

Superintendent Report 11/8/24

Updates from around the district and the state.

1. Thursday, November 14, 2024 marks our 64th day of student attendance.
2. The new [Illinois School Report Cards](#) were released to the public Oct. 30. There are approximately 665 high schools across the state with the top 10% of those schools receiving the designation of “Exemplary.” I am pleased to announce that [GHS was named to that list](#). Our other buildings were rated as “Commendable,” the second highest rating available. These outstanding Report Cards are a credit to the hard work of our students and staff and should be applauded.
3. Nov. 15 of each year is recognized as School Board Members Day in Illinois. The honorary date is an opportunity to show support for boards of education. I would like to personally thank each of the board members for their service to this district and to the community. It truly is a thankless job, but an important one.
4. We recently published a story on GeneseoSchools.org that [highlights our Life Skills students and staff](#), and the “Skills in Action” work-based learning program. It’s a nice look at how we are providing Life Skills students with learning that will extend beyond the classroom.
5. Another story on our website takes a look at 7th grade geography students who worked in groups to [create new flag designs for the state of Illinois](#). The top three designs have been officially submitted to the State of Illinois for consideration.
6. With Veterans Day coming up on Nov. 11, multiple buildings throughout our district will [host assemblies to honor those who have served](#).
7. I’ve included in your packet information from some organizations that help school districts with long-range strategic planning. This could be conducted in the springtime (April-June) once the new board is seated after the election if you choose. If this is something the Board would like to learn more about, I would be happy to have them come to a future board meeting and share additional information about the process with you.
8. I’ll probably miss someone unintentionally, but it’s worth noting the great postseason success our fall sports are having. We already had members of our girls tennis team and boys gold team advance to state. More recently we had both the boys and girls cross country teams qualify for state this weekend. Our football team won a playoff game on the road, upsetting the #1 seed and our volleyball team is playing for the sectional championship tonight (11/7/24). What a fall season!

9. Regarding certain agenda items, here is some additional, more specific information:
- a. Geneseo Education Foundation Fall Grant Cycle: The GEF will meet on Nov. 13 to review the fall grant cycle requests. I had a chance to review the applications with them on Nov. 4 and our staff have once again thought outside the box to provide our students with enhanced and unique educational experiences.
 - b. Presentation on the Tax Levy: Mr. Gronski will be taking you through a more detailed review of the levy, complete with assumptions based on historical data, and a deeper explanation of the levied amounts based on legal limits, anticipated needs of the district, and recommendations from our auditor.
 - c. Presentation on our CARES classroom: Mrs. Emmerson and Mrs. Oaks will be giving an update on our CARES classroom and other SEL initiatives.
 - d. Presentation on our GHS Course Planning Guide: Mr. Ryerson and four GHS teachers—Sara Bertelsen, Sarah Degarmo, Megan Miller and Kristy Vanopdorp—will briefly talk about new course proposals and updated course descriptions. I'm excited for these new opportunities for our students and staff.