



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – January 20, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our extended learning model is highlighted in An INNOVATE 62 demonstration to showcase how a “flipped classroom” (2nd Grade) promotes learning beyond the traditional school day
- Our current half-day Kindergarten program will expand to a full-day program beginning next school year
- NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math will take place from Jan 12-23 in grades K-8 and will be administered using a web-based format for the first time in Gower
- 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: 94.4% for our 831 students enrolled; 96.7% for the 72 Teaching staff and 96.8% for the 65 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- 2nd Qtr. Discipline Reports show an increase in student referrals at GW and a decrease at GM ([Appendix A](#))
- Required staff training for the upcoming PARCC assessment will be held during Jan. faculty meetings and will be led by Gower administrators and staff
- Facilities Update: Additional lighting at GM Door #6 is complete. Our district-wide bandwidth upgrade (40 Mbps to 100 Mbps) is near completion and security system upgrades at GW are underway. The GW HVAC project remains on schedule with completion expected this spring

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

- The annual Illinois 5-Essentials Survey window is now open to our parents and will close on March 15. We are aiming to increase our parent participation this year. Use this [link](#) to take the survey today!
- A recommendation for our “Bring Your Parents to School Day” program has been submitted to our BOE and includes design elements from parent feedback collected over a two-year period ([Appendix B](#))
- The Gower PTO Science Fair and STEM Night Challenge is scheduled for Feb 12 at Gower Middle
- Gower is co-hosting the 1st Annual West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) Science Fair with Brookfield Zoo on Feb 26 ([Appendix C](#))

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 is scheduled to meet on Jan 20 to develop a timeline to ensure readiness for implementation at the start of the 2016-17 school year
- School administrators and teachers hosted staff from Center Cass School District 66 during a targeted site visit (Jan 6) and led a discussion focused on the design of the Academically Talented program at Gower
- The annual Principal Evaluation Survey opened to all teachers and support staff on Jan 13 to collect direct feedback that will be used by our principals in shaping their self-assessment and professional growth plans
- The Board of Education and Gower Education Association report that they are “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#). A preliminary/initial meeting between both parties is scheduled for Jan 27th.

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

- Gower was represented at the 2nd Annual 60 by 2025 Network Workshop hosted by Advance Illinois on Jan. 15 present to present findings related to the 5 Essentials and Continuous Improvement ([Appendix D](#))
- Gower administrators hosted representatives from the Illinois State Board of Education during a full-day compliance and site visit of our English Language Learners program on Jan 14; a follow-up report to follow
- School Principals are holding mid-year data protocol meetings with individual and teams of teachers to review ongoing progress made and to discuss potential modifications to curriculum and instruction
- A preliminary staffing plan was presented to the Board for 2015-16 certified teaching needs ([Appendix E](#))

Children at their best!