



Gower School District 62
7700 Clarendon Hills Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527
(P) 630-986-5383 (F) 630-323-3074
www.gower62.com



Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – November 18, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Computer coding has been added to our 6th grade Industrial Tech. curriculum as part of a general STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) initiative (Teacher-led demonstration during Board meeting)
- Gower students will participate in the international “Hour of Code” program during the week of Dec 8-14 to generate more experience around computer coding and a digital environment (www.hourofcode.com)
- The Illinois State Board of Education released the 2013-2014 School Report Cards and despite a slight decline in ISAT performance, Gower students demonstrated a high level of academic growth. ([Appendix A](#))
- Preparations continue for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to be administered this year. Parents are encouraged to visit www.parcconline.org to review sample items
- Student participation in our 6th Gr. Outdoor Education trip (White Pines) was 99% (88% attending 2-days)

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 rates: 96.9% for our 829 students enrolled; 98.3% for the 72 Teaching staff and 98.1% for the 64 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- Student medical compliance reported to the Illinois State Board of Education was 96.0% at GW and 98.2% at GM for the 2014-15 school year reaching our static goal of 97%+ for the school district
- 1st Qtr. Discipline Reports show an increase in student referrals at GW and a decrease at GM ([Appendix B](#))
- Required staff training for our Limited English Proficiency program is scheduled for Nov. 18 during faculty meetings at respective schools and will be led by our English Learner Teachers
- Facilities Update: A Notice to Bidders for the GW HVAC project will be published on 11/21 to meet our target date of Dec 16th for BOE action on bids received. Additional lighting at GM Door #6 to be added.

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

- Gower was represented at the Annual Burr Ridge Village and School Administrator meeting held on 10/23 to discuss community development and safety initiatives and the impact on local school districts
- Parents are invited to attend “Bring Your Parents to School Day” on Nov. 18th at GW and Nov. 20th at GM
- Parent Teacher Conferences were held on two evenings this fall (Nov. 6/13) to increase opportunities for parent involvement. 89% of GW parents and 32% of GM parents chose to attend face-to-face conferences
- The annual Illinois 5-Essentials Survey window will be open to our parents from Jan. 12 – March 15. We are aiming to increase our parent participation from roughly 35% to 45% this year. More details to come.

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

- Teachers serving as Capturing Kids’ Hearts Process Coaches will lead a district-wide teacher in-service on Nov. 19 to focus on our implementation with specific attention on student impact and classroom practice
- First year teachers recipients of i3 Learning Initiative Grants have met among themselves and w 2nd year
- The Gower Appraisal Committee met to establish a Performance Evaluation Review Act (PERA) Joint Committee in preparation for changes to our Teacher Evaluation Model that will go into effect 2016-17

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

- Gower has received a Federal Title I Grant in the amount of \$76,374 from the Illinois State Board of Education to be used across grades K-4 in support of our diverse learners ([Appendix C](#))
- The Elementary and Secondary Education Committee is meeting on Nov. 18 to hear testimony on Senate Bill 16 (School Funding Reform Act of 2014). More information can be found at www.isbe.net/EFAC
- University of Chicago Impact recognized Gower for our *best-practice* strategies and efforts related to building a “Supportive Environment” and our use of the 5Essential Survey for continuous improvement at the 5-Essentials Leadership Summit held in Detroit, MI on Nov. 13

Children at their best!