



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – August 18, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our summer learning programs included over 250 enrollments; serving students across various grade levels
- Our i³ Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) continues to maintain a focus on the responsible incorporation of technology in our classrooms - Review the new Parent Pro Tips to support our efforts
- NWEA/MAP testing in ELA and Math for grades 1-8 is scheduled to begin the week August 31st
- 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. 13th is 448 at GW, including 62 K students (83 & 85 previous two years), and 391 at GM - Enrollment at the start of the previous two years was: 490 and 519 at GW; 391 and 407 at GM
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and Social Emotional Learning framework remains a focus for ongoing improvement efforts & teacher training
- Our Crisis Prevention Institute & De-Escalation Training is scheduled for designated staff for 2026-27
- On August 20th Paraprofessional Training will be led by Gower Teachers and focus on Trauma Informed Practices, Fostering Student Independence, and Executive Functioning
- Our annual Safety Committee/Crisis Response Meeting was held on July 15th 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
- Facilities Update: Both school campuses are ready for the start of the school year with the parking lot resurfacing, Gower West Front Office redesign, and Gower Middle hallway floor tile projects complete

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. 19th from 4-6 p.m. at GW and GM
- The 2026-27 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 2026-27 Curriculum Nights on Sept. 3rd at GW and Sept. 10th at GM
- Gower will host a *Health & Wellness Night* on Sept. 24th from 6-7:00 pm at Gower West to help parents learn more about resources available across the Gower Community. We are excited for you to attend!
- 5th Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 6th for parents and students to learn more about the middle school
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the Gower PTO and the Gower Foundation websites for updated information on ongoing activities - Save the date for the Charity Gala- October 17, 2026
- Save the date for Gower's Multicultural Extravaganza 2024 on October 21st at GW; more details to come

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

- Our Summer 2026 professional learning program included on-site workshops, virtual learning on topics of choice, and an online Book Club, *Talk Read Talk Write*, with over 40 Gower staff members participating!
- New Teachers participated in a Capturing Kids' Hearts on Aug. 4-5 and Orientation on Aug. 10-11
- Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 18-19 with an *All Staff Institute* on Aug. 18th featuring the following session led by CKH Facilitator, Jennifer Winkler: Recharge Advanced - Amplify Your Impact with CKH
- District Committee work continued throughout the summer and involved work sessions and learning opportunities for AT, Crisis, Threat Assessment, and PERA committees
- 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 6.0 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 2026-27 school year, including the Consolidated District Plan, IDEA Grant, Title I and IV have been submitted according to ISBE requirements
- The 2026-27 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/19 to the Board meeting on 9/23
- The 2025-26 school year ended with a surplus of \$443,795, or 2.4% of the \$18,834,056 in operating expenditures for the year and evidence of strong fiscal management (budgeted surplus was \$212,947)
- The Gower Board of Education will hold members-only training on the August 18th during the regularly scheduled meeting focused on the principles of effective school board governance