



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – February 17, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our K-8 students have invested over 2,000 “off-campus” hours using our web-based STRIDE Academy program this year to support learning across the core areas of instruction (~2300 last year at this time)
- Our MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades K-8 and mid-year growth data indicates significant growth in both subject areas ([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

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: 97.0% for our 831 students enrolled; 96.4% for the 72 Teaching staff and 96.7% for the 65 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- Student medical compliance to date is 97% at GW and 98% at GM. Compliance for immunization against measles is 99% at GW and 100% at GM. Our nurses are monitoring the recent measles situation closely
- Required staff training (Bullying policies/practice, Special Education/ADHD) was held during Feb. faculty meetings for teachers and was led by Gower administrators and staff
- Gower administrators are working closely with the Willowbrook Police Department to hold an active shooter drill at GW on Feb. 27th as part of our Teacher's Institute agenda/Emergency Management Plan
- Facilities Update: The Internet bandwidth upgrade is complete and security camera system upgrades continue at GW. The GW HVAC project is scheduled to take place during spring break

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

- The annual Illinois 5-Essentials Survey window is open for our parents to take [here](#). It will close March 15. Our goal is to approach 40% parent participation this year. Current rates are: 30% for GW and 6% for GM.
- The Gower PTO Science Fair and STEM Challenge was held on Feb 12th at GM School ([Appendix B](#))
- Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences are being scheduled (2/26) for GW/GM parents on an as-needed basis
- BOE elections are to be held on April 7th and will include two candidates running for three vacancies. After new members are officially seated, the BOE will begin the process of filling the remaining vacancy

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

- The district's Performance Evaluation Review Act (PERA) Joint Committee met informally on 1/20 and set 4/14/15 as the first official PERA Joint Committee meeting to begin the 180-day timeline for completion
- Teacher in-service held at respective school campuses on Feb. 4 focused on mid-year student performance data and the use of data protocols aimed at individual classroom and grade-level performance goals
- The GM PE Department's bid for a 2nd consecutive Blue Ribbon Award was advanced by IAHPERD (Illinois Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance) to the site-visit round
- The District Calendar Committee is scheduled to meet on 2/23 to develop a 2015-16 & 2016-17 calendar
- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association report that they are “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) with meetings held on 1/23, 2/3, 2/11 and scheduled for 2/24 & 3/3

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

- Gower was recognized by the University of Chicago's Urban Education Institute's UChicago Impact as a “5Essentials Success Case” ([Appendix C](#))
- The 2014-15 Principal Evaluation Cycle is on schedule to be completed by the March 1st deadline
- The implementation of our School Bus Leasing Plan will continue into its second year as savings to the district have exceeded expectations (Additional \$7,500 - \$10,000 savings compared to initial estimate)
- Gower has received a Library Grant in the amount of \$750 from the Secretary of State

Children at their best!