual school inspections for both campuses and GW and GM passed with no concerns noted - A standard that we do not take for granted
- Required staff trainings (Jan. 14 at GM; Jan. 21 at GW) focused on Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento, Domestic and Sexual Violence; Include Teen Dating Violence for GM led by Social Workers

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](#)
- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is set to open Feb. 18th! We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 52% GW, 37% GM (state avg. 19%)*
- 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 a live reptile show, STEM activities, and an opportunity to give feedback to our 4th-8th grade Scientists and Engineers
- The [Gower PTO](#) continues to support our school community and is hosting a PTO Trivia Night on 2/22
- The [Gower Foundation](#) continues to support our school community and is sponsoring the 4th Grade Celebrating Differences Event at GW on 1/29; a popular annual event with a focus on inclusion!

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

- The Calendar Committee posted the [2025-26 and 2026-27 school calendars](#) after Board review on Dec. 18th for public comment and recommends Board approval at the Jan. 22, 2025 meeting ([Appendix A](#))
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, K-8 Art, District Threat Assessment Team, and GM Math
- Professional Learning on 1/17 was school-based and focused on Assessments/Student Data for general education staff and focused on Accommodations/Modifications for special education staff district-wide
- Each of our regular route and our sub Bus Drivers completed their annual [Recertification Course](#) (Jan. 7)
- The district is hosting a professional learning opportunity (1/15) for an after-school screening of the film: *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope* with a focus on student trauma and mental health

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

- The 8th Annual [High School Transition Survey](#) was administered to D86 9th grade students on Jan. 8-10 - This area-wide survey is implemented by D86 and led by Gower School District - *results forthcoming*
- After the ISBE ELL Audit (1/21) and CKH implementation visit (1/22), the Gower Admin Team will finalize requirements to meet all probes for the upcoming ROE Compliance Audit (2/6)
- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, and class size is underway for 2025-26 staffing and program recommendations expected in March/April
- Efforts to expand relationships with university programs and potential candidates continue; e.g. Student Teachers each semester, Student Services interns with plans for a School Psychologist intern for 2025-26