



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – September 23, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- The i³ Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) is off and running in grades 3-8 with Chromebooks distributed and put into immediate use with the addition of 150 iPads (K-2) ready for deployment
- NWEA/MAP Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning
- Northwestern University's "Civic Education Weekend" is scheduled for Nov. 7-8 for selected 8th graders
- Our 6th grade "Outdoor Education Program" (White Pines) is scheduled for Oct. 21-22
- Our new exploratory class, Teen Leadership, launched at Gower Middle for 8th grade students

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: 97.8% for our 831 students enrolled; 98.4% for the 72 Teaching staff and 97.4% for the 62 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- Our anti-bullying efforts have been enhanced to include an online reporting system linked to school websites that allows any member of the Gower Community to submit a complaint or concern anonymously
- Classroom Contracts are established on an annual basis in each of our classrooms as a component of our deliberate strategy to build productive learning environments through positive relationships
- Facilities Update: Updates to our security systems and wireless/broadband infrastructure continues. Project specifications are being finalized to replace the air conditioning chiller unit at Gower West

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

- The Gower West and Burr Ridge Park District partnership is expanding to include additional learning opportunities for students
- Online parent access to student grades in our new student information/grading system, Illuminate, is being shared with 5th-8th grade parents this week. 3rd-4th grade parent information is forthcoming.
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade will be invited to join the YWCA on Oct. 20th at Gower Middle for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum (www.erinlawillinois.org)

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

- Teacher in-service scheduled for Sept. 24 will focus on data-protocols and fall NWEA student data
- Teacher Institute on Oct. 14 will focus on implementation of newly adopted English Language Arts materials, and ongoing curriculum alignment as it relates to the i³ Learning Initiative
- Teaching staff at each campus have been selected and trained to serve as Process Coaches to work directly with their peers for ongoing implementation of the Capturing Kids' Hearts process
- Teachers and Support Staff have met the challenges associated with the implementation of a new Student Information System, a new printing/copying model, and the infusion of more technology across classrooms

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

- School leaders are working to fill remaining ESP vacancies (teacher aides) to ensure appropriate support
- The 2014-2015 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- Gower School District 62 has been recognized by the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute for our ongoing work with the 5 Essentials Survey and plans to showcase our improvement efforts
- Gower West and Gower Middle have both applied for recognition as a "Whole Child School" with the Illinois Association of Curriculum and Development (www.illinoisascd.org)
- The Gower Administrative Team has recommended to the Board of Education to join them in signing the pledge to be recognized as a #FutureReady school district (www.tech.ed.gov/futurereadypledge/)

Children at their best!