



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

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

- The Illinois State Board of Education released the [2024-25 School Report Cards](#) on 10/30 and they have been linked to the district's [Academic Performance](#) webpage
- 2024-25 ISBE Report Card includes [IAR](#), [5Essentials Data](#), [District Equity Data](#), and the school-based [Annual Summative Designation](#) - GW and GM were designated 'Commendable' ([Appendix A](#))
- 7th gr. students will participate in a [Substance Abuse Prevention](#) program on 11/21 through Candor Health
- Science Showcase information was shared on Nov. 13-14 through classroom teachers, in preparation for our 1/29 Gower Science Showcase/STEM Night, and the WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair 2/27

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: 95.8% (93.0%) for GW (K-4; K-95% [88%]; 1st-95% [90%]); 96.0% (95.8%) for GM; 95.1% (96.1%) - Teaching Staff and 97.1% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in November is being completed on 11/13 at GM and on 11/18 at GW and focused on our English Language Learner program and specific strategies to support our EL students
- Through our Gower Cares Initiative, additional food support is being provided for families in need; the Service Club and Student Council will host food drives to help families over Winter Break
- The Gower Student Services Team has introduced a new platform ([Referral GPS](#)) to help parents access outside services to meet student and family needs and led by our Gower Social Workers and Counselors

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

- Gower Middle hosted 12 local veterans on November 11th and recognized them with a Veterans Day Breakfast, two grade-band assemblies and a student clap-out to honor our veterans
- The Gower Annual Multicultural Night was held on 10/23 from 6:00-7:30 pm at Gower Middle School and featured food, cultural displays, and performances from over 20 countries all enjoyed by a huge crowd
- GW and GM have virtual Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 24th from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. - parents can sign up for conferences through Pick-a-Time - Directions have been sent out by school principals
- Nov. 25th [eLearning Day \(Practice Run\)](#) - This is a **non-attendance day** for students. Participation is optional. eLearning assignments will be posted by 8:30 a.m. Teachers are "e"ailable from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- The [Gower PTO](#) is hosting the Holiday Gift Shop on 12/5 & 12/6 at GW and the Burr Ridge-Willowbrook Little League is hosting 'Pancakes with Santa' on 12/6 in the GW cafeteria beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- The [Gower Foundation](#) sponsored *Reality Store* (11/21) will allow our 7th gr. students to participate in a 'real-world' experience to make important decisions and trade-offs around personal finance and budget
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress

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

- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 11/21 will be school-based and Teacher-directed in alignment with the 2025-2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, Innovate 62, GM Spanish, Accelerated Track, and 5-8 Social Studies
- The Nov. 25th e-Learning practice day provides a unique training opportunity to ensure staff preparedness for the potential use of [eLearning Days](#) in lieu of Emergency Days with the winter months approaching
- GW & GM staff continue to work on the [targeted measures](#) for improvement from the 2025 5Essentials report
- Our 11/25 Institute Day will also include a new required Teacher training on Racism Free Schools
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts Training for the district's *Process Coaches* is scheduled for Dec 10th and is being paid through a \$9,300 CKH Grant awarded to Gower

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

- Gower Middle School's administrator [presentation](#) to the Board of Ed. (11/19) highlighted the targeted work and ongoing action plans around school improvement for the 2025-26 school year
- Our annual financial audit for the 2024-25 school year is expected to conclude in Nov. - Report forthcoming
- Gower will receive \$8,667 as part of the consortium grant with Hinsdale District 86 to support our English Language Learner program which has grown in recent years
- The 2025 preliminary tax levy for the 2026-2027 school year has been submitted to the Board for review ahead of final adoption at the 12/17 Board Meeting
- Members of the Gower Board of Education will attend the Joint Annual Conference (Nov. 21-23) to learn from experts on critical topics such as school finance, community engagement, safety and security, and more