



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

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

- More than 200 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs
- 2025-26 marks the 12 year anniversary of our [i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades 1-8 is scheduled to begin the week September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix A](#))
- Our [Public Suggestions and Concerns \(8:110\)](#) and [Equal Educational Opportunities \(7:10\)](#) policies help promote equity, cultural competency, and maximum involvement across our community ([Appendix B](#))

**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.*

- Enrollment on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> is 490 at GW, including 83 K students (85 & 79 previous two years), and 391 at GM, (519/539 GW & 407/377 GM at the start of the previous two school years)
- The [Capturing Kids' Hearts](#) process, introduced in 2013-14 to ensure a supportive environment for students remains at the core of our district mission: *Empowering children to be their best today to lead a better tomorrow*
- Our annual Safety Committee/Crisis Response Meeting was held on July 15<sup>th</sup> and included input from district staff as well as the Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- In accordance with the [Student Online Privacy Protection Act](#) parents can make student privacy related requests/inquiries by emailing [DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com](mailto:DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com)
- Updates to local e-bike and e-scooter ordinances have been included in the [Parent/Student Handbook](#)
- Facilities Update: Both school campuses are ready for the start of the school year with some additional traffic safety upgrades planned by the village near Gower Middle this fall (Frontage Rd. & Madison St.)

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

- The annual Gower Back to School Meet and Greet is scheduled for Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at GW and GM
- The 2025-26 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- The [Gower PTO](#) is hosting a Back to School Bash at Gower West from 4:30-6:30 p.m. as part of our Meet and Greet Event! - Be sure to stop by and meet your Teachers and stick around to enjoy the festivities!!!
- Save the dates for our 2025-26 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at GW and Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at GM
- Gower will host a *Health & Wellness Expo for Children at their Best* with a parent presentation by Compass Health on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 pm at Gower Middle - We are excited for you to join us!
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> for parents and students to learn more about the middle school
- Families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated activities
- Our district video project, *This is Gower Middle*, highlights our amazing middle school - Release date 8/19!

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

- Our Summer 2025 professional learning program for certified staff included on-site workshops, virtual learning on topics of choice, and a summer online Book Club with about 39 teachers participating!
- New Teachers participated in a Capturing Kids' Hearts on Aug. 7-8 and Orientation on Aug. 11-12
- Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 19-20 with an *All Staff Institute* on Aug. 19 featuring Team-Building Challenges at Brookfield Zoo and a focus on Ensuring a Supportive Environment for all students
- [Teach-Train-Thrive](#) will be the focus of the Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> Teacher Institute Day for all certified staff followed by a Special Education Team *Lunch & Learn* led by our new Special Education Director - Dr. Jackelyn Cadard
- District Committee work continued throughout the summer and involved work sessions and learning opportunities for GM Math, GM STEM, Special Education, District Threat Assessment, and GW ELL
- The District's PERA Committee aligned and updated the summative rating formula and made the adjustments to the [Professional Appraisal Plan](#) based on Illinois [Public Act 104-0020](#)

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

- Hiring is completed for the 8.0 certified Teacher vacancies (new hires). We encourage applicants for our remaining ESP (Education Support Personnel) vacancies; ([Link](#) to apply for remaining vacancies)
- District grants for the 2025-26 school year, including the Consolidated District Plan, IDEA Grant, Title I and IV have been submitted according to ISBE requirements (Title II and III delayed by federal action)
- The 2025-26 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/20 to the Board meeting on 9/24
- The 2024-25 school year ended with a surplus of \$810,477 (budgeted surplus was \$353,173), or 4.3% of the \$18,939,308 in expenditures for the year and evidence of strong fiscal management
- The Gower Board of Education will hold a closed session training ahead of the August 19<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting focused on the principles of effective school board governance