



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – February 19, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades 1-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([Appendix A](#))
- GM 5th-8th grade students will receive instruction on [Erin's Law](#) in March during P.E. and led by Gower Staff
- The GM student course selection for 2025-26 began on 2/7 with [course descriptions](#) available on our Gower Middle webpage (Academics tab)
- Winter data meetings have been held in both buildings to review student data, monitor progress, and adjust interventions in Math, Reading, and Behavior as part of our overall MTSS process
- Summer Step Up and ESY Programs for recommended Gower Middle and Gower West students are being planned for June 3-26. Parents will receive a letter and registration information in the next few weeks

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: 90.0% (94.0%) for GW K-4 (K-84%; 1st-88%); 95.7% (96.1%) for GM; 95.0% (94.5%) - Teaching Staff and 96.0% (94.8%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required Staff Trainings (Feb. 11 at GM; Feb. 18 at GW) focused on annual State Testing schedules ([IAR](#)) and led by Gower Principals
- Cardiac Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) are in place for both Gower West and Gower Middle as required by [Public Act 103-0608](#)
- Our Restraint and Time Out (RTO) Oversight Team will hold their annual meeting on 3/11 - [P.A. 102-0339](#)
- Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase School visits took place at GW and GM on 1/22

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

- 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 Core Stakeholder Team of 50+ Gower School Community members have completed the Strategic Planning process and have submitted a final recommendation for Board review ([Appendix B](#))
- Our Board of Education will have a vacancy after the [April 1st Consolidated Election](#). If you are interested in being considered for a two-year term, please complete the [Application for Appointment](#) by March 6th
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will begin on March 1st for our newest Gladiators!
- The [Gower PTO](#) Trivia Night is being held on 2/22 and the Annual Fun Fair is planned for March 7th
- The [Gower Foundation](#) *Celebrating Differences* Program was held on Jan 29th and, once again, brought the important focus on a greater understanding and awareness of disabilities through an immersive experience
- The GM Jazz Cafe on 2/11 and the 1st Grade Music Program held on 2/13 were both well-attended events
- Join us for the 4th Grade States Project Night on 2/27 and the Kindergarten Music Program on 3/13

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, Mentoring, ELL, and 5-8 Social Studies
- Early Release Day (2/14): Parent Teacher Conferences are held as needed for Gower West families
- The Gower District Threat Assessment Team meeting was held on Jan. 22nd to review our protocols and apply them to different scenarios
- As part of our [i3 Learning Initiative](#), Innovate 62 Committee members created a Teacher Chill and Learn Challenge to try new instructional strategies and compete as a team using a Goosechase app!

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

- The [Director of Special Education position](#) posted in Jan. has received a high level of interest with over 30 applicants with a recommendation for Board approval expected in April/May
- IDEA Part B Consolidated amendment was approved with an additional allocation of \$292 for Preschool and \$23,708 for IDEA Flow Through in support of our special education and preschool programs
- Gower Admin completed the [EL - Title III](#) Intent to Apply for 2025-26 federal funding with local partners
- A recommendation for 2025-26 school registration/activity, lunch, and transportation fees is being submitted for Board approval ([Appendix C](#))
- The 8th Annual High School Transition Survey was administered in collaboration with D86 and local feeder districts. The data indicate a high degree of readiness from our most recent graduates ([Appendix D](#))
- The 5-Year District budget [forecast and projections report](#) through the 2029-2030 school year illustrate an ongoing commitment to sound financial practices and fiduciary responsibility to the Gower Community