



Gower School District 62  
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## Superintendent's Report

### Board of Education Meeting – August 19, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Virtual Summer Enrichment classes were held for 77 of our students in various grade levels (7/18 – 8/14) and Gower West's Step-Up Summer Program (7/28 – 8/13) included 15 of our students (40% of the students invited to participate). Both programs will be reviewed prior to a recommendation to continue.
- Our i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) will continue to infuse technology into our teaching-learning model by adding 150 iPads (K-2) and 350 Chromebooks (3-8) at the start of the year.
- The English/Language Arts text materials chosen last year have been received and ready to use in grades K-8 to start the school year (*Journeys* for K-5 and *Collections* for 6-8)

**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.*

- Our annual review of the District Emergency and Crisis Plan was completed on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> and included representatives from both Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Police Departments and the Tri-State Fire Dept.
- Capturing Kids' Hearts implementation continues as a district-wide approach to building effective teacher-student and student-student relationships in support of ongoing student development and success
- Each school campus is now staffed with a full-time Registered Nurse to meet our students' needs
- Facilities Update: Summer capital outlay projects are being finalized; A/C issue at GW ([Appendix A](#))

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

- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation was held on 8/12 at GM and New Family Night was held on 8/14 at GW
- The Park Districts of Willowbrook and Burr Ridge, in partnership with Gower School District, are hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Back to School Bash at Borse Park on Thursday, Aug. 21 from 4:30-7:30 p.m. – Joins us! ☺
- 2014-2015 Parent/Student Handbook is available on the district website and reflects the direct input from a committee of parents, teachers and administrators ([Appendix B](#))
- School Supply Drop-Off/Walk-Thrus are scheduled for Aug. 21 from 3:30 – 5:00
- Curriculum Nights are scheduled for Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> at GW and Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at GM (7:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.)

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

- New Teacher Orientation/Training was held Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> for the six teachers joining Gower; welcome!
- Teacher Institute Days are scheduled for Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> and will focus on our new student information and grade book system ([Illuminate](#)) as well as iNNOVATE 62 technology stations and Capturing Kids' Hearts
- Our annual Educational Support Personnel (ESP) training is scheduled for Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> and will focus on required trainings, CPR, and job-specific goals and expectations
- Many of our teachers participated in summer learning opportunities designed by the INNOVATE 62 committee in preparation for i<sup>3</sup> Learning as well as professional development for the new English Language Arts (ELA) curricular materials in grades K-8

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

- All vacant teaching positions have been filled to start the 2014-15 school year and remaining ESP vacancies are in the final stages of being finalized
- Our school website has been redesigned in response to parent feedback and is still in the process of reconstruction. Parents are encouraged to subscribe to GW and/or GM Google calendars for easy planning
- Our annual Administrator Retreat was held Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> and focused on implementation strategies for Capturing Kids' Hearts, the i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative, and continuous improvement around the 5 Essentials
- Administrators are reviewing policy/practice for changes required to meet new legislation for 2014-15
- The 5 Essentials Survey data collected in 2013-14 indicates improvement across each of the essential areas for school effectiveness at the district level with particular improvement in targeted areas ([Appendix C](#))

*Children at their best!*