

GARY GAZETTE 2024 2025

DONDE SOMOS LECTORES DE DOS IDIOMAS

SERVING: D33 K-5 TWO-WAY DUAL LANGUAGE FAMILIES

EN ESPAÑOL

If you need anything this year, please feel free to call or text.

Amie Correa, Gary School Principal

(630) 935-8764 Cell Phone

correaa@wego33.org

Jessica Raiser, Gary School Assistant Principal

630-974-9864 Cell Phone

raiserj@wego33.org



QUICK LINKS

[School Calendar \(Spanish\)](#)

[School Calendar \(English\)](#)

[Gary School Website](#)

[D33 Website](#)

[Principal Correa's Bio](#)

[Assistant Principal Raiser's Bio](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Breakfast Menu](#)

[Gary Plan on a Page](#)

GRADE LEVEL NEWSLETTERS

EACH GRADE LEVEL WILL SEND OUT A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. PAPER COPIES WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD. YOU CAN FIND AN ELECTRONIC COPY BELOW.

Kinder	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Specials
September	September	September	September	September	September	September
October	October	October	October	October	October	October
November	November	November	November	November	November	November
December	December	December	December	December	December	December
January	January	January	January	January	January	January
February	February	February	February	February	February	February
March	March	March	March	March	March	March
April	April	April	April	April	April	April
May	May	May	May	May	May	May
June	June	June	June	June	June	June

UPCOMING ITEMS PARENT GAZETTE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- 9/25: Food Service and Supervisor Appreciation Day
- 9/25: Bus Evacuation Drill
- 10/2: Custodian Appreciation Day
- 10/2: PTO Meeting
- 10/3: Picture Day
- 10/8: 3, 4,5 Music Field Trip
- 10/18: Homecoming Parade
- 11/14: Picture Retakes
- 2/18: 3rd Grade CAP Presentations
- 3/21: Spring Pictures
- 4/7: Smile Squad
- 4/8: Smile Squad



Trimester 1	
9/4	Gary Gear - Wear Gary Gear or Gary Blue
9/11	Fictional Character Day
9/16	Mexican Independence Day - Red/Green/White
9/18	College Gear Day
9/25	Fall Colors Day
10/2	Wear Orange for Bullying Prevention
10/9	Sports Team Day
10/16	Dress like a Gary Administrator Day
10/23	Disney Day
10/30	Dia de los muertos- Wear yellow & orange
11/6	Super Hero Day
11/11	Veterans Day - Red/White/Blue
11/13	Camping Day
11/20	Backwards Day

STAY IN THE KNOW!

Gary School has a [Parent Google Calendar](#) that you can add to your calendars. It is filled with upcoming events that you will want to know about.

WEAR IT WEDNESDAY:

Our [Spirit Days](#) are every Wednesday with a few extras once in a while.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Third Grade Teacher, Brooklin Swierenga

Hello! My name is Brooklin Swierenga and I am teaching 3rd grade at Gary Elementary School. I am so excited to be back at Gary after student teaching alongside Melissa Meyer in 2022! I was born in California and grew up in Ecuador before coming to Illinois to study Elementary Education. While I got my M.A. in TESOL, I taught Adult ESL classes. When I'm not teaching, I love camping and spending time outdoors with my husband, Andrew, as well as biking and reading. I look forward to reconnecting with Gary's families and teaching alongside you all this year!



GET INVOLVED!

PTO is a great way to get involved at Gary School! Not only are you supporting your own children, but it is a great way to get to know other parents and the staff at Gary School! Meetings are once a month in the library. We hope to see you there!

HANDBOOK SIGNATURES

Please remember to send in your Parent/Student Handbook signature page to school with your child if you have not already.

PICTURE DAY

Coming up 10/3!

DOT DAY

Every student in the school started art this year by reading *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds. The story celebrates the creative spirit in anyone. The story encourages the reader to start their artwork with a simple dot and see where it takes them. Every year in September readers and artists around the world celebrate International Dot Day by reading the story and making their own artwork. Every student has their artwork hanging in the hallway to celebrate their creativity, inspire others to make their own artwork, and show off the beautiful art of our community.

ART SHOWS

- 1) Tiny art show corresponding with fall parent-teacher conferences on November 21st & 22nd
- 2) Gala 33 on December 6th at Lemay Middle School from 5-6:30 pm
- 3) Tiny art show corresponding with spring parent-teacher conferences on April 7th
- 4) Art at the ARC on April 10th
- 5) 5th grade artwork at the 5th grade promotion ceremony in June

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5	FEB 2025, WED	● 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
5	MAR 2025, WED	● 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
7	MAY 2025, WED	● 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
4	JUN 2025, WED	● 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting



SHARE TABLE

This is our Gary School Share Table. Each child can place any unwanted, unopened food items here for other children to enjoy. Please talk to your child about placing food they wish to donate here or to grab food if they want it! The share table is out all day and children are always given permission to place or grab items. Each morning your child is offered breakfast, even if they are given breakfast at home, please tell them to grab breakfast at school and place it here if they do not want it so others can enjoy it if they wish!



BUS EXPECTATIONS

Ms. Raiser has been riding the bus routes home as a result of incidents of unsafe behavior. If you could please help us at home by speaking to your children about safe behavior on the bus. Safe behavior includes sitting on the bus, keeping a voice level 1, using kind words, and most importantly listening to the bus driver to ensure they can safely focus on the road. Thank you for your support.



GET INVOLVED!

An important part of a successful dual language program is the connection between the school and home. Every child should have a family member volunteer for something at Gary each year. This could be reading a book to the class just one time or coming in each week to practice math facts with children. The teachers will also be sending other ideas for volunteering to you. I will share ways that you can be involved in the day-to-day business of our school when opportunities arise.

Volunteers wanted!

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with lunches. Each class has 30 minutes for lunch and a recess. You can help with as few or as many as you have time for! This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parents, and the staff, and get to know the children that your own children are learning and growing with. The times are listed below. If you are willing and able to help us out, call the office and Maria will get you everything you need.

LUNCH TIMES

First Grade: 11:10-11:40
Fifth Grade: 11:35-12:20
Second Grade: 11:40-12:10
Third Grade: 11:50-12:20
Kindergarten 12:10-12:40
Fourth Grade: 12:20-12:50

Volunteers wanted!

We are also looking for parent volunteers to walk with music students to LMS after school on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. The children will be in the gym ready to go at 3:35. If you are willing and able to help us out, call the office and Maria will get you everything you need.

TRANSPORTATION HOME

Please contact your child's teacher to provide their Monday - Friday schedule for transportation home if it has changed. We have had some mix-ups this week and we want to do our best to ensure your children are getting home safely in the manner that your family needs. ***If you ever need to change the regular way your child is getting home for any given school day you must call the main office before 1:00 pm each day so we can notify teachers, update lists, and ensure they are placed in the correct line.*** If we do not have a note indicating a change in transportation home, the child will need to be picked up in the main office.



CURRICULUM NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who came to see us and learn about what we are doing at Gary School! We really enjoyed spending time with you. On the following pages, you will find the slide deck that the administration shared.





WEST CHICAGO
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS
Together for Excellence

Gary School Noche Curricular Curriculum Night

Get Involved, D33!



Check in at each specified event



Attend or participate in at least 3 events or opportunities



Your name will be included for the year-end recognition



Why is Curriculum Night Important?

- We want your child to succeed academically and socially.
- Our partnership throughout the school year is crucial to your child's success.
- We will share important curricular information and information about student behaviors, including bullying.



High School Readiness

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Clear communicator

Collaborator

Critical thinker &
problem-solver

Empathetic



Culturally aware

Resilient

Technologically
adaptable

Advocate for self & others





Jessica Raiser

- Gary School Subdirectora
- Gary School ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



Algo Sobre mi

- 3er año en la escuela Gary
- 7mo año como subdirectora
- 16mo año como educadora
- Mamá de Lucas, tía de las niñas más lindas, hija y nieta devota.
- Trabajar en Gary ha revigorizado mi pasión por la educación. Las personas y los niños de esta comunidad, junto con todos ustedes, se sienten como extensiones de mi propia familia. Tengo un profundo sentido del deber de servir a la comunidad y a todos ustedes.



ABOUT ME

- 3rd year at Gary School
- 7th year as an assistant principal
- 16th year as an educator
- Mom to Lucas, aunt to the cutest little girls, devoted daughter and granddaughter.
- Working at Gary has reinvigorated my passion for education. The people and children of this community along with you all feel like extensions of my own family. I have a deep sense of duty to serve the community and all of you.





Este verano yo...



Amie Correa

- Gary School Directora
- Gary School PRINCIPAL





Algo sobre

mi

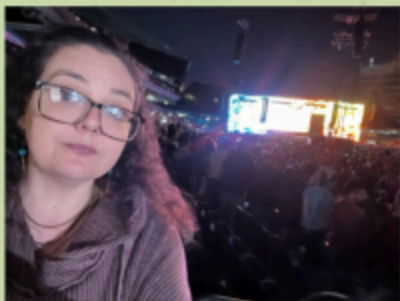
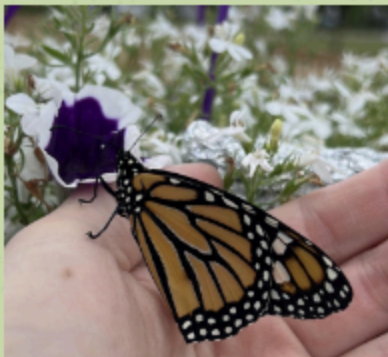
- 3er año en Gary School como directora
- 6to año como profesora universitario
- 9º año como administrador en West Chicago
- 29º año como educador en West Chicago
- Madre de 4, abuela de 3, hermana de 2
- Mi pasión y por qué continuar con mi llamado a la educación son los niños de nuestra comunidad. Mi objetivo es verlos convertirse en más de lo que jamás imaginaron que podrían ser.

ABOUT ME

- 3rd year at Gary School as the principal
- 6th year as a university professor
- 9th year as an administrator in West Chicago
- 29th year as an educator in West Chicago
- Mother of 4, Grandmother of 3, Sister of 2
- My passion and why for continuing my calling to education is the children of our community. My goal is to watch them become more than they ever imagined they could be.



Este verano yo...



Board Member Introduction

Rita Balgeman, **President**
Morgan Banasiak, **Vice President**
Tom Doyle, **Secretary**
Sandra García
Felicia Gills
Janette Hernández
Chad McLean



Attendance

- Who do I contact when my student will be absent?
 - *Clerical Aide's Name & Phone Number with extension*
- How is attendance monitored by the school?
- The DuPage ROE considers any student that has missed 10% of the school year to be truant. Missing 3 days in the first 30 days of school would categorize a student as truant.



D33 PBIS Core Values

Respect for Others

Responsibility

Orderly Transitions

Readiness to Learn

Positive Interactions



Student Behavior

- Student safety is our priority.
- Unkind behavior is not tolerated. **All** incidents of unkind behavior are investigated by building administration and appropriate consequences are administered.
- All students have a right to come to school and feel safe. Helping students understand their emotions and express unhappy feelings is part of elementary school. Our social workers, counselors and administrators are here to help your student navigate these new feelings in a respectful way.



Mean, Rude, or Bullying?

- *“Being **mean** involves purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice).”*
- *“Being **rude** is inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else...These incidents are usually unplanned inconsideration.”*
- *“**Bullying** is intentionally aggressive behavior, **repeated over time**, that involves an **imbalance of power**. Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse.”*



Expectation for Grades

- Grades are updated by teachers twice a month.
- Progress Reports 3x a year
- Notice of Concern
- Celebrations



How Do We Celebrate Students?

- Academic Accolades Published
- Awards Ceremony during the School Day
- Awards Reception for families in the evening
- Awards
 - High Achievement Math and Reading
 - Achievement Math and Reading
 - Growth Math, Reading, Behavior
 - Citizenship



Parent-Student Handbook

- Please review the handbook online on our district website.
<https://www.wego33.org/domain/487>
- Please sign the provided document upon receiving the handbook.



Parent-Student Handbook 2024-2025

312 East Forest Avenue, West Chicago, IL 60185
Phone: (630) 293-6000
Fax: (630) 596-2832
www.wego33.org

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- 9/23: My Learning Begins
- 9/23: Clubs Begin
- 10/3: Picture Day
- 10/8: 3, 4, 5 Music Field Trip
- 10/18: Homecoming Parade
- 11/14: Picture Retakes
- 2/18: 3rd Grade CAP Presentations
- 3/21: Spring Pictures
- 4/7: Smile Squad
- 4/8: Smile Squad



STAY IN THE KNOW!

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WEAR IT WEDNESDAY:

Our [Spirit Days](#) are every Wednesday with a few extras once in a while.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Speech-Language Pathologist, Megan Haque

My name is Megan Haque (pronounced HUCK) and I graduated from Augustana College earlier this year. I am thrilled to be starting at West Chicago! I am passionate about speech-language pathology, music, and my pets (a cat, 2 leopard geckos, and tropical fish). In my spare time, I love crafts, reading, and playing violin. I look forward to meeting students and their families.



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5	MAR 2025, WED	●	6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
7	MAY 2025, WED	●	6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting

GET INVOLVED!

PTO is a great way to get involved at Gary School! Not only are you supporting your own children, but it is a great way to get to know other parents and the staff at Gary School! Meetings are once a month in the library. We hope to see you there!

HOMECOMING PARADE

The WCCHS Homecoming Parade is on the 18th of October. We will be collecting permission slips soon so that we can walk to Joliet and Brown to view the parade. I suggest having the children bring a bag to collect candy in.

FASTBRIDGE FOR LITERACY AND MATH THIS WEEK

This week we are testing all children in Math and Reading. These tests are quick and give us good information on specific skills that the teachers can focus on in the classroom. Because we are a dual language school, we will be screening in both languages.

HANDBOOK SIGNATURES

Please remember to send in your Parent/Student Handbook signature page to school with your child if you have not already.

PICTURE DAY

Coming up 10/3!

MORNING DROP OFF AND AFTERNOON PICK UP

- Please remember that we love your four legged family members, but that many of our children are allergic to them. Pets are not allowed on the property at drop off and pick up.
- For those of you who drop off and pick up in the car riders section, remember to pay attention as you are waiting to pull into the parking lot. We take turns pulling in. One car turns in from the south side of the street and then one car turns in from the north side of the street. Because there is traffic moving through the middle of the street, it can seem like there is room for an extra car from your line. We still need to take turns.
- We also have families that walk along the sidewalk that crosses the entrance. Do not block the crosswalk and be watchful for families and children ready to cross.

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JOIN US FOR A FUN-RAISER!!!



BENEFITTING Gary School PTO

WHEN: Tuesday, September 24th 2024 from 11am-10pm

WHERE: Hawthorne's Backyard 1200 West Hawthorne Lane
West Chicago, IL 60185 (630)293-6700

WHATS THE OCCASION: Help raise money for
Gary School PTO.

Hawthorne's Backyard will donate 15% of all monies spent by anyone who shows up with this flyer. Just give this flyer to your server and we will take care of the rest. It's that simple!!!!!!

Hawthorne's Backyard features 4 acres of fun for all ages. Sand Volleyball, Wiffleball, bags and a large fire pit adorn the backyard with outdoor seating for all occasions.

Wanna book a Fun-Raiser for your organization? Or know someone who might? Just ask to speak to a Manager.

**WE DO CATERING!!!! WE COOK WE DELIVER
WE CLEAN AND YOU ENJOY!!!! ASK TO SEE
OUR CATERING MENU.**

No coupons or any other offers including food specials are able to be used for any fun-raisers events.



**HAWTHORNE'S BACKYARD
BAR & GRILL**

1200 West Hawthorne Lane
West Chicago, IL 60185
www.hawthornesbackyard.com

Phone: 630-293-6700
Fax: 630-293-6701
E-mail:
info@hawthornesbackyard.com

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- 9/11: Gary Curriculum
- 10/3: Picture Day
- 11/14: Picture Retakes
- 2/18: 3rd Grade CAP
- 3/21: Spring Pictures
- 4/7: Smile Squad
- 4/8: Smile Squad



Presentations

WEAR IT WEDNESDAY:

Our [Spirit Days](#) are every Wednesday with a few extras once in a while.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

LBS1 Jennifer Buchanan

Hello- I'm Jennifer Buchanan, and I'm excited to join the Gary team. With three years of experience in District 33 as an LBS1 and my background as a paraprofessional, teacher, and program director, I bring a diverse skill set and a deep passion for working with children to this role. Pursuing my LBS1 endorsement in 2021 was a pivotal step in my career journey, further solidifying my commitment to supporting students with diverse needs. I look forward to getting to know the students and staff at Gary!



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5	MAR 2025, WED	●	6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
7	MAY 2025, WED	●	6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
4	JUN 2025, WED	●	6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting

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WEST CHICAGO
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
Together for Excellence • Unidos por la Excelencia!

BEYOND THE BELL MYLEARNING

BEGINS: SEPT. 23

MONDAY - THURSDAY

ELEMENTARY (1st-5th): 3:45 - 4:45

LEMAN (6th-8th): 2:45 - 4:15

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
SEPT. 1ST

REGISTER HERE!

ELEMENTARY



LEMAN



BEYOND THE BELL - MYLEARNING (FORMERLY ASAP) PROGRAM

We are excited to share that we are offering an after-school academic program called Beyond the Bell - MyLearning. MyLearning will support and enrich students in the areas of math and literacy, with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) activities.

ELEMENTARY MY LEARNING - REGISTRATION

The program is open to all students in grades 1st-5th and will run as follows:

Days: Monday-Thursday

Times: 3:45 PM - 4:45 PM

Trimester 1 Start Date: September 23, 2024

Trimester 2 Start Date: December 9, 2024

Trimester 3 Start Date: March 17, 2025

Details can be found here: <https://www.wego33.org/domain/511>.

GET INVOLVED!

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with lunches. Each class has 30 minutes for lunch and a recess. You can help with as few or as many as you have time for! This is a great opportunity for you to meet other parents, and the staff, and get to know the children that your own children are learning and growing with. The times are listed below. If you are willing and able to help us out, call the office and Maria will get you everything you need.

LUNCH TIMES

First Grade: 11:10-11:40
Fifth Grade: 11:35-12:20
Second Grade: 11:40-12:10
Third Grade: 11:50-12:20
Kindergarten 12:10-12:40
Fourth Grade: 12:20-12:50

We are also looking for parent volunteers to walk with music students to LMS after school on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The children will be in the gym ready to go at 3:35.

CURRICULUM NIGHT

Gary School Curriculum Night is on Wednesday. We will start with a Family Dinner from 5:00 to 6:00. Pizza, salad, and breadsticks will be provided. A message from administration will begin at 6:00 and classroom presentations will begin at 6:25. We will use a passport during the evening that children will be able to use to enter a raffle as they leave. The raffle drawing will occur during school on Friday.

We hope to see all of you there!

Noche del plan de estudios de la escuela Gary 2024 2025

Todos los niños deben recibir un pasaporte por la noche para llevarlo y coleccionar firmas o sellos. Pueden entregar su pasaporte para la oportunidad de ganar una rifa.

5:00-6:00

Cena para el personal/familia y hacer tarjetas en el gimnasio

6:00-6:20

Presentación en el gimnasio por parte de la Administración

6:25-8:00

Pasaportes escolares de Gary

6:25-6:45 Presentaciones K-2

6:50-7:10 Presentaciones 3-5

7:15-7:35 Presentaciones K-2

7:40-8:00 Presentaciones 3-5



Gary School Curriculum Night 2024 2025

All children should get a passport for the evening to carry with them and collect signatures or stamps. They can turn their passport in for a chance at winning a raffle before leaving the building.

5:00-6:00

Staff/Family Dinner and Card Making in the Gym

6:00-6:20

Presentation In the Gym by Administration

6:25-8:00

Gary School Passports

6:25-6:45 K-2 Presentations

6:50-7:10 3-5 Presentations

7:15-7:35 K-2 Presentations

7:40-8:00 3-5 Presentations



REGISTER HERE - FREE FOR THE FIRST 50 FOR D33 STUDENTS



west chicago

FIT4
FALL
5K

September 21, 2024



Family Discounts are now available

First 100 to register receive a swag bag filled with goodies



- Post run event
- Free waffle with unlimited toppings
- Raffle entry
- T-shirt
- Custom Medal



Healthy
West Chicago

RECOGNIZE SOMEONE!

The Board of Education would like to recognize individuals of the District 33 community - which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents/guardians, and guardians - for actions that build a positive culture and climate in District 33. This "shout-out" is read at Board meetings, is included as an agenda item called "Board Salute" and becomes part of the official minutes. If you know someone who deserves a "Board Salute," please complete [this form](#). To read more about Board Salutes, visit the [website](#).



D33 MOBILE APP

DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW!

The D33 app can be used as a one-stop location to access information about the district, and parents can view specific details about their children, such as:

- Grades
- Bus Route
- Class Schedule
- Teachers

Parents must use a login and password to view information specific to their child(ren), such as bus route, teachers, attendance, etc. Please complete [this form](#) to request your Login and Password for the D33 Mobile App. Visit our [website](#) for more information and tutorials. Search "West Chicago Elementary SD 33" in the Google Play Store or Apple Store on your smart device and download it NOW!



PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Parent-Student Handbook is available for viewing by following the links below. You can also request a paper copy at the main office at Gary School. Your child will be bringing home a signature page for you to sign. We do need one for each of your children who attend Gary School. If you haven't found the paper in their backpack, there will be copies available during Curriculum Night for you.

[24-25 Student/Parent Handbook in English](#)

[24-25 Student/Parent Handbook in Spanish](#)



THANK YOU FOR
A GREAT START TO
THE 2024-2025
SCHOOL YEAR
AND FOR
ENTRUSTING US
WITH YOUR
CHILDREN!

