



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – December 17, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Winter [NWEA MAP testing](#) and [FastBridge Screening](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 13-23 for our K-8 students and [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 26 - Feb. 27 for our English Learners
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of 95 students that represent 18 different native languages spoken in Gower ([Appendix A](#))
- The 6<sup>th</sup> grade student [Candor Health Presentation](#) on Human Reproduction took place on 1/16
- Building on over a decade of success with the initiative, *Hour of Code*, Gower has embedded components of the [Hour of AI](#) in various class settings to help students better understand coding/AI activities

**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 (*previous year data*): 95.2% (92.0%) for GW (K-4; K-95% [87%]; 1<sup>st</sup>-95% [89%]); 96.0% (95.7%) for GM; 95.1% (95.9%) - Teaching Staff and 97.2% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff.
- Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors virtually on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> to build and review their 9<sup>th</sup> grade schedule
- Required staff training in December was completed on 12/9 at GM and 12/16 at GW, led by Gower Principals, and focused on Student Discipline with information from ISBE
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) Campus Visits were held on December 9<sup>th</sup> with a representative of CKH meeting with teachers and administrators to assess our continued implementation of the process

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

- GW partnered with LADSE to host a Preschool Family Music Night on 12/4 featuring Miss Jamie's Farm, providing families with an interactive, educational musical experience and plenty of farm-themed fun
- Our eLearning Practice Day on Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> had student participation rates of 97% for GM and 92% for GW
- The GM Winter Band & Chorus Concert on 12/4 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Music Program on 12/11 were big hits!
- The annual [5Essentials Survey](#) will open Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 49% GW, 32% GM (state avg. 19%)*
- The Annual STEM Night/Science Showcase (1/29, 6-7:30 p.m. at GW) is open to all families and will feature a Wonders of Physics show and a round of attendee feedback to our 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr. Scientists/Engineers
- The [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) continue to support our school community with the Gower Foundation currently running a fundraiser to help support the [Gower Cares Closet](#)—raised over \$1,100!

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

- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 12/19 will be school-based and Teacher-directed in alignment with the 2025-2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 1/16 will be district-based and led by the Innovate 62 Committee featuring sessions to Amplify Your Impact: Innovative Tools for Differentiating Instruction
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, GM Spanish, GM Math, District Calendar Committee, ELL, and K-8 ELA
- Gower participated in the IL Assoc. for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance ([IAHPERD Annual Convention](#) (12/4-12/5) and the [Multilingual/ESSA Conference](#) (12/11-12/12)
- Gower West is the only Elementary School in the state to be awarded 7 consecutive [IAHPERD Blue Ribbon Awards for P.E.](#) (2000-03, 2003-06, 2006-09, 2009-14, 2014-19, 2020-25 and now 2025-2030!!!)
- The Calendar Committee provided feedback on the 2026-27 school calendar reviewed and posted last year and developed a draft 2027-28 school calendar for Board review at the December meeting ([Appendix B](#))

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

- Gower is working to ensure the continuation of the [High School Transition Survey](#) given annually to all D86 9<sup>th</sup> grade students - 2025-26 would mark the 9<sup>th</sup> year of this area-wide survey
- The final report from our annual financial audit completed in Nov. by an independent auditor shows that the district is in compliance with all financial reporting requirements by the [IL State Board of Education](#)
- Gower received additional allocations for Title I (+\$8,299), Title II (+\$1,651), Title IV (+\$909) and IDEA grants (+\$21,483). New totals for 2025-26 are \$131,972 for Title grants and \$222,349 for IDEA grants
- As part of the ongoing Gower Leadership Transition Plan, the [Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Programs](#) position has been posted with a recommendation expected in the spring
- A number of anticipated Certified Position [vacancies](#) (retirees) have been posted for the 2026-27 school year
- Winter break marks the beginning of the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2026-27 school year budget by school and district administrators