



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – May 21, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Spring NWEA/MAP testing for K-8 is nearly complete and the EOY Report will be presented in June
- Our 7th and 8th grade students participated in Teen Depression lessons this spring through programming from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) and led by Gower Staff
- Final plans are underway for our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities beginning on June 3rd at Gower West and Gower Middle
- Gower plans to continue the partnership with Adaptability to provide Adaptive Physical Education instruction at both Gower West and Gower Middle for the 2025-2026 school year (one class at each school)
- On May 9th, Gower Middle hosted a Step Up Day for the Gower West 4th grade students; students went on a tour and participated in various activities to prepare for an effective transition to 5th grade

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% (94.2%) for GW K-4 (K-84%; 1st-87%); 95.0% (95.1%) for GM; 95.1% (94.5%) - Teaching Staff and 96.3% (95.2%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required Staff Trainings held on May 13th (GM) and May 20th (GW) focused on Crisis and Emergency Plans and led by our school Principals
- New staff will take part in a Capturing Kids Hearts training on August 7-8 hosted by Gower and including participants from other districts
- Gower is hosting a formal Mentor Training on August 7th to support new teachers for 2025-2026 and beyond; this training is held every 3 years as part of the District's Mentoring and Induction Program

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

- Our district video project, *This is Gower Middle*, is underway. [This is Gower West](#) was published last year
- Use our [Registration Page](#) to complete the process for the 2025-26 school year - Registration began 4/11
- Kindergarten Orientation was held on May 15th and welcomed nearly 70 families to Gower West in an effort to support, prepare, and help families adjust to this important school transition
- Gower will hold a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) Meeting on May 22 for private and home schooled students in our district as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements
- Gower Middle hosted the Spring Band Concert and an Art Show on May 8th - A great reminder of the importance of music and the arts and the support these programs receive in the Gower Community
- The [Gower PTO](#) hosted the 8th Grade Dance on May 16th as part of a series of celebratory and culminating events for our graduates as they prepare for Graduation and their transition to high school

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

- The IL Assoc. for Health, Physical Ed., Recreation and Dance ([IAHPERD](#)) awarded a Blue Ribbon - their highest honor for excellence - to Gower West the only Elementary School in the state awarded 7 consecutive awards (2000-2003, 2003-2006, 2006-2009, 2009-2014, 2014-2019, 2020-2025, 2026-2030)
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, Professional Development, Accelerated Track, Leadership Development, and Summer School Planning
- The May 30th Early Release Day is school-based and focused on End-of-Year Teacher Checklist
- The Parent/Student Handbook Committee met on May 7th 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

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

- Minor changes to the [2025-26 Preliminary Staffing Plan](#) presented in March are anticipated to accommodate recent resignations and internal transfers - hiring continues with 11 of our 13 open certified positions for next year recommended for hire (remaining *vacancies* in progress)
- The preliminary FY26 Education Budget (~\$15.7M) is being presented to the Board for review and forecasts alignment between projected revenue and expenditure (*projected surplus of \$51,000 or 0.33%*)
- Gower Admin applied for a \$2,000 District Literacy Implementation Grant to be used for professional development regarding the [Illinois Comprehensive Literacy Plan](#)
- The Gower Board of Education expects to hold a Board Member Orientation/Training ahead of their June 25th regularly scheduled meeting to review the [Board Charter](#) as well as Board roles and responsibilities
- Gower Admin & Staff will host a *Health & Wellness Expo for Children at their Best* with a parent presentation by Compass Health—save the date for September 25, 2025
- District administrators are working closely with the Capturing Kids' Hearts organization to coordinate and potentially host a Flagship Training for school districts across the area