



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – April 30, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The 5-8 Math Curriculum Committee recommends the new [Math & You](#) series (2025) from Big Ideas Learning (Cengage) for the 2025-2026 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- The required state assessments of [IAR](#) in grades 3-8 are complete - results will be made available on the [Illinois School Report Card](#) when published in the Fall of 2025 and on our [Academic Performance page](#)
- The [WSCAE Art Expo](#) is scheduled for 5/3 at the Cheney Mansion in Oak Park from 10 am to 2 pm
- K-8 NWEA End of Year MAP testing is scheduled for the week of May 5th with an End of Year NWEA MAP Board report is anticipated for the June 18th Board meeting
- Registration for Gower Summer 2024 Offerings is now available - register by 5/2 in PowerSchool

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-87%); 94.9% (95.6%) for GM; 95.1% (94.5%) - Teaching Staff and 96.3% (94.9%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required Staff Trainings held on April 15th at GM focused on the Cardiac Response Plan and AED training for staff (GW completed the required Cardiac training on March 18th)
- Gower Cares provided 30 Spring Break Snack To-Go Bags for students/families at a packing event on 3/26
- The Burr Ridge Police Department completed their annual DARE program for 5th graders the week of 4/14
- The District Threat Assessment Team will receive [CSTAG training](#) beginning in May and completing over the summer to ensure new team members are fully equipped while offering a refresher for current members

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

- Thank you for helping us exceed our standing goal of 35% parent participation on the annual [5-Essentials Survey](#)! We had a 41% parent response rate this year and look forward to the feedback (49% GW, 31% GM)
- 2025-2026 school year registration for returning students is underway - Currently, we have 34 Kindergarten students registered for next year! Welcome to our newest Gladiators! (58 this time last year)
- The final preschool screening for 2025-26 will be held on 4/24-Screening for next year will resume in Aug.
- The Spring Musical is scheduled for 4/24-4/25 at Gower Middle; Our 3rd and 4th grade students will travel to see the show during the school day on April 24th - an excellent transition activity for our rising 5th gr. class
- We invite the Gower Community to join us at Gower Middle on May 8th to enjoy the GM Art Show (6:00-8:00 p.m.) and the Spring Band Concert starting at 7:00 p.m.
- Our district video project, *This is Gower Middle*, is underway. [This is Gower West](#) was published last year
- The [Gower PTO](#) Book Fairs are being held 4/22-25 at Gower West and 4/29-5/1 at Gower Middle

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

- District Committee Work continues with ELL, Special Education, K-8 Art, GM Math, Innovate 62, Tech, GM Science, and Professional Development
- The Parent/Student Handbook Committee will meet on 5/7 to begin the process of reviewing, revising, and updating the 2025-2026 handbook; the draft will be presented to the Board at the June meeting
- The annual PERA Committee will meet on 4/30 to review the Professional Appraisal Process
- There are no changes to the [2025-26 Preliminary Staffing Plan](#) presented in March and hiring is underway with 6 of our 9 open certified positions for next year recommended for hire (remaining 3 in progress)
- The [ISBE EL Audit](#) is complete with positive feedback on our action plan and program; the next monitoring visit is expected to take place in the 2026-27 school year at the earliest per ISBE guidance

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

- We thank our long-standing Board Members, President Ryan Asmus (16 years) and Sarah Smith (5 years) of dedicated service and commitment. Their impact on our school district has been significant! Thank you!
- The Board of Education will acknowledge the April 1st election results, seat elected Board members, elect Board Officers, set meeting dates for 2025-26, and appoint a new member to fill the single Board vacancy
- The recommendation of Dr. Jackelyn Cadard, Special Programs Coordinator for District 58, to serve as the [Director of Special Education](#) (July 1st) is part of our leadership transition plan (R. Laratta retirement 6/26)
- Gower West and Gower Middle School were recognized as [Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools](#) for the 2024-2025 school year! This is the 10th consecutive year for Gower West and the 4th for Gower Middle! Congratulations! Gower continues to be recognized as a National CKH Showcase District
- The DuPage Regional Office of Education McKinney Vento Audit on March 4th resulted in 100% compliance and positive feedback on our program
- Gower was approved for \$63,255 through the federal [eRate grant](#) to offset ongoing technology infrastructure upgrade costs and other technology expenses for the current school year